

# That's a knife!

EVEN CROCODILE DUNDEE  
MIGHT CONSIDER THE  
OUTBACK BOWIE

## SPEC CHECK

**Knife:** The Outback

**Pattern:** Bowie

**Company:** Down Under Knives

**Blade Length:** 11"

**Blade Thickness:** .25"

**Blade Steel:** 440C stainless

**Rockwell Hardness:** 58/59 Rc at the edge,  
45/46 Rc on the back

**Handle:** Ebony/leather

**Fittings:** Brass

**Overall Length:** 16"

**Sheath:** Leather


**Extras:** Sharpening steel in sheath pocket

**MSRP:** \$249

I received an e-mail asking me to test a bowie knife. I e-mailed back that would be fine and to send me the knife. A couple weeks later a large box arrived. The first words out of my mouth were, "THAT'S a knife!" It looks similar to the one used in *Crocodile Dundee*. Big and shiny, The Outback bowie from Down Under Knives is made to hack, slash, chop and cut. No problem with those tasks.

I started with some dense foam I use to press my Kydex® sheaths, getting nice, clean cuts with no snagging. I moved on to some 8-ounce leather, which took some practice with such a big knife. However, after I got the heft of The Outback, it made nice crunching noises on the leather.

Next came the rope, starting with 3/8-inch sisal. The Outback crunched 55 times through it before control



*The Outback bowie from Down Under Knives boasts an 11-inch blade of 440C stainless, an ebony/leather handle, and a leather sheath with a sharpening steel in the pocket. MSRP: \$249.*





*(Above) The Outback bit deep into the 2-inch-diameter vine.*

*(Right) The swell of the hollow grind worked against the author when it penetrated the vine, binding the blade.*

*(Below) The first chop buried the blade in the oak.*

*(Bottom right) The blade cut three-fourths of the way through the 1-inch manila rope with no problem, though the author could not get it all the way through.*



became an issue. The heavy blade wore my wrist out, so, after a short break, I switched to 1-inch manila rope. The blade cut three-fourths of the way through it with no problem but I could not get it all the way through. The edge geometry tends more toward the thick side for chopping, and, with the smaller handle, the push-through cut just did not happen.

I threw in some whittling on a pine 1x1 just for fun. I did not have to push the blade into the pine—the weight of the blade did all the work and made excellent curly-cues.

I had an old milk jug filled with water for the spring flower/vegetable planting. And yes, I like flowers in my yard; besides, Melissa asked me to finish the lawn work. As I walked past the jug, I took a swing at it with the knife. Though I expected to get wet, the water just fell straight down and the jug did not move. The Outback was still sharp.

### **Feelin' It**

My buddy, ABS journeyman smith Gary Wheeler, called wanting me to come over and forge a few blades. I agreed because we could kill two birds with one drive—forge a few blades and get rid of the large vine Mrs. Betty Wheeler wanted removed last year. Since it is my camera, I had the ABS journeyman smith do the swinging.

The Outback bit deep into the 2-inch diameter vine. It took a few swings to try and get a feel for the knife. With the springiness of the vine, neither of us could cut it in one swing. The swell of the hollow grind worked against us when penetrating the vine, binding the blade. Gary said The Outback did not have any “feel” to it. He and I are used to the balance and feel of a forged, flat-ground blade, which has a liveliness to it. The Outback did not have it. Not that it is a bad thing, as it still cut the vine, but I like a big knife to be “alive” in my hand.

When I chopped into the vine’s 3-inch main stem, the bowie worked very well, pulling out big chunks. It made for quick work chopping a “V” cut.

When I returned home, it was out to the backyard woodpile for some heavy chopping. I had some 2-year-old red oak left over from the winter that needed splitting up into kindling for the





# The Pry-Mate by Boker.



- VoxKnives collaboration
- Milled Micarta scales
- N690B0 steel blade
- Includes hand fitted Kydex sheath
- Blade thickness: 7mm
- Blade length: 3 3/4"
- Overall length: 6 1/2"
- Weight: 6.3 oz.
- Model No.: 120614

**BOKER USA, INC.**  
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## SPEC SHEET



way through and, again, it was very easy to twist the pieces apart. I found another log with a knot or two in it. The blade buried and stuck firmly in the knot. No problem. I just grabbed another log to baton The Outback through both knots. Mind you, the blade is stainless steel and I was batonning it on the spine at the tip. The knife came through with flying colors.

I grabbed a 6-inch-diameter log and started chopping. Big chunks flew in two directions as the knife tore into the log. I chopped my way through in about two minutes. The Outback performed very well.

After all the hard use, the edge remained sharp with no chips. I went over it twice with the brass rod and watched the edge flex without chipping, a sure sign of excellent heat treatment.

### I Would Change ...

... the handle. It is a bit short, which throws off the balance of the blade. Also, the handle wanted to twist in my hand when I used the knife for horizontal chops on the wood and vines.

### Bloomin' Bottom Line

The Outback is made for heavy-duty use. You can

chop, smash and cut your way through just about anything with it. It is a nice knife with a beautiful mirror polish.

For more information contact Down Under Knives 358-41-4388803 (Australia) [www.downunderknives.com](http://www.downunderknives.com), or Blue Ridge Knives at 276-783-6143 e-mail [onestop@blueridgeknives.com](mailto:onestop@blueridgeknives.com) for the knife's dealer nearest you.

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*(Top) When the author swung the blade through the water-filled plastic jug, the water fell straight down and the jug did not budge.*

*(Above) The author did not have to push the blade into the 1x1 pine—the weight of the blade did all the work and made excellent curly-cues.*

summertime fire pit. The first chop buried the blade in the oak. Now that I had a space, I went for another chop to the side of the first one. The Outback buried 3 inches past the top of the blade and the knife's ample length made it easy to twist the pieces apart. Sweet!

Next came some old hackberry logs. The knife split them three-fourths of the

**BLADE**