

Editor  
Practical Sailor  
14 Regatta Way  
Portsmouth, RI 02871

June 6, 2000

Dear Practical Sailor

Thank you for including my cobalt lockback in your test and article on sailor's knives. I would like to offer a couple of suggestions for further knife tests.

In consideration of long voyage sailors, I feel that a long term "corrosion resistance" category should be added to the test criteria. Seawater can degrade and destroy the cutting edge of most iron-based knife materials, including stainless cutlery steel, so it is a very relevant issue. A four month saltwater kayak test was conducted by Shomer-tec. The Boye dendritic cobalt knife showed virtually zero corrosion, even internally, while other "stainless" test knives were literally "eaten up" by the salty environment.

I would also like to see a category that measures "edge holding" or cutting stamina. Cutting a rope once or twice is one thing, but prolonged cutting, such as one may have to do when a prop is entangled in fishing net, is a real safety issue. Cutting rope for 15 minutes or more is a good test to see if a knife would really cut it in an emergency. In a test published last year in Blade Magazine, a Boye dendritic cobalt folder made 57 clean cuts of 1/2" sisal rope and was still able to shave arm hair. This unique blade metallurgy will *keep cutting* even on tough fibers like nylon and poly.

The article refers to the Boye shallow scalloped serrations as less aggressive in cutting, but this geometry has advantages that were not mentioned. They hold up during long term cutting and cut clean; they do not make a bird's nest of stretched and partially cut fibers when they start to get dull. They sharpen with a just a swipe or two on a flat whetstone. Even with the serrations the blades can still serve fairly well in other kinds of functions such as whittling or food preparation.

Also please note that our current address is Boye Knives, P. O. Box 1238, Dolan Springs, Arizona 86441 (800)853-1617.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

David Boye