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 Federal agent wearing concealed BeltSword. This system could be serious back-up to a handgun.

 Start of draw. Draw commences by twisting belt up.

 Length of RazorSword creates tactical advantage.

 Corded grip literally springs into hand.

RAZORSWORD STEEL



Things are not looking up for law-abiding gun owners.

In spite of the razor-thin pro ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court on the Second Amendment, enough wiggle room was left for the imposition of “reasonable restrictions” by jurisdictions that adamantly disagree with the court’s interpretation of our Bill of Rights.

Add to that the vehemently anti-gun Obama Administration, which is backed by a similarly inclined Congress, and the Australian experience comes to mind. Even disregarding recent changes on the national level, many jurisdictions make carrying a concealed handgun expensive and difficult. Under these living conditions, alternative weapons that are

concealable may be the logical choice for self-defense.

Other than rocks and other short, close-combat implements, objects with some length not only provide the wielder with increased mechanical efficiency, but also offer the user some standoff capability. With an extended reach, the stick, club, axe, mace, sword or spear gives the warrior the ability to avoid grappling with an opponent and suffering almost certain injury even if he enjoys a “winning/surviving” outcome. Big guns and intercontinental ballistic missiles carry the standoff factor to its ultimate conclusion.

I recognize that in jurisdictions that

unconstitutionally ban concealed firearms, nunchucks and sword canes, this system may also fall into a restricted category once city fathers become aware of it. The usual suspects—California, New York State and Massachusetts—have made many of these edged and blunt instrument weapons illegal. In those states, self-defense is not an option. Enter the RazorSword.

RAZORSWORD

Reminiscent of the noble Spartan “Xiphos” short sword in its purpose, the RazorSword provides a unique and totally unexpected response to evil. Those



URPRISE

» BY BOB PILGRIM

of you who have served in corrections will immediately recognize it as a very sophisticated "shank," but its simple profile belies its complexity and the amount of thought and research that went into its development.

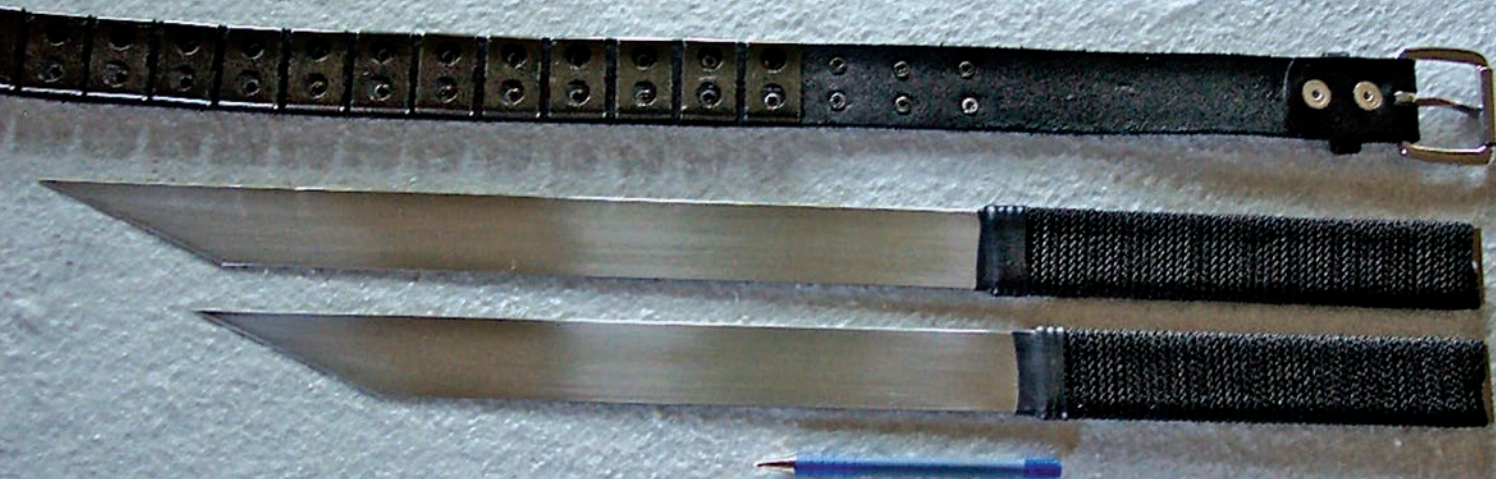
Constructed of 1075 or 1095 high-carbon spring steel, the RazorSword is available in five different blade lengths from 24 to 33 inches. The blade's thickness varies from 0.32 to .042 inches, with an increase in thickness as the blade lengthens. Amazingly, it is totally concealable and completely accessible from a 1.5-inch leather belt, the BeltSword System.

