

FEATURED PRODUCT



C186TIP Slysz Bowie™

UPC: 716104009992
 MSRP: \$499.95
 OVERALL: 7.79in 198mm
 BLADE: 3.42in 87mm
 EDGE: 3.14in 80mm
 WEIGHT: 4.3oz 122g
 GRIND: Full-Flat
 ORIGIN: Taiwan

Marcin Slysz (pronounced “swish”) is a Polish custom knifemaker whose work has earned him a dedicated following among knife enthusiasts who appreciate clean, functional designs and meticulous craftsmanship. Since those same qualities exemplify Spyderco’s knifemaking philosophy, a collaboration with Slysz made perfect sense and led to his first Spyderco design—the Techno™. Based on its continued success, Slysz followed with his most recent Spyderco collaboration—the Slysz Bowie™.

True to the spirit of Slysz’ custom creations, Spyderco’s Slysz Bowie is a highly refined folding knife that displays exceptional attention to detail. Its blade is precision ground from Carpenter® CTS® XHP powder metallurgy stainless steel—a state-of-the-art alloy that combines the time-tested performance characteristics of D2 with a higher degree of corrosion resistance. As its name implies, it features a classic Bowie-style blade with a long, straight clip point. Rather than a traditional swedge (bevel), the clip portion of the blade is gently radiused to eliminate sharp corners and complemented by a section of “jimping” (grooves) on the thumb ramp to ensure maximum control during use. The blade’s full-flat grind and stonewashed finish offer excellent edge geometry and low-friction cutting performance, enabling the Slysz Bowie to cut with authority far beyond its size. A Trademark Round Hole™ proudly proclaims its identity as a Spyderco product and provides swift, positive, one-handed opening.

The handle of the Slysz Bowie is constructed from two solid titanium scales, one of which forms the basis for its sturdy Reeve Integral Lock (R.I.L.) mechanism. Unlike the flat scales found on most R.I.L. knives, the scales of the Slysz Bowie are painstakingly machined to create a gentle radius across their entire width. This custom-quality detail greatly enhances the handle’s ergonomics and, along with a matte stonewashed finish, ensures greater comfort and control during use. The butt end of the handle features a unique G-10 spacer with two sections of strategically placed jimping to further enhance the knife’s grip texture and visual appeal. It’s also home to a reversible deep-pocket wire clip that supports low-profile left or right-side tip-up carry.

Truly the next-best thing to one of Slysz’ custom knives, Spyderco’s Slysz Bowie displays a level of quality and attention to detail rarely seen in a factory knife.

COLLABORATOR SPOTLIGHT



An Interview with Knifemaker Marcin Slysz

SPYDERCO: How did you become interested in knives and what led you to become a custom knife maker?

MS: Like most knifemakers, it all started with the first pocket knife. My friends introduced me to a world of serious knives, however most of the knives I wanted were out of my price range so I decided to make one instead of buying one. My first knife was heavy fixed-blade chopper with a 6-inch blade completely made using just a hand held file! After that I invested in grinder and started my odyssey into making folders. The grinder is much more enjoyable than stock removal with a hand-held file.

SPYDERCO: Are you from a knife making family or have you been influenced by anyone in your family to make knives?

MS: No, I’m the only knife maker in my family.

SPYDERCO: Do you make knives as a full-time career or do you also have another career as well?

MS: I started out with another job but when my knifemaking business outgrew my regular job I jumped at the decision to switch over to knifemaking one-hundred percent of the time and I’ve never looked back. I also do my own engraving, including jewelry engraving, but it’s still part of knifemaking, isn’t it?

SPYDERCO: In addition to folding knives do you make custom fixed blade knives or other steel tools?

MS: Of course! I started with fixed blades, than switched mainly to folders as I really enjoy mechanical precision of folding knives. But occasionally I still make some special fixed knives - big choppers, daggers, fancy neck-knives. I also make some small titanium gadgets as a ‘refreshment activities’ in my shop - bottle openers, kiridashi, even I made a shuriken (ninja star) for my friend.

