

A Long-Term Survival Guide – My Jungle Machete:



This is currently my favorite machete-sized knife, the “Jungle Machete”. I bought it from Bud K (for \$18), and like it so well that I would buy several more, except that they have stopped selling it. I have seen a few for sale on the net (for higher prices), but Bud K tends to bring back most of their products eventually, so I am enjoying the one I have, until more of these become available.



A standard machete is shown here for comparison. The Jungle Machete has a full-tang blade, approx three times as thick as the standard machete, with a handle long enough for two-handed use. The blade shape is similar to a Chinese broadsword, and it has impressive cutting power.



Because the top of the handle is flat, it is possible to lash the machete to a sturdy wooden staff, or bamboo pole, to create an intimidating pole-arm. The hand guard braces the pole, during impacts.





I like the knife, but wanted to modify the sheath, so I cut up an old belt pack, to use for materials.



The back side of the belt pack was used to make a pouch on the back of the sheath.



I use this pouch to store some paracord. It can hold 100 feet of line, but 75 feet fits better.



For the front of the sheath, I cut off the small pocket from the belt pack, leaving some extra material around the edges. I stitched the front and back pouches onto the sheath using a heavy nylon upholstery thread. A surgical hemostat made it easier to force the needle through the heavy nylon sheath and pack cloth, though I could have used pliers, a leather pad, or a sailor's palm.



I carry a few useful items in the front pouch, including a small plastic bag that holds a hemostat, a small pair of surgical scissors, two sutures, some bandaids, and some needles and thread. The other items are a compass, a butane lighter, a card of snare wire, a roll of 30 pound test fishing line, a package of hooks, a blast match, a diamond hone, a harpoon, and some smaller nylon cordage.



This is the Hoffman harpoon, which I made from a one-inch spade-style wood-boring drill bit.



When I attached the front pouch, I only sewed it on three sides, leaving the handle side open. This created a pocket between the back of the pouch and the sheath, which holds a smaller knife.



I used a green Ranger knife and sheath for the images (so that it would be visible in the pictures), but I normally prefer to keep a black one with the machete, because it blends in with the sheath.

So there you have it. The extra items do add some weight to the package, but I like always having these basic survival items mounted on the machete. Overall I am very pleased with the knife itself, and with the sheath modifications.

I am also considering adding a detachable sling, so that I could carry the machete slung over my back, instead of strapped to my leg, but I have another carrying method that I consider to be superior, and which I use for many of my bulkier tools, such as my take-down survival guns.

Since I have a number of useful items that I like to keep handy, but which are too large to easily conceal, my solution is to carry these larger survival tools hidden inside a surplus tent stake bag.



This tent stake bag is made of heavy nylon, and is more than long enough to hold the machete.



With the machete concealed inside the tent stake bag, it doesn't look like a big scary weapon, just a shapeless package. It is surprising how well simply hiding an object in a bag works. The bag can be strapped to a pack, or slung on your back. The bag is roomy enough that you can add extra stuff to it, to help obscure the shape of the hidden item, if necessary. Spare clothing works well, and so does a coil of rope. You could even add a few tent stakes to the bag, for a very convincing outline.



If you don't have a tent stake bag, any similar long, narrow bag usually works ok. The nylon bags that folding camp chairs come in work well, and many of them already have a sling strap attached.