

A Soldier in Need, Needs a Friend

That "Friend" is the new

MERCWORX SNIPER COMBAT DAGGER

By J. Keating

Ahhh, the SNIPER. A term that has been used to denote someone capable of exterminating you from far away. The sniper's deadly kiss is felt first, it is never heard. The sniper has become a necessary part of the combat/war making equation of our modern world. It is a term associated with violence and death. These

are the harsh realities of our world, no apologies given. So giving an edged weapon the name "Sniper" should tell you something about this deadly double edged dagger of war. It's truly an awesome weapon with some equally awesome craftsmanship put into it. It's my honor to give you some insights and options about this one of a kind close quarter combat dagger. Let's take this baby out of the office and into the field, OK?

Initial Impressions of the Sniper Combat Dagger

I'll keep this short, but here I shall share some of my early, initial impressions of the Sniper with you. These observances are not in any particular order. Just things that

caught my attention. I'll get into the details behind this spectacular unit a bit later in this article, OK? Plus, I'll give you some insights on a few of their other products as well. Sounds like an interesting time, eh? So let's get started!

When I first pulled the big blade from the box I knew I'd like it. The weight told me enough to intrigue me.

Even though the "Sniper" was still wrapped in it's packing material for shipping, I could tell it was a nonsense fighting man's tool. Many knives lack the perfect balance of weight, edge and point that the powerful MercWorx Sniper possesses. While being a weighty knife, it's weight goes un-noticed once in the hand. The balance of the Sniper



gives you the feeling of the knife wanting to leap forward. That's a nice touch that inspires confidence in the hand of the one holding it. It also makes the knife move like an angry Cobra! This too is good. The knife wants to work, you just guide it properly.

For now, let me mention the blade. A curved corvette's shadow with dramatic razor sharp lines. That possibly describes it best. With visual depth, breadth, sweep and arc the Sniper captures the attention of any who happen to encounter it. Collectors love it's value, eye appeal and craftsmanship. The professionals in the field appreciate it's ability to freeze the blood of an enemy by sight alone! Once in action, this big fighting knife is a force unto itself. In trained hands, it can become a wraith of destruction. Ideal for this time of many wars isn't it? I'll say this, uncertain times do have their good aspects. One of those positive results from living in such uncertain times is the production of true fighting weapons and accessories. Enter the crew at MercWorx!

The Sniper in Motion

According to design indications (and with some careful guidance from those men who are the Snipers creators) I have deduced it best serves it's purpose as a combat dagger when deployed in the reverse grip manner. Since the Sniper is a large knife this may surprise some of you who would think the hammer grip more fitting to employ when grasping the Sniper. But, in it's true role, it is not a martial arts weapon, it is

not as a dueling weapon, but it is a combat weapon of the purest sense. The Sniper complete's it's mission statement admirably in my opinion.

In the reverse grip mode the Sniper's handle design comes forth to the trained eye. Micarta slabs, thrice pinned and bonded with the technowizardry of GE made super-bonding agent. This manner of securing the handles to the body of the knife is done for several reasons. I'll get to that soon. For now, let's look at the tapered butt on the Sniper. It's this aspect that gives the Sniper a knife type of look even though it has a dagger style blade. A hybrid of both the knife's and the dagger's better qualities. The angle of the grip facilitates the thumb being placed atop there. This "caps" the butt, offering better control and weapon retention. The smooth micarta repels physical evidence (if you get my drift). The Sniper stays clean and sterile under all conditions.

A wide, dagger style blade does indeed produce more shock and wound related trauma than does a knife blade. In certain methods of edged combat, dagger fighting is considered

to be in a different category altogether from knife fighting. I agree with that view. The Sniper dagger's most obvious trait is it's flared tip. It produces a dramatically more effective wound in combat. Much like a hollow point bullet from a gun causes more damage than does a standard full metal jacketed round. Most people will focus upon that alone due to it being a critical aspect of survival. But, to know how to use the two edges in an advanced way is the key to victory. That takes training or experience. Training is the easy way, experience comes a bit harder. Dagger tactics are not commonly found, but once they are learned / understood they are deceptive, deadly and almost impossible to stop.

