

PRODUCT REVIEW BY ADAM WILLIAMS

THE BUCK STOPS HERE X marks the spot

OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS, MULTI-TOOLS HAVE dramatically increased in popularity, and become a staple in most saddlebags, knapsacks, glove boxes, and pants pockets. But with so many divergent offerings, it's tough to choose a multi-tool that is functional as well as cost effective. And, let's be honest, when you're out on a ride and have to tighten a screw or cut a frayed bungee cord, there's not much need for fish scalers, nail clippers, or micro-magnifying lenses. So what's a consumer-savvy cyclist to do?



Checking out the X-Tract from Buck Knives is a good start. For a price of \$50, Buck's utilitarian multiuse knife is a worthy companion to have tucked away on rides of any length. The X-Tract is housed in a durable steel frame with thermoplastic sides (making it virtually impervious to the elements) and comes in black, platinum, red, or blue frames. It weighs in at just over 6 ounces, making it light enough to carry all day (and night) without causing even

the slightest fatigue. And with six useful features, the X-Tract represents practicality without excessive (and trendy) multi-tool bells and whistles. A tough, 3" locking 420HC steel blade will handle most cutting chores, while twin screwdrivers (slotted and #2 Phillips) are perfect for tightening those loose bits. The spring-loaded needlenose pliers and 10-gauge wire cutters will prove immensely helpful when you least expect it, and the dual can/bottle opener speaks for itself. Lastly, a properly used lanyard loop can guarantee you don't misplace your \$50 investment.

If you anticipate being marooned on a desert island or lost in the Amazon jungle, you may prefer one of those overblown, Survival 101, mega-tool folders. But here in the real world on board your trusty steed, the X-Tract should serve you just fine. Buy it; pack it; ride. AIM

SOURCES

Buck Knives
 660 S. Lochsa St., Dept. AIM
 Post Falls, ID 83854-5200
 800/326-2825
www.BuckKnives.com