



Real World

CARRY GEAR

COLUMN BY: DUANE A. DAIKER

No particular theme this month, just a collection of assorted gear that I use on a regular basis, that definitely qualifies as Real World Carry Gear.

SCOTTEVEST CLOTHING

I have had a special interest in finding useful clothing to make concealed carry easier. I have a few pairs of “holster pants” in the bottom of my closet, none of which have graced this column. Ultimately, I don’t want a pair of pants designed to carry my gun. I have a belt and holsters for that. What I want is a pair of pants, a vest or a jacket that help me to carry all of the other stuff I carry on a daily basis, like reloads, a pocket knife, pepper spray, a flashlight, car keys, a PDA... You know all the stuff I am talking about.

Enter the SCOTTEVEST (“SeV”) line of patented “Technology Enabled” clothing. This is not strictly a “tactical” clothing line. In fact, it is rapidly becoming very mainstream in the “techie” crowd. The clothes are designed to help carry all of the electronics and related gadgets people often carry today. Some of the patented features include hidden channels to run wires for iPod earbuds, cell phone headsets and the like. However, the clothes also do a fantastic job of carrying stuff, lots and lots of stuff.

There is a wide variety of clothing items: jackets, vests, long pants, short pants, T-shirts, and even baseball caps. While they all have different features, one thing they all have in common is an unbelievable number of pockets. And these are not super obvious cargo pants type pockets all over the place, but multiple layers of hidden and secret pockets. The Hidden Cargo Pants have 11 pockets. The jackets average 40 pockets! It takes a while of wearing the garments just to find all of the pockets. But SeV helps you out with this by placing a card in every pocket explaining what each pocket is, and suggesting what you can carry in it. Many of the pockets are separated by innovative magnetic closures that separate your gear and provide good security, but are still quick to access. All of

these pockets make it exceptionally easy to carry all of your gear in separate pockets for maximum organization and ease of access. SeV has also paid close attention to weight management issues. You can load down these garments with all of your stuff and not look like you are transporting a pile of bricks in your pockets!

SeV plans to expand its product line to appeal even more to the concealed carry market, while staying low profile and not making a big deal about it. You will not see SeV products with names or logos that advertise the fact that you are carrying a gun. And lots of people will be wearing them to carry their iPods and PDAs, so no one will be the wiser. It’s a good thing that SeV has patents on the features of these clothes, because I think they are going to need them! I have spent some time talking with Scott Jordan, the founder and CEO of SCOTTEVEST, and I am convinced that he is a stand-up guy that will lead this company to a bright future.

It is hard for me to explain all of the features of the SeV line in this short space. I suggest that you visit their website, www.scottevest.com for more information, descriptions, and some decent photos, or call 866-909-VEST. I have tested the Hidden Cargo Pants, Hidden Cargo Shorts, Classic Vest, Jacket, Performance T-Shirt and TEC Hat. All of them are fantastic quality and enormously useful. I recommend them highly, and I hope you will give the SeV line a serious look. I am convinced that you will not be disappointed.



GRANDFATHER OAK NECK HOLSTER

I am constantly looking for new ways to carry my smallest hide-out guns, like NAA Mini-Revolvers and pocket autos. I recently decided to try a neck carry holster. Although it could probably be done safely, I ruled out neck holster systems that required the gun barrel to point at my head! I also wanted something that was sweat-resistant and very secure, yet quick to draw. Ultimately, my research led me to Grandfather Oak Custom Carry.

Grandfather Oak offers a variety of stock designs, as well as custom work, in Kydex and leather. My order was for the Hidden Companion neck holster for my NAA Mini in .22 Magnum. Honestly, my first impression was the price: \$18 shipped! David Stillwell at Grandfather Oak was very helpful, and a pleasure to do business with.

The holster is fashioned from black Kydex with very snug retention. And yet, the gun can be drawn with a quick yank, with no snap or similar retaining device to foul the draw. There is no way a mini-revolver is falling out of this holster rig. The neck cord is made of black para-cord, and is easily adjustable or replaced with a different cord if desired. The holes for the neck lanyard are finished with metal grommets, and the construction appears to be top notch.

The gun rides horizontally in this holster, which is my preference. Safety is not compromised with the NAA Mini because the holster permits carry with the hammer riding in the cylinder safety notch, making the gun perfectly safe for carry. The paracord is reasonably comfortable riding

on your neck, even with bearing the weight of the gun.