It is an ancient saying which teaches us this: "To give a student of the fighting arts a dagger too early in his career is oft to ruin him, the dagger will make him lazy. He should learn all of his lessons first with the single edged knife". Then as an expert, he should graduate up to the dagger. Because it is truly the weapon of an expert. The saying holds true today, that's why the professional fighting men of the world prefer MercWorx





They are ready for battle on all fronts. Mess with the best, die like the rest! Dedication like this deserves respect and products like this deserve men who are worthy of such extreme edged efforts! Are you up to ownership? Keep reading then.

Being one of the few large knives meant to be used in reverse grip mode makes the Sniper unique. Most knives designed for reverse grip are small to mid-sized. Leverage and lethality are then lost. With a larger knife the reverse grip offers the user some powerful, effective options to control, neutralize or completely deanimate a subject. Again, knowledge of application is a critical factor in overall estimations of weapon worthiness and value. And just in case that anyone out there thinks that reverse grip fighting using daggers is something I've made up I've included in this article a bit of dagger lore. This bit of knowledge about fighting with large daggers comes down to us from the German "Fechtbuch". First printed in

and their superior designs. You can feel the fighting spirit of the Mercworx made blade the minute you hold one of their fine knives!

When using such a high performance edged weapon as the Sniper one needs assurance that not only is the piece capable in combat, but that it is durable as well. Earlier I mentioned the handle being bonded with great care, here's an example. Many

of the MercWorx elite clientel must perform aerial insertions into hostile areas. A HALO jump tests man and equipment. Such jumps put weapons through rapid and dramatic changes in temperature. This can cause handle slabs to pop off or blades to fracture even before the man touches down. So, as you can see, the crew at MercWorx has done their homework (or is that homework?).

1467, and later reprinted in 1886 (from which these illustrated plates came from). So, here is proof that what I am sharing with you is from tried and true sources, certainly not something I've just recently "made up".

The Devil is in the Details

I'd like to enlighten you to some of the details surrounding the Sniper

fighting dagger and the entire MercWorx lineup of knives and gear. This is the obligatory stuff, I must write this data down as some men are fixated on such stuff. You may have read the stats and the specs elsewhere, but then again, maybe not.

So let's cover some of these finer, often overlooked points that you should be aware of, OK?

The black sheath which accompanies the Sniper is a cordura type of carry system. Strong, functional and suited for open carry in the field. Nothing fancy, just servicable reliability. If a sheath of a different nature is required for your Sniper then opting to have a custom rig from www.rivercitysheaths.com is another option to explore. That would allow the Sniper to go under cover and extend it's deadly applications even further in the tactical realm.

Their choice 154 CPM steel is ideal for the Mercworx needs. It has a proven record of performance. It is American made. The high polish blade is easy to upkeep and a little buffing can



Mercworx Overview

By WR

I first came across Mercworx knives while thumbing through Tactical Knives magazine a few months ago. Their overall design and attention to detail immediately impressed me, including the upswept thumb ramp as well as the shape of the blade. I contacted the company and asked for a knife to review. They sent me the Archangel (now called the Vorax) and I was blown away.

