

NEW PRODUCT: FB35PBK ARK



FB35PBK ARK™
MSRP: \$99.95
UPC: 716104650750

OVERALL: 4.98in 126mm
BLADE: 2.50in 64mm
ORIGIN: Japan

EDGE: 2.10in 53mm
WEIGHT: 2.0oz 57g
GRIND: Hollow

The ARK™—or “Always Ready Knife™”—is a purpose-designed personal-defense knife with an extremely interesting history. The man behind the design is U.S. Army combat veteran John Shirley, who enlisted one month after the September 11th attacks and served his first tour as an infantryman. After completing his initial enlistment, being called back to active duty, earning two degrees, and becoming a commissioned officer, Shirley deployed to Afghanistan for the second time in 2011. During that tour, he served as the officer in charge of a joint-service team of non-commissioned officers who traveled in two-person teams to remote outposts throughout the country. In addition to the obvious threat of operating in a war zone, Shirley learned that forward-deployed troops faced other dangers as well, including the threat of sexual assault.

Although not widely publicized, an alarming number of U.S. personnel in Afghanistan were victims of sexual assault by foreign nationals and members of coalition forces. Many of these attacks took place in shower facilities, where soldiers were unarmed and often alone. Shirley, a long-time practitioner of the Japanese martial arts, was determined to keep his team members safe and set about designing a weapon that could literally be carried and used anywhere—even in the shower.

Shirley’s vision was a small, lightweight neck knife that could be worn constantly and effectively drawn and employed even with wet, soapy hands. Since Shirley is not a knifemaker, he contacted his friend Sam Owens, a talented craftsman and specialist in historic preservation, and explained the concept to him. Owens immediately embraced the project and began crafting concept models and prototypes that he sent to Shirley to test and share with other forward-deployed personnel. Based on their feedback and the results of his testing, Shirley suggested refinements and Owens dutifully incorporated them into further prototypes.

During this process, Shirley also reached out to the knife community through Internet forums and managed to attract the attention of Spyderco’s founder, Sal Glesser, with the idea. As Shirley and Owens dialed in the design, Glesser kept tabs on their progress and grew increasingly interested in the project’s potential. Ultimately, Glesser and Spyderco formally embraced the project and the ARK was born.

Based on its intended purpose, the ARK needed to be small, lightweight, easily carried, and 100% rustproof. It also needed to provide an exceptionally secure grip and be easy to wield with minimal skills and training. With these criteria in mind, the heart of the ARK is its deeply curved clip-point blade ground from H-1® steel—a nitrogen-based alloy that is completely immune to rust. The curved edge and deep hollow grind ensure exceptional edge geometry and pack as much edge length as possible into the compact blade. The clip profile lowers the blade tip closer to the knife’s centerline for efficient energy transfer during a thrust and provides a strong, extremely sharp point.

Although original prototypes of the ARK had full tangs, textured G-10 scales, and an index-finger groove, the grip they offered was still not adequate for use with wet, soapy hands. Spyderco therefore decided to invest in the tooling to mold a fiberglass-reinforced nylon (FRN) handle directly onto the blade’s tang. An FRN handle allowed the use of Spyderco’s proven Bi-Directional Texturing™ pattern, which provides unparalleled grip control even when wet.

To ensure convenient, universal carry with any style of clothing (including none at all) the logical choice was to equip the ARK with a neck sheath. After initial prototyping in Kydex®, Spyderco designed an injection-molded polymer sheath that holds the knife securely when inverted, provides an exceptionally quick draw, and is completely immune to water and corrosion. The sheath is purposely wide to lay flat under clothing and keep the knife consistently oriented for a reliable, predictable draw. A rustproof breakaway ball chain easily supports the weight of the knife and resists the force of a rapid drawstroke, but cannot be turned against the wearer as a choking weapon like the paracord lanyards found on many neck knives. Best of all, the ARK and its sheath together weigh only 2.0 ounces (57 grams), so you’ll hardly know it’s there—until you need it.

The ARK is a truly unique personal-defense tool that will surely find favor far beyond its intended audience. Shirley and Owens did an outstanding job of driving their vision forward and making it a reality and Spyderco is honored to be involved in this worthy project.

