

An Original EDC

Rothman's Gentleman's Trapper is thin, sharp and tight



« SPEC CHECK

GENTLEMAN'S TRAPPER

KNIFE TYPE: Slip joint/pocketknife

MAKER: Mike Rothman

BLADE LENGTH: 3"

BLADE STEEL: Damasteel damascus in an Aegir pattern

BLADE GRIND: Hollow

BLADE PATTERN: Clip point

BLADE THICKNESS: Tapers on the spine from 7/16" above the ricasso to .039" at the tip; the edge is even thinner than the latter

HANDLE: Sambar stag w/shield of same material as the blade

HANDLE AT THE THICKEST: 5"

LINERS: Fileworked of 410 stainless steel

BOLSTERS: 416 stainless steel

BACKSPRING: CPM 154 stainless steel

WEIGHT: 3.5 ozs.

CLOSED LENGTH: 4"

KNIFE TO KNOW: There is a seamless fit of blade to backspring in the open position

EXTRAS: Comes in black zippered pouch w/Rothman's company name over shape of the state of New York

MAKER'S PRICE: \$750

● Damasteel damascus in an Aegir pattern for the blade and shield and Sambar stag scales lend the Gentleman's Trapper by Rothman Knives a classic look.

"THE EDGE IS VERY FINE, SO CONTROL WAS EASY."



The original EDC knife is a pocketknife. It used to be a right of passage when you were allowed to have a hand-me-down knife in your front pocket. I received mine at the ripe old age of 5. I used it to sharpen pencils and crayons and for whittling.

After a few years and a few cuts on my fingers, I progressed to skinning and cleaning fish. The knife never left my front pocket. I carried it to school for daily uses. It also made quite a few trips in the washing machine and dryer. My mom would have a fit every time she heard it thumping in the dryer. Of course, the laws have changed now and the younger generation has found other

things to entertain themselves. For me, my old pocketknife is retired.

Mike Rothman's Gentleman's Trapper would make a great pocket filler. It walks and talks perfectly. But how well does it cut? Let's see.

TO the TEST

Twenty-pound bond copy paper provided the first test. The slip joint sliced it cleanly and effortlessly. The edge is very fine, so control was easy. It's a nasty-sharp knife for sure—I could hear the blade slicing aggressively.

On to single-walled cardboard. The Gentleman's Trapper made short work of it. In fact, it was very addictive slicing the cardboard.

The blade made smooth, straight cuts with no deflection of the material. Very sharp indeed!

Next I found a piece of double-walled cardboard to try. I only had to use a tad more pressure on the push cut to zip through it. I could hear every cut again. The knife is a very forceful cardboard cutter.

It was time for the leather slice and skiving. The trapper zipped through the leather quickly, so I had to use my knuckles as a stop to keep the piece together so it wouldn't turn into a pile of pieces. The thin blade made skiving simple, producing super thin slices repeatedly. The stag handle worked perfectly providing a positive grip

● In the whittling test, the author changed the angle of cut for a deeper bite. He could see and feel the edge flex as deeper bites ensued.

● The Gentleman's Trapper made a tidy 273 crunching cuts on half-inch sisal rope.





“THE THIN BLADE PRODUCED SOME OF THE FINEST CURLY-CUES I’VE SEEN.”



- The author whacked the blade 30 times into the antler with no edge damage at all. The edge would still pull hair and the knife was as tight as when the author started, still walking and talking.

- The thin blade made skiving leather simple, producing super thin slices repeatedly.

- After dispatching single-walled cardboard with the Rothman knife, the author only had to use a tad more pressure on the push cut to zip through double-walled cardboard.

cutting the leather.

Whittling was up next. The thin blade produced some of the finest curly-cues I’ve seen. I changed the angle of cut for a deeper bite. I could see and feel the blade flex as deeper bites ensued. It was a very weird sensation, to say the least. I just moved the contact surface closer to the bolsters.

Half-inch sisal rope beckoned. I was looking forward to this one. Dang, this trapper performs—273 crunching cuts and the edge was barely sliding! It was easy to cut with and the handle was comfortable with a tight grip. The insides of the liners are a bit sharp but there were no hot spots. Wow!

I returned to the 20-pound bond paper to see if the edge was affected by all the testing. Nope—same clean slices in the material, a sign of great heat treatment.

I was compelled to do a warranty breaking test just to see how tough the Gentleman’s Trapper is. Where was the deer antler? I whacked the blade 30 times into the antler expecting to see some minor edge damage. There was no damage at all! The edge would still pull hair and the knife was as tight as when I started, still walking and talking.

GRADE

I was impressed with the performance of the blade considering how thin it is. Excellent workmanship!

CHANGES

Soften the exposed inside edges of the liners. That’s all, folks!

Mike Rothman warrants his knives against defects in material as long as the knife has not been abused. For more information contact Mike Rothman/Rothman Knives, Rothmanknives.com, Rothmanknives@gmail.com, Instagram @Rothmanknives or call 315-882-6196.

For the latest knives, knife news, trends, and more, visit blademag.com, BLADE’s popular Instagram page @ [blade_magazine](https://www.instagram.com/blade_magazine), and on Facebook and Twitter.

BLADE



“IT’S A NASTY-SHARP KNIFE FOR SURE.”

- The lightweight pocketknife comes with a high-quality zippered black pouch bearing the maker’s logo.