SPYDERCO: The Spyderco Techno and Spyderco Slysz Folder are both made with high performance materials. Do you have favorite, or preferable, materials that you work with for your custom blades and handles?

MS: My favorite handle material is undoubtedly titanium due to its strength and light weight. In fixed blades I prefer good old canvas Micarta as it looks good and gives a very positive grip after coarse sandblasting. For blades I prefer RWL34 steel which is high performance material easily available in Europe, but I also like CPM ® S30V, 154CM and ATS-34. I strictly avoid cheap materials as my customers demand top performance from the cutting tools I deliver.

SPYDERCO: Our readers would like to hear what knife projects you are working on or have coming in the future?

MS: Eighty-percent of my work is custom made and my project direction is driven by what customers ask me to make. The other twenty-percent of the time I spend on prototypes and special projects. Knifemaking is my living so I must keep the proper ratio. What’s next? Well, you can expect more fancy engraved folders and some tactical tools. Be patient and follow me on social media and check my “Work In Progress” posts.

SPYDERCO: Do you have a website or contact information that we may share with our readers if they would like to contact you directly?

MS: There are several ways to follow my work. These days social media is the best interactive communication platform for a custom knifemaker in my opinion. You can find me on Facebook at Marcins Knives and you can follow me on Instagram @marcins_knives. I have also my own knifemaker forum on Usual Suspect Network (USN) and in Poland you can find me on CustomKnives.pl forum. So there are plenty of ways to contact me and check my past and current work.

Our thanks Piotr Makuch for translating.

EDGE-UCATION



Spyderco’s Pioneering Efforts in Non-Locking Folding Knives

Dating back as far as 600-500 BC, non-locking folding knives were the first knives to combine the convenience and ease of carry of folding construction with the utility of a sharp cutting edge. Although their evolution eventually led to today’s state-of-the-art lock-blade folding knives, the non-locking folder is, both by choice and necessity, still very much a part of today’s cutlery world. Here’s a brief overview of the evolutionary phases of the non-locking folder and some unique insight into Spyderco’s continuing contributions to that process.

The first folding knives were simple friction folders that relied on proper cutting technique and the friction of the handle against the blade’s tang to keep the blade open during use. Later, the tang of the blade was extended to form a tab that indexed against the back of the handle when the knife was open. In use, pressure from the user’s hand held the tab in place to stabilize the blade. And prevent it from closing. Like a traditional straight razor, the tab could also be used as a lever to open the knife one-handed. This style of friction folder was developed concurrently in a number of different areas of the world and has strong ethnic ties to some cultures.

The next major development in non-locking knives was the slipjoint. Arguably the most common example of the breed, slipjoints use spring pressure to keep the blades steady pressure against a flat spot on the tang of the blade to hold it firmly in place. Spyderco’s improvement on this concept utilizes a notched joint mechanism that offers greater mechanical stability, yet still does not lock. Over the years, Spyderco has also developed different mechanical variations of the slipjoint theme, including Spyderco’s unique T-Mag™ magnetic slipjoint, the Bob Terzuola-designed Ball Joint non-locking mechanism, the PITS™ Folder mechanism, and the ball-bearing detent of the Dog Tag Folder™ series. No matter which mechanism you choose, slipjoints are excellent tools for most cutting chores and have the advantage of being both socially friendly and legally permissible almost everywhere.

Spyderco’s distinctive SLIPIT™ knives combine our improved one-handed joint spring mechanism, a pocket clip for convenient carry, and one-handed operation via our Trademark Round Hole™. The synthesis of these features literally revolutionized the concept of non-locking folders and truly set a new standard in pocketknife performance. SLIPITs also typically feature an index finger choil that provides a comfortable purchase for the index finger and helps prevent accidental closure of the blade.

