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# spec sheet

By MSG Kim Breed  
5th Special Forces (retired)

## Cutting Frenzy of the EDC-1

### The author says Chris Crawford's small folder is the best slip joint he has evaluated—ever!

Everyone likes a nice little folder. I'm not talking about one with a pocket clip, just a good, little slip joint, something that can be used for everyday chores like opening boxes, cleaning fingernails, or picking out splinters. I was raised on slip joints, barlows, Kissing Cranes, Schrade Old Timers and a host of others. What is cool is that you can still find the old ones at knife shows. I have both of my father's Old Timers that are worn almost to nothing on the blades.

With nostalgia about slip joints still running strong, Chris Crawford offers the EDC-1. It looks great but does it perform? Let's see.

#### Zippin' It

With Chris's folder in my pocket, I went about a normal knife-using day. I arrived at the shop and got things reorganized on

my side of the workbench for the day's work. My partner, Gary Wheeler, and I had received a shipment of new grinding belts for the 2x72 grinder. (This is like Christmas for us.) Usually, I grab a junk shop knife and saw my way through a corner of the box containing the belts. This time, though, I used the EDC-1. Gary picked up on the movement and was all eyes and ears. *Z-z-z-z-i-p!* The three-ply cardboard parted with ease.

Now the excitement from the new belts shifted very quickly to the EDC-1, and Gary said, "Let me see that." While I hanged the new belts up, Gary played with the knife. I turned around and he already had the floor of the shop littered with shavings from what used to be a cardboard box. He used pushing, pulling, zigzag and two-finger cuts. The cardboard hit the floor fast.

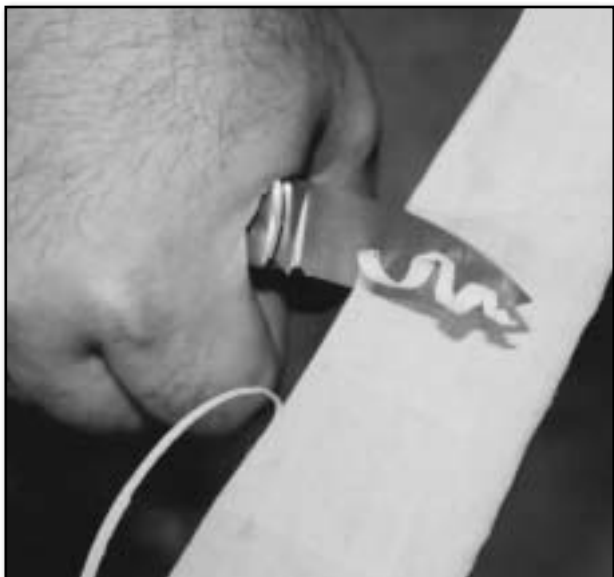
I had the camera and said, "You cut and I'll take pictures." Flashing a big grin, he continued cutting. Using two-finger pressure, he filleted the last piece of cardboard. Dang, this thing cuts!

We started looking for more stuff to cut and it did not take Gary long to find it. Digging under his side of the workbench, he brought up a handful of leather. The first thing he did was cut

a leather strip down to a very thin end. The first attempt went so fast that I missed the photo opportunity, so Gary took smaller cuts and stopped before the job was done.

The edge on the EDC-1 is unbelievable. The 2-inch blade is like a large scalpel; only the slightest pressure is needed to cut with it. The knife sliced one piece of 8-ounce leather as easy as the cardboard, so Gary grabbed a triple-thickness pad of leather. The first cut went through it like butter, so he increased his grip pressure for more control. He used push-and-pull cuts and in no time the leather pad was nothing but thin strips on the shop floor.

The last cutting medium was an old, beat-up sheath. The EDC-1 is so controllable that Gary used a pull cut to reconfigure the belt



In no time, Gary used the compact folder to create a bunch of slivers and curls on the quarter-inch oak board.



A 2-inch, modified drop-point blade of O-1 tool steel and a blue jugged-bone handle give Chris Crawford's EDC-1 a nostalgic look and feel. Closed length: 3 inches. The maker's list price: \$195.



**Employing the knife carefully, Gary skived a piece of 8-ounce leather with no problem.**

loop.

It was time to up the level of cutting media. Gary started to slice the vines that grow through the side of his garage. I had to yell at him to slow down so I would not waste film shooting a blank wall. All he had to do was touch the vines with the EDC-1's blade and they parted.

Out the door we went, around to the back of the workshop to some bushes. Before I could get my camera in position, Gary already had cut four branches and was going for No. 5 when he stopped for a picture. The EDC-1 had hooked him into a cutting frenzy. Around the corner we went again and found a piece of quarter-inch oak left over from a former project. In no time, Gary used the knife to create a bunch of slivers and curls on the board.

Back in the shop, Gary started cutting more leather and cardboard. I think he was just having fun making a big mess around his chair. Reluctantly, he handed the EDC-1 back to me so I could head home and get the pictures developed. He asked to see the knife again so he could feel the edge, and

## SPEC CHART

**Knife** EDC-1  
**Maker** Chris Crawford  
**Pattern** Slip-joint folder  
**Blade Steel** O-1  
**Temper** Double  
**Blade Length** 2"  
**Handle** Blue jugged bone  
**Backspring** O-1  
**Hardware** Nickel silver  
**Closed Length** 3"  
**Maker's List Price** \$195

the next thing I knew he had his pant leg up and was shaving the hair off his calf. (Author's note: Cutting hair from your legs or arms is not something I recommend for testing a blade's sharpness.) Needless to say, Chris Crawford has new fans. Both Gary and I were impressed with the EDC-1's cutting performance.

When I returned home, I went to the garage to cut some half-inch sisal rope. Without retouching the edge, I used the EDC-1 to make 62 crunching cuts. The edge was still sharp but I stropped it two times and the scary sharpness was right back. This knife is a cutting machine.

### Recommendations

I would soften the inside handle edges and make a pocket clip optional.

### Final Report

The EDC-1 is one well-made cutting tool. It feels so great in your hand and is so easy to use, I believe it is the kind of knife that will last long enough that you will be able to pass it down to your children.

Quite simply, it is the best slip-joint knife I have evaluated.

*For more information contact Chris Crawford, Dept. BL1, 3448 Woodland Dr., Belden, MS 38826 662.680.9451 (evenings) knives@chriscrawford.com.*

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**Gary used pushing, pulling, zigzag and two-finger cuts to make short work of the cardboard.**



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