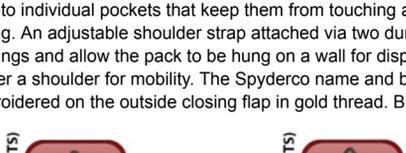
SPYDERCO ACCESSORIES

DON'T FORGET YOUR SPYDERCO ACCESSORIES

Your knives....What do you do with them when they're not used? Like most people, some knives you carry, some you collect and probably a few you beat the crud out of. They all need a home and a place where they can be safely stored. Spyderco offers a number of knife accessories designed for storage, displaying or transporting knives. Click images below for more information.

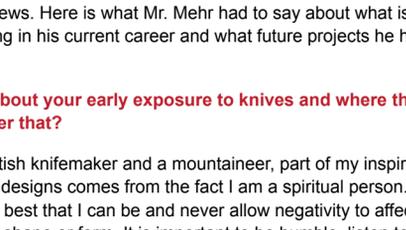
KNIFE POUCHES

Spyderco pouches are the perfect accoutrement to protect collectible, expensive and easily scratched knives. These padded carry pouches are available in two sizes and are made of mock-leather with an embellished gold Spyderco Bug. The perimeter seams are sewn snugly using a vinyl edging strip designed to provide added security and protection. Inside, fleece padding and a non-scratching nylon liner keeps knives carefully cushioned from dings and damage and the open/close zipper runs end-to-end enabling the pouch to open up widely.



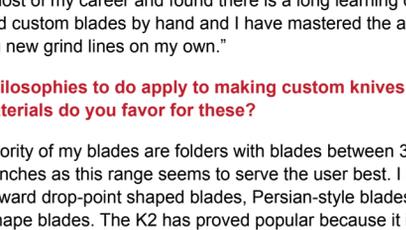
SPYDERPACS™

If you need a travel pack that stores multiple knives or maybe even your entire collection, this is it. SpyderPacs are constructed using heavy denier polyester Cordura® and are available in a large or small size. Both sizes feature internal pockets fronted with a clear plastic window for viewing the knife stored inside and the pockets are generously sized at 4-1/2" X 2-1/2" (114mm X 63.5mm) to accommodate everything from small to large knives. The pack folds shut in a tri-fold configuration and is doubly secured using Velcro® strips sewn inside the top cover and side flaps keeping your knives inside without being able to fall out. The knives inside are safely tucked into individual pockets that keep them from touching and scratching. An adjustable shoulder strap attached via two durable steel D-rings and allow the pack to be hung on a wall for display or slung over a shoulder for mobility. The Spyderco name and bug logo are embroidered on the outside closing flap in gold thread. Black only.



KNIFE STANDS

Acrylic diamond shape wedges are a simple, eye-catching way to display your knives on a countertop or display shelf. Each wedge holds one opened knife secure by the blade at a 45° angle. Multifaceted and molded from clear Lucite, they catch and reflect light and have an engraved Spyderco logo bug on the bottom. Both large and small knife stands come 24 pieces to a box.



KNIFEMAKER SPOTLIGHT: FARID MEHR

GETTING TO KNOW FARID MEHR

Spyderco caught up with British knifemaker and mountaineer Farid Mehr at the Spyderco Amsterdam Meet in March 2015. Spyderco released his C186TIP, K2 CLIPIT collaboration earlier this year to rave reviews. Here is what Mr. Mehr had to say about what is happening in his current career and what future projects he has in the works.

Tell us about your early exposure to knives and where things went after that?

“As a British knifemaker and a mountaineer, part of my inspiration for my knife designs comes from the fact I am a spiritual person. I strive to be the best that I can be and never allow negativity to affect me in any way, shape or form. It is important to be humble, listen to criticism and learn from it.

When I was ten I was introduced to lathes, milling machines and a grinder. I became interested in finding out more about knives. By eleven I had the tools I needed to make my first knife. These were a file and a 2-inch vice. I later found a piece of steel. I came home from school and spent hours filing the steel’s tip and created a level on one side and a bevel on the other. When it was finished I was proud of what I had made with my hands using basic tools.

I studied engineering in college and became a tool design engineer and toolmaker. At 19, I started making knives for fun and my style was thick, heavy knives. Over the years my designs have become more refined and thinner. I found my own way. I discovered steels like Crucible CPM® powdered steels and started experimenting with different grades and heat-treating techniques. I have heat-treated blades most of my career and found there is a long learning curve. I also grind custom blades by hand and I have mastered the art of inventing new grind lines on my own.”

What philosophies do you apply to making custom knives and what materials do you favor for these?

“The majority of my blades are folders with blades between 3-inches and 4.6-inches as this range seems to serve the user best. I am drawn toward drop-point shaped blades, Persian-style blades and Bowie-shape blades. The K2 has proved popular because it is a simple blade shape to understand and to use and it is made of high end materials and can be taken apart for cleaning.”

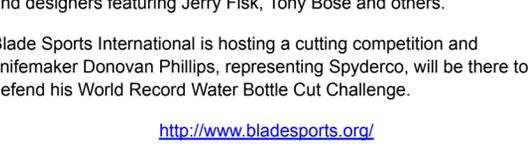
“My blade steel preference varies but I like grades like D3, D6 to CPM® 3V, CPM® 4V, CPM® S60V, CPM® S90V, CPM® 10V, Vanadis®4 extra, and occasionally I use steels like CPM® S125V, CPM® 15V and REX® 121. To understand these steels has taken me a lifetime of heat-treating and studying their alloy composition with many experiments destroying them in the name of “learning”. My handle material preferences are G-10, G-11, Micarta® and MIL-SPEC carbon fiber. I keep manufacturing tolerances to 1/1000 of one inch or 1/1000mm (1 micron). The finishes I create vary from bead-blasted to working grade scotch-bright finishes to a fine surface ground finish or a lapped finish depending on the grade of knife.”

“My philosophy behind designing a knife is to design the knife from the blade out. The heart of a knife is the blade and knowing what it will be used for, I design around that purpose. I then choose the appropriate steel, handle shape, heat-treating, overall weight and handle material. I offer mainly flat-ground blades and occasionally hollow-ground blades, but I prefer full-flat-grinds with a convex edge (rolled edge) or a full flat grind with a zero ground edge. These offer higher performance based on edge thickness, the grade of steel, heat-treatment and edge finish. All these processes have a big role in making a high performance tool. I don’t compromise on my materials in my quest to make the finest performance tool I can make. The people buying a Farid Mehr knife deserve to have the best.”

Any future projects in the works readers of the byte would find interesting?

“My future plans are to release my first flipper folder with a unique bearing system and begin a new journey in 2016 into watch making with a titanium timepiece, a passion of mine for quite some time. Having reached this point in my life I never allow myself to forget my humble beginnings when I had only one file and a 2-inch vice and ambition.”

For more information about Mr. Mehr’s custom knives, he can be reached at faridmehr@virginmedia.com



JOIN US!

BLADE SHOW: JUNE 5-7 ATLANTA, GA WWW.BLADESHOW.COM

Join Spyderco and BLADE Magazine for the world’s largest knife show at the Cobb Galleria in Atlanta, GA, June 5-7, 2015. Spyderco is exhibiting in booth number 23. At the Blade Show you will find the Spyderco Crew, our full product line, Prototype and concept knives. The show consists of more than 300 booths and 700 tables loaded with knives and related goods.

Blade Show is hosting a Blade University; show attendees can sign up in advance to attend classes and seminars taught by knife legends and designers featuring Jerry Fisk, Tony Bose and others.

Blade Sports International is hosting a cutting competition and knifemaker Donovan Phillips, representing Spyderco, will be there to defend his World Record Water Bottle Cut Challenge.

<http://www.bladesports.org/>

SNAP SHOT

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE OUR FACTORY WITH THE LINKS BELOW

Historical Spyderco: First we Made Things Sharp, Then We Made Sharp Things.

Are you curious about Spyderco and where and how it started? The owner of Spyderco Sal Glesser, and Eric Glesser recently invited the film crew from BladeHQ to visit Spyderco headquarters in Golden, Colorado. Thank you Mark Hansen from BladeHQ for a wonderful two-part video Shop Tour Video that shares some interesting insight into the people and business practices taking place in the Spyderco inner sanctum.

Spyderco Shop Tour Part One:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JlsoX_Hkd1c

Spyderco Shop Tour Part Two:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Du7AFPKluw>