



6 April 2011

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SOG's TAC Automatic Drop Point



In 2011, SOG Specialty Knives Inc. continues its tradition of designing and manufacturing great blades with a new automatic offering, the SOG Tac Automatic Drop Point.

Readers who have followed my reviews know I tend to take folding knives lightly when it comes to tactical application. Look, let's face it, chipping through sheet rock or a block wall is hard on a blade and the axis point on a folder is a single point of failure.

Having said that, the compactness and accessibility of a folding knife can't be understated; therefore, I have consistently recommended you carry a fixed blade for the more demanding jobs you'll encounter and a quality tactical folder for everyday tasks or as a defensive backup in close quarter combat. Here, an automatic knife provides a decisive advantage in speed of deployment and safety. Readers not

in the military or law enforcement are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their local and state laws regarding ownership and/or possession of an automatic knife; however, if you are active duty military or law enforcement, carrying an automatic knife while in the performance of your duties should not present a problem; nonetheless, if in doubt, check with your state or local attorney to ensure you are in compliance.

It's disappointing at best or more accurately tragic how knife laws are enacted. The amount of misinformation surrounding automatic knives is amazing - sometimes I wonder how we've managed to remain bipedal over the years! All the same, the law is the law.

Automatic knife designs have come a long way from the old switchblade but they are still more complex and therefore prone to failure than an assisted open design, so selecting a product from a reputable manufacturer is an important part of your decision making criteria.

The SOG Tac Automatic Drop Point meets and exceeds those decisive factors.

I am extremely impressed with this knife.

SOG's Tac Auto features a 3.5" AUS8 stainless steel blade; HRC rated 57-58, placing this automatic knife at the high end of the tool strength spectrum. The



blade thickness of .125" contributes greatly to its stiffness.

Still, what really gets me excited about this Tac Auto is its blade profile.



SOG's Tac Auto has a hollow ground razor sharp plain edge; eliminating the complexities associated with serrations. They've also given us a full belly with a recurve, which gives