

# TWO COLD STEEL BUDGET KNIVES

**M**y most elegant knife now has a list price of over \$450. It's not only elegant, but also capable of anything one would expect of a knife. It should be. However, it is not a knife that I use for simple chores and it is stored in a safe with firearms. I like fine cutlery and I suppose that everyone who camps, explores, hunts, or engages in other outdoor activities realizes just how useful and important a knife is. However, for most uses, a high-quality, expensive knife is not necessary.

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What do you want your knife to do? Well, if you are like me, the answer is to peel potatoes, cut corn off the cob, slice tomatoes, open boxes, and cut some slivers from a stick to use for starting a fire. Sure, there are times that I need to split a large stick or small log, but I have an axe or hatchet for those projects. The point is that most of the chores performed by a knife in the outdoors do not require a heavy duty or expensive knife.

**by Jim House**

In a delightful little book *Camp and Trail Methods* by Edward Kreps, the author makes the statement regarding firearms. It goes like this, “many hunters can find fault with and will condemn every brand and style of firearm except the one they are using at the time.” I suspect the same is true with knives. If someone is a fan of Case knives, beware when that person tells you that Buck, Kershaw, Gerber or other knives are worthless. You can pick other brands and arrive at equivalent comparisons. In many cases the commentator may not have used some of the brands that are being disparaged or may have expensive favorites that must be placed in the foreground of any discussion.

Cold Steel has the interesting practice of offering knives of the same design but with different construction, and in some cases made in different countries. For example, the popular SRK (Survival Rescue Knife) is produced with the same overall pattern but with different blade and handle materials. The Cold Steel Master Hunter is also produced in different versions. However, some of the less expensive models are also produced in different levels. For example, a very compact and handy model is known



*The Cold Steel Pendleton Lite Hunter is a versatile knife of convenient size.*



*The Lite Hunter features a drop point blade.*



*A handguard is molded in the front section of the handle.*