Curtis "Curt" W. Koehler is the inven-

tor of the BeltSword System. How does it work? With its grip wrapped in enough heavy black nylon cord to afford, if desired, a two-handed Samurai sword hold, the flexible blade is contained within a linked "tunnel" of tempered and hardened high-carbon spring steel clips that protect the wearer, but still allow for lightning-fast deployment. The sword's grip length and containment clip positioning on the inside of the measured belt are customized by the owner and, as would be expected, require tweaking for smooth operation. Once your integrated system is good to go, it becomes what Curt refers to as "SWIFT" (Stealth



RazorSword unsheathed.
Ready for intimidation or action. If it could speak, it would say, "Don't tread on me."



Two of the shortest length RazorSwords. Blades come in several lengths and as blades lengthen, thickness increases.

Weapon & Integrated, Failsafe Tactical System).

VERSATILE WEAPON

The RazorSword is a double-bladed weapon with a wicked point, but is distributed without a sharpened edge. That is left up to the owner, because the blunt, narrow edge can still penetrate and inflict substantial injuries. While body and extremity slashes are unlikely to cause death, chops to the head and brachial area of the neck could. With its broadsword-width blade, deep thrusts and runs through an opponent's center mass will also more than likely produce terminal results unless medical assistance is timely.

The exposed butt end of the grip—with a hole for a lanyard or retention strap—can also deliver hammer fist strikes that will lacerate the face and skull. While not serious, copious blood flow from the skull will frequently blind an adversary and open him up for follow-up blows if necessary. This is a versatile weapon. I can also avoid injuring an opponent who just needs emphatic persuasion by slapping that person with the flat of the whip-like blade. For its most lethal configuration, the owner can sharpen both edges.

RAZORSWORD PHYSICS

When omni-directional air cutting, one is immediately aware of the RazorSword's flexibility and lightness. It reminds me most of a handsaw blade. Any

serious fighting sword must establish a practical balance between weight and speed. RazorSwords are light, but their inherent speed more than makes up for their lack of weight.

A sword that is twice the weight of a Razor will have twice the kinetic energy, but a blade with twice the speed can deliver four times the kinetic energy. This is the physics behind the RazorSword's cutting power. A heavy sword like a Claymore requires quite a bit of strength to wield with speed and limits your ability to accelerate it quickly from zero to terminal velocity.

It also requires more distance to get it up to effective velocities, whereas the Razor accelerates almost immediately to terminal velocity. Therefore, the kinetic force of the lighter weapon begins to equal the cutting power of the bulkier sword, and in close quarters this is a distinct advantage.

You can learn more about the physics involved in this at Curt's website, www.beltswords.com, where he and other martial artists demonstrate the Razor's efficacy by hacking into thick sheets of plywood and halving suspended water-filled plastic bottles.

COMPLETE KIT

The RazorSword kit comes with your blade length of choice, black nylon grip cord, sturdy leather belt and buckle, and a bag full of more containment clips, screws, barrel nuts and nylon blade stops



RazorSword inventor Curtis Koehler in classic oriental "on-guard" position.

than you will be able to use. Construction of your belt is simple, but takes time and patience to complete. A useful tool is a magnetic Phillips Head screwdriver that will hold those pesky little screws in place while you attach them to the containment clips.

Start out by locating the spot on the belt that covers the middle of your back and place the first containment clip there. Then work out alternating sides until you have four clips installed on either side of the center one, for nine clips total.

This will vary from person to person and a little experimentation is necessary to ensure smooth, glitch-free, no-drag operation. The clips should not come past your oblique muscles or where your back begins to curve around to the front. Once you have the suggested number of clips installed, a final clip containing two circular nylon white stops should be placed on the side where the point will reside.

For a right-handed person the clip will be located on the far right side of the belt. If any containment clips have to be removed to facilitate the draw, they will incrementally come off the left side of the belt.

Is the RazorSword the answer to personal urban crime? Certainly not, but its element of surprise alone is enough to produce shock and awe among those expecting you to comply with their nefarious wishes when instead you unexpectedly respond with a violent, relentless, slashing counterattack. I categorize the RazorSword more along the lines of a fighting cane or baton, which are often preferred by martial artists to a knife.

For you SpecOps guys who deal with a lot of exotic weaponry, the RazorSword taken to its ultimate sharpened iteration could, I am sure, find a useful place in your special applications inventory.

It is widely accepted as good advice not to bring a knife to a gunfight, but the RazorSword may prove to be the edged exception to this rule. ●

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