

THE MARTIALIST: YEAR FOUR, ISSUE TWO

Gerber Crusader

Review by Chris Zaccara

“That’s it?” In all honesty that’s the first thing that popped into my head when I first slid this little Gerber out of the box. They say first impressions are the most important and truth be told I wasn’t too terribly impressed.



“What the hell,” I figured, Phil was kind enough to send it to me for review, so the least I could do was put it through its paces and see what happened. I flipped the 2 ¾ inch drop-point blade out and my estimation of this little cutter jumped up a notch or two.



Photo by Chris Zaccara

It came shaving sharp as you might expect, and well, I just had to cut something with it. Phil, that’s what happened to the box you shipped it in. I really hope I’m not the only one who does that. The second I get my hands on a new knife I reach for the nearest object that needs cutting. After that initial box (sorry Phil), I went on to cut an empty six pack to very, very small ribbons. I gleefully ran around my house looking for different mediums to try. Cardboard, different kinds of rope, pencils that needed sharpening, plastic bottles, a stick that needed its bark removed... the little Gerber

went through them all with ease. I was impressed with its performance. After that initial afternoon I touched the blade up on my Spyderco Sharpmaker and added the Crusader to my daily rotation.

Specifications

Overall Length:	6.81”
Length Closed:	4.09”
Length of Blade:	2.72”
Weight:	4 oz.
Blade Material:	High Carbon Stainless
Handle Material:	Glass-filled nylon
Blade Style:	Drop point
Lock Type:	Liner-lock

The one thing I wasn’t very excited about was giving up my usual daily carry. My Spyderco Endura and I have grown very close over the years and I was loathe to leave it at home that first day. The Gerber Crusader rode securely and relatively low in my pocket. It took a little adjustment to get used to a tip-down carry but, once I got used to it, I had no problems drawing and deploying it. I still wear BDUs to work these days and I find that the little Crusader is a bit short for diagonal cut pockets like you’d find on a pair of BDUs or slacks. It rode just fine but when I sat down I felt like it was about to slip out on me. It never did but it made me worry a few times. It rode just fine in jeans, however. The generous clip held it very securely no matter how I decided to carry it.



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Personally I have fairly large hands and I found that the handle, which is just about 4" long, was almost too small for me. I was delighted though to find that its design left little to complain about.

All the edges are nicely rounded and the knife's contours support several different grip options with ease. I most often found myself choking back on the knife and using it primarily in a saber grip. It's also very easy to wrap your fist around the entire thing and lay your thumb along the spine of the blade for a very secure grip, and let me assure you that once you switch over to reverse grip, this knife isn't going anywhere. I tried my usual phone book stab with this knife and was duly impressed. It's as secure as you could ask for.



Photo by Chris Zaccara

My overall assessment is that this would be a great EDC knife for utilitarian purposes. This is not a fighter. While you could easily press it into service in this role (much like anything else) it really just doesn't feel like a self defense piece to me.

I would happily recommend the Crusader to any friend who needed a general utility knife. I see it as a great little knife to toss into a daypack for short hikes, and all around use. Excellent bang for the buck as Gerber proves once again it's not just about making great tasting baby food. ♠