

# THE MARTIALIST: YEAR FOUR, ISSUE TWO

## Reexamining the Koga and Stinger Concepts

By Stephen Mallory

The story is not uncommon. You're out late at night, maybe two in the morning. You stop at an all-night convenience store and gas station. While you're inside in line to pay for your gas, a couple of guys come in and start raising a ruckus, maybe yelling at the clerk, tossing things in the aisles, making asses of themselves. You watch and wonder if you're about to see a robbery, or just a couple of belligerent drunks beating up a convenience store clerk. Knowing that there are two of them and only one of you – minimum wage isn't worth fighting over, so the clerk won't be of much help, and who could blame him? – you reach into your pocket, palm your ComTech Stinger, and wait for trouble.

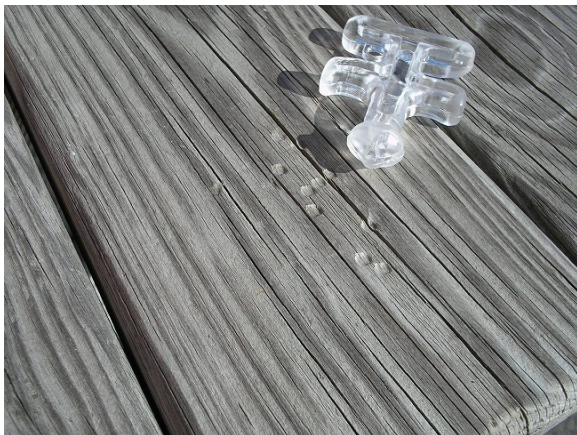


Photo by Phil Elmore

The moment passes and the drunk guys leave. You ease your grip on the stinger, letting the pointy knob slip out from between your fingers. You didn't have to mix it up with anyone, so you're better off than if you had. Just the same, you're glad you had an equalizer.

The ComTech Stinger has been on the market for quite some time and can be had in multiple opaque and translucent

colors. It is basically a keychain pressure point tool that can augment a punch. This is nothing new. It's been around for a while now and James Keating of ComTech probably sells a boatload of them in any given month. They're on the keychains of countless self-defense-minded citizens and prepared martialists. They're plastic, so they won't give metal detectors any trouble – though of course you would never try to take this into a high security area or onto an airplane. Still, it's good to know that on your keychain is something you can carry into many guarded but lower-security venues where metal detectors screen the visitors (such as, say, the average Six Flags amusement park, as described by publisher Phil Elmore).

I've carried a ComTech Stinger on my keychain for a long time. I have only a couple of keys on the chain, so they don't get in the way of using the Stinger as it should be used. I know that there are a couple of sheathmakers out there who make holsters and neck chains for these items, such as Mike Sastre and Mickey Yurko. Regardless of how you carry your stinger, it's a compact comfort that gives you an advantage in a self-defense encounter. By magnifying the power of your strike – it's simple physics that when you concentrate the power of a blow in a smaller, more rigid (stronger) area, you're going to do more damage to the target – the stinger makes it possible for you to deal out more force than you could with your bare fists (and feet, and knees, and elbows) alone.

There are a lot of people out there who seem to think that handheld items like these are "toys" – distractions that are the last resort of those not confident in

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their abilities to dish out pain and suffering with their bare fists and attitudes. This is foolish. You're not an animal, but a human being. You should use a tool. For that matter, you're not a martial artist. You're a *martialist*. You should fight unfairly, and that means using every implement on which you can put your hands to doll out unfair punishment to the other guy. I happen to like plastic keychain tools for this purpose because they're low-profile. You might have something else you prefer to carry. Let's look, however, at just what the Koga and Stinger (my favored pocket plastics) can do for you.

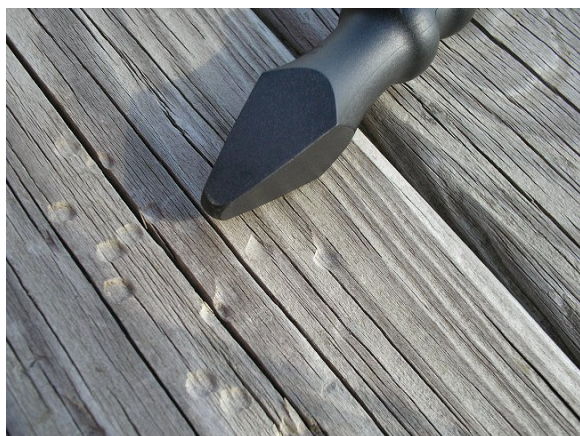


Photo by Phil Elmore

I don't know about you, but I can't ram my fist into a picnic table or a brick wall without hurting myself. I can't make much of a dent in either, because my hand is less rigid and more fragile than either of those striking surfaces. With my Koga or my Stinger, however, I can do real damage to either hard, unyielding surface. Imagine if that brick wall or that picnic table were somebody's skull! I can also do that damage without feeling any pain, which is a bonus. The less pain you feel, the harder you can hit, and the more you can concentrate on dealing with your opponent.

The Koga, when held in the fist, leaves serious dents in wood surfaces and will also chip brick. The wood doesn't harm the Koga, but the brick scuffs it somewhat. The Stinger, at least in my hands, leaves even deeper dents, I think because I am able to use the full structure of my punches as I was taught to do them when holding the stinger as an extension of the fist. It's harder to do that with the Koga, though hammer fist blows are indeed powerful.



Photo by Phil Elmore

Either way, the Koga and Stinger can do far more hurt to somebody than just your knuckles. You ought to carry one or the other, or something similar, if only to further the fight unfairly message that is the guiding principle and philosophy of *The Martialist*. Why just punch a guy when you can punch him and leave a serious dent in his bones? (Obviously, you've got to be justified legally and morally to use this level of force, but given a life-threatening situation, why *wouldn't* you strike as hard as you can?

I carry a Stinger every day. I've been carrying my Koga more and more. I encourage you to find a plastic tool with which you'll be comfortable. The concept is that of doing the most harm with the least effort, while minimizing the possible damage to your own paws. That is a concept worth using. ♠