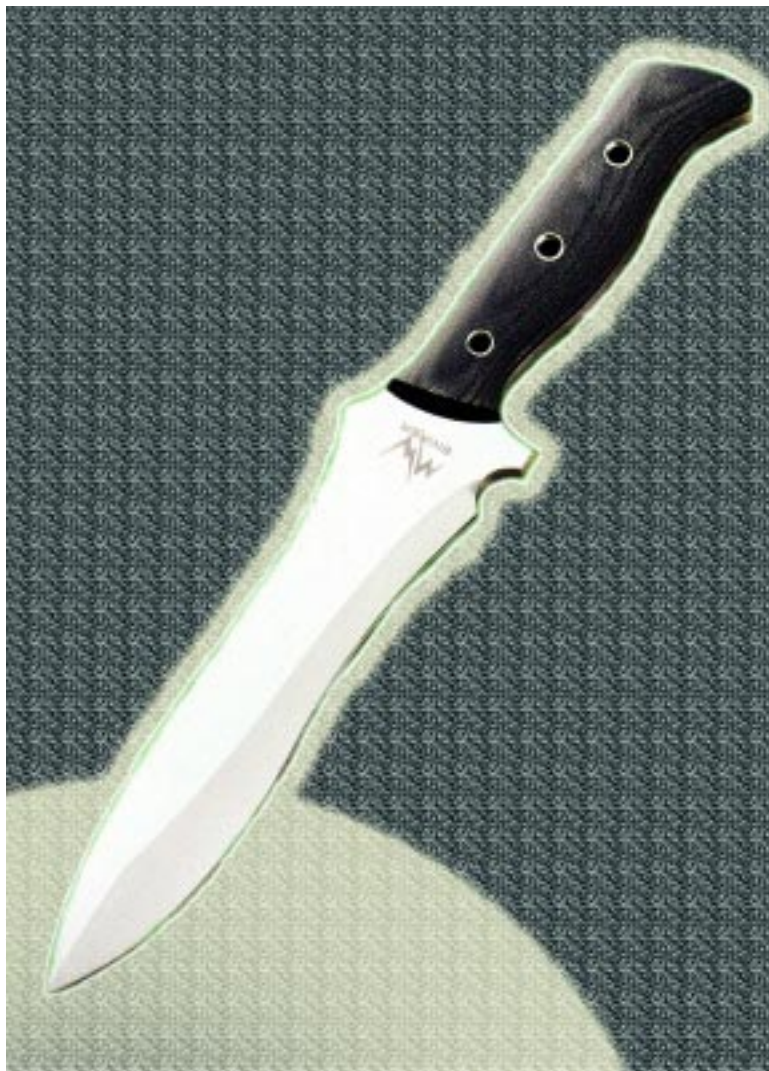
The weight, the design and the feel are outstanding! In fact I was so impressed I asked if we could review several knives, and they sent us four models for this issue, including the Sniper, the Vorax, the Orion and the Seraphym (push-dagger). Since we were covering so many knives from the same company we decided to do a more in-depth article featuring the company.

Mercworx manufactures fighting knives for professionals in the field. These are fighting knives that are designed to be strong enough for any field or combat application that an operator might demand. Individual knife makers make them one at a time. The Vorax, Sniper, Equatorian and Orion all incorporate the same blade design and feature their unique upswept thumb-ramp on top.

This provides a relaxed but firm extended saber grip as well as a reverse grip that won't cut into your palm when you push hard against any surface. The blades on these particular models look like a gladius on the bottom and a dagger on top and are appropriately sharp.

The extended protrusions on the bottom of the aforementioned knives prevent the hand from sliding forward. After noticing how comfortable these knives are to hold, you also notice the thickness and weight of the blade. Even the smallest of these knives will produce a large wound channel. All knives come standard with a black micarta handle.

For a full review of the Sniper, Vorax, Orion and Seraphym, visit www.realfighting.com
About the author: WR is publisher of www.realfighting.com the leading reality-based site on the web.



signalling device for communications in primitive field conditions. There is little on any Mercworx product that has not been thoroughly researched and thought out. For every design detail there is a reason. Innovative, experienced and accurate Mercworx knives covers all the bases. I like that level of sincerity and professionalism.

The hollow ground style of blade offers the user strength, reliability and a wide range of applications simply not available with other knives. Pryng, thrusting, slashing, cutting and extreme uses are the Sniper's forte! Such punishment would ruin or even break another knife. The Sniper will probably outlive most of its owners, an odd thought for sure. The Sniper combat knife is the warhorse of close combat, a swift, powerful "force multiplier" above the rest. An updated relic of survival from mankind's distant past now made to conform to space age standards of survival. An ideal weapon & tool for stalking victory today and well into tomorrow.

Conclusion

The Sniper is the combat knife in excelsus; the warrior's perfect battle blade. Combining the durability and combat efficacy of their larger Equatorian model with flawless lines and superb, rapier like balance, the Sniper melds strength with dynamic handling characteristics into a seamless, go anywhere, do anything package that will set the high-watermark of combat knives for years to come. Can you dig it?

Sniper Dimensions: 13" x 2 1/8"

Sniper Blade length: 7.5"

Materials:

- Handcrafted in the USA
- 154CM
- RC 58
- Cryogenically Treated
- Micarta Handle

A bargain at the price of: \$400.00

For more info check in with Nigel at Mercworx Knives via these contact points, tell'em Keating sent ya!

Phone: 1-908-619-1013

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