Despite the practical advantages of a one-handed opening feature, to keep pace with changing knife laws around the world, Spyderco has also developed hybrid non-locking folders that offer the convenience of clip carry, but still require two hands to operate. The smaller Trademark Round Hole™ in the blades of these “ClipJoint™” folders clearly identifies them as Spyderco knives and, when pinched between the thumb and index finger, offers much easier opening than traditional nail nicks.

As knife laws around the world continue to change, folding knife design has come full circle to once again spotlight the many advantages of non-locking folders. The more things change, the more they stay the same.



The Spyderco Forum - The Original Spyderco Social Media Platform

Long before facebook, Instagram, tumblr and Twitter took hold in the digital world there was a place that Spyderco enthusiasts could hang out and chat freely about their shared obsession: the Spyderco.com forum. Often referred to as “Sal’s Living Room,” the forum community enjoys a laid-back, friendly tone that fosters Edge-U-Cation™ about all things-Spyderco.

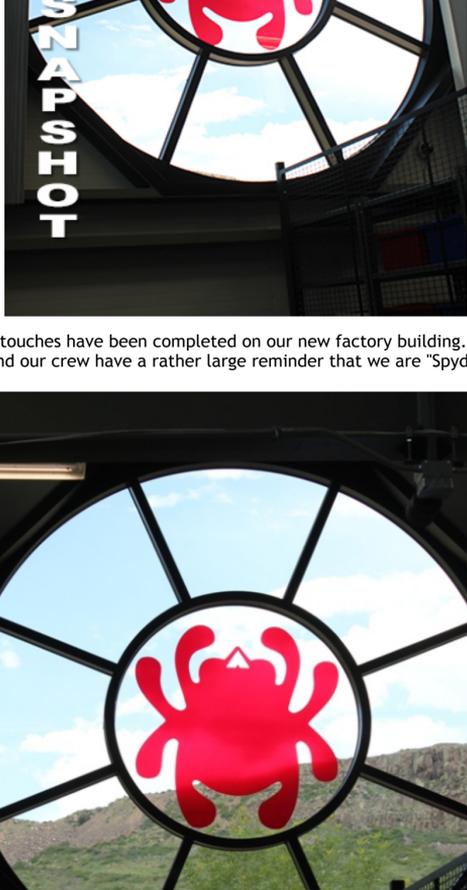
Discussions on the forum are typically more in-depth than average social media posts and our members join us from all around the world. We have over 1,000,000 posts covering more than 66,000 topics and involving nearly 14,000 members. Discussions range from light conversations about favorite Spyderco products to extensive debates about steel, handle materials and everything in between.

Our forum members range from addicted aficionados to newly bitten novices and the age spectrum spans from 14 to... well, let’s just say it’s a vast spectrum. We value every member of our community and strive to give them a place where their thoughts are respected. Forum members even enjoy exclusive purchase opportunities like the 2015 Forum Knife: C41MR5, Native Lightweight with Maroon FRN and CPM S90V steel. For more information click [HERE](#).

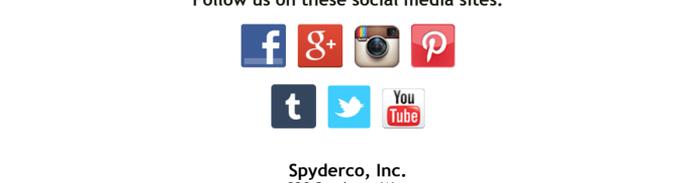


The forum gives our members the opportunity to chat not only with other Spyderco devotees, but senior members of our crew. A highlight for many, though, is the “big guy” himself. Sal (yes, it’s really him), the founder and still-active owner of Spyderco, is a regular contributor.

The Spyderco forum is a vivid reflection of our community and a living archive of the company’s rich history. We encourage you visit <http://www.spyderco.com/forum/> and join us!



The finishing touches have been completed on our new factory building. Our community and our crew have a rather large reminder that we are “Spyderco Proud!”



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