



FOG HORN

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Spyderco HO3 Warrior Hawk

Not your dad's all-purpose tomahawk

Spyderco H03 Warrior Hawk - not your dad's all-purpose tomahawk

By: Sal Palma



The tomahawk has come a long way since the days of sharpened stones tied to wood. Fast forward to 2018 and we see a mass market for the once hunting and combat weapon of choice. Today, virtually every cutlery manufacturer has two or more styles on the market: SOG, CRKT, Camillus and Cold Steel to just name a few. All of these offerings have their pluses and minuses, but their one common thread is that they're tactical tomahawks bred for combat.

Now, before I get carried away and start telling tall tales about battling enemy combatants with my trusty tomahawk, let me say that none will ever replace my Glock 17 for CQB. However, Spyderco's H03

Warrior Hawk comes closer than anything else presently on the market. A simple visual inspection will put the fear of Jesus in you.

The Warrior Hawk is a Larry Szabo design. Larry is a martial artist and former U.S. Marine who makes his home in Los Alamos, New Mexico. His edged weapons designs are diverse in size and profile but all are built for extreme use, as is the case with the Warrior Hawk.

Larry's creation is a multipurpose tool crafted from a single piece of D2 tool steel with a thickness of 0.307 inches. This is no light weight; coming in at 31 oz. with an overall length of 13.68 inches. All metal surfaces are Titanium Carbo-Nitride (TiCN) coated. This is a finish that incorporates carbon increasing toughness and lowering surface friction.



In his Warrior Hawk design, Larry emulates a Tanto edge where two faceted flat ground edges come to a point giving this tomahawk tremendous piercing ability. The spine extends beyond the head and terminating in a large spike.

The beard has an interesting and very artistic curve but I have to believe that weight reduction had to factor into Larry's design equation.

The handle is crafted from two machined G10 scales sandwiching the massive tang. Overall balance is at the center of the handle but moving your hand down the handle progressively adds heft to the head. Users will find that the handle curves inward as you move your hand down the tang which provides increasing leverage especially when using the spike. I was interested in making some objective assessment of how much head heft was available but my source for green coconuts had none, so perhaps I'll give that a try a little later, but let me just describe head heft as considerable.

A number of competing designs describe their handles as energy absorbing. That may very well be true; however, it isn't even a talking point with the Warrior Hawk. This is not an edged weapon that you are going to use to chop firewood for prolonged periods because you will feel it. Spyderco machined slots in the G10 scales that extend all the way out to the edge of the scale creating an extremely aggressive no slip surface. The handle slots dig into your hand virtually

eliminating all possibility of losing control. If you anticipate doing work with the Warrior Hawk my recommendation is that you use gloves.

Some may read this paragraph and draw the conclusion that I'm describing a weakness – NOT THE CASE! What I'm alluding to is the Hawk's combat orientation. Its weight, edge profile, balance, length and handle design all interact to deliver devastating force.



Moving down its full-length tang you see that it terminates in a wedge that can be used for prying.

Spyderco and Larry Szabo have created a tool that is a formidable combat weapon; the fact it has multiple uses is a matter of convenience. Yes, you can break glass, breach a locked door and open up a wall to create a spider hole or even chop some

wood, but organic to the design is Larry's martial arts and combat experience providing the DNA that makes Spyderco's Warrior Hawk such an impressive and effective fighting tool.

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Manufacturer Specifications

- Overall Length: 13.68" (347 mm)
- Blade Length: 5.88" (149 mm)
- Cutting Edge: 2.19" and 0.80" (56 and 20 mm)
- Blade Steel: D2 Tool Steel, TiCN Coated
- Thickness: 0.307" (7.6 mm)
- Handle Material: G10
- Sheath Material: Boltaron
- Weight: 28.5 oz. (808 g)
- Weight with Sheath: 31.0 oz. (879 g) with Sheath
- Grind: Flat
- Made in Taiwan
- M.S.R.P. \$479.95