I wore this holster in a variety of ways: under just a T-shirt at times, and between an undershirt and an overshirt at times, etc. It should be obvious that wearing the gun between layers of clothing (i.e., not right against the skin) was most comfortable, and the thicker the clothing, the better the concealment. Of course, the speed of access to the gun is also very dependent upon the clothing worn. Reaching under an untucked T-shirt or sweatshirt is reasonably fast. Having to untuck a shirt or open buttons is slow. You have to give some consideration to how you dress and whether your mode of dress is conducive to neck carry.

In short, I find the Hidden Companion neck holster to be a well constructed holster with a well thought out design. If you have been wanting to try neck carry, this is a great way to try a quality neck carry system for less than \$20. I have found that neck carry is not ideal for my daily mode of dress, but it is invaluable from time to time. My Grandfather Oak neck holster sits on my dresser, ready for action when needed. While the holster may work best for mini-revolvers, the Hidden Companion is also available for Kel-Tec pocket autos and other firearms upon request. You should have one, at a minimum, for those times when nothing else will work. For information or to order, visit www.grandfatheroak.com or call David at (919) 612-8924.

RSK MK1 FOLDING KNIFE BY BENCHMADE

Without a doubt, I like Benchmade knives. I fell in love with a Benchmade Griptillian knife that was my everyday carry knife for a year, until I lost it. I still don't know where. (If you found it somewhere, please e-mail me!) When I started shopping for a replacement, I found the Ritter RSK, which is essentially a Benchmade Griptillian folding knife on steroids. Doug Ritter, a survival expert, has collaborated with Benchmade to create his concept of the ultimate everyday carry knife with the specifications and features to double as a survival knife. Now, this is no Rambo-like, 12 inch, sheath knife with a blood groove and a compass; it is a no-nonsense folding knife.

This knife looks like your standard Griptillian folder with Benchmade's exceptionally strong axis lock and uniquely molded, non-slip scales. As with other Griptillian folders, the knife is designed for ambidextrous, one handed opening and closing. The axis lock is exceptionally strong, and the versatility has made it my favorite locking mechanism for folders.



There is also a reversible pocket clip and lanyard hole.

The real difference, however, in the RSK model is the blade. Unlike the 154CM stainless of the standard Benchmade 550, the RSK has an upgraded blade fashioned of high tech CPM S30V steel for ultimate edge holding ability. Doug Ritter was tired of affordable knives skimping on steel quality, and refused to compromise on his choice of S30V. The RSK also sports a classic wide-chord, drop point blade shape to tackle the most robust cutting chores.

The RSK is available in two sizes: the standard with a 3.44 inch blade, and the mini with a 2.88 inch blade. Both are exceptionally light for their size, at 3.82 and 2.68 ounces respectively. There are also a variety of scale colors and blade coatings available. All RSK knives are covered by Benchmade's lifetime warranty and LifeSharp sharpening service. At prices between \$100 and \$135, these knives offer uncompromising quality and features at a very reasonable price. I don't think you will find a better value in an everyday carry knife. My full-size RSK is with me nearly anytime I leave my house, and I am ordering a mini-RSK for all those other times! I highly recommend this knife. For more information, see Doug Ritter's survival website, www.equipped.com. The RSK line of knives can be purchased from www.aeromedix.com or by calling (888) 362-7123.

SUREFIRE X200 LED WEAPONLIGHT

I am not certain that I have ever seen a SureFire flashlight that I didn't like, and these WeaponLights are no exception. Handgun mounted tactical lights have become all the rage, and SureFire has set the bar with these products as well. SureFire's X-series LED lights mount to any firearm with a universal or Picatinny rail. The lights come standard with a rocker type switch that permits ambidextrous intermittent or constant-on



switching with the trigger finger. SureFire has optional pressure switches for a variety of handguns.

Two models are available. The X200A is a 60 lumen light designed to project a tightly focused beam for better illumination at longer distances. The X200B is a 100 lumen light with a wider beam pattern for better peripheral threat identification. Both lights have high-tech reflectors, Pyrex lenses, and hard anodized aluminum construction that make some of the other manufacturers' lights look like toys in comparison. I didn't try to drive nails with the X200 lights (like SureFire does in their ads), but I wouldn't doubt that you could do it. These lights ooze high quality, and are backed by SureFire's generous lifetime warranty. The SureFire X-Series lights are the gold standard for tactical weapon lights. For more information or to order, visit www.surefire.com or call (800) 828-8809.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Duane A. Daiker is a Column Editor for CCM, but is otherwise a regular guy—not much different from you. Duane has been a life-long shooter and goes about his life as an armed, responsible, and somewhat opinionated citizen. Duane can be reached at Daiker@RealWorldCarryGear.com. Additional RWCG columns can be viewed at www.RealWorldCarryGear.com.

