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Cobalt-Carbide-Crystal Cutter

Boye's cobalt dendritic blade packs a powerful performance punch in a corrosion-resistant package

Combine the toughness of cobalt with David Boye's carbide-crystal metallurgy and the result is a class "A" folder.

I've written about Boye's dendritic 440-C blades in the past. The aggressive cutting action of the carbide crystals in his blades ranks them in the top 1 percent of all the knives on which I've performed cutting tests. His cobalt knife is no different. In my tests, it actually outperformed his original dendritic steel 2-to-1. David said his main reason for going with cobalt is the corrosion resistance. The cobalt blade sheds saltwater like a duck sheds water and is also non-magnetic.

Boye vs. Boye

I decided to run a comparison between two Boye knives—one a 440-C dendritic blade, the other the new cobalt dendritic. With 3-inch blades, each sporting short, hollow grinds, half-inch sisal rope was the test medium. I sharpened both blades on an EZE-Lap extra-fine diamond

hone, each one stropped four times before the cutting tests began. The tests were done twice on both blades to help ensure correct results.

The first knife was the 440-C dendritic folder. It started losing its bite after 22 clean cuts.

Not bad at all considering its light weight.

Next came Boye's cobalt lockback. It made 57 good, clean cuts. Afterward, the cobalt blade would shave hair from my arm, an edge that still had a lot of cutting left in it.

The thin Zytel® handle made

cutting the half-inch sisal rope challenging. In keeping with the theme of the blade material, David uses "cobalt blue" as the handle color. A thumb-opener is available on most of his designs. An anodized metal clip holds the knife tight to your pocket.

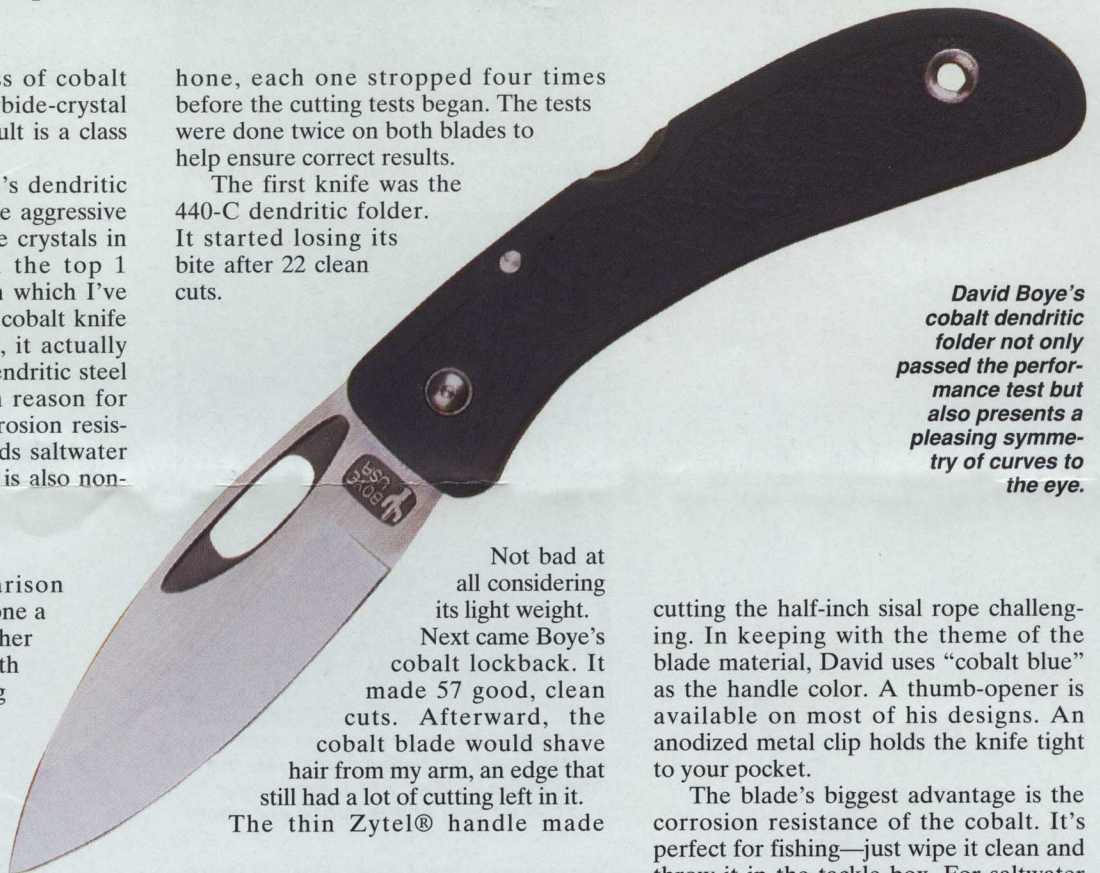
The blade's biggest advantage is the corrosion resistance of the cobalt. It's perfect for fishing—just wipe it clean and throw it in the tackle box. For saltwater enthusiasts, this knife is the answer. While the cobalt suffers no spotting or edge weakening, remember: if you drop this non-magnetic knife in the drink, no magnet will retrieve it.

Natural Progression

I've been waiting for this natural progression from Boye for quite a while now. His cobalt-dendritic steel is such an all-out cutter that it should be one of your first choices in a high-use knife. If David doesn't make your preferred knife style, Boye bar stock will be available so your favorite maker can.

Any outdoorsman would be happy with one of David's cobalt folders. Just put it in a survival kit and forget about it. Lightweight and with all that performance power, it's perfect for survival.

David Boye's cobalt dendritic folder not only passed the performance test but also presents a pleasing symmetry of curves to the eye.



Fifty-seven cuts on the half-inch sisal rope puts the Boye piece in the author's upper echelon of aggressive-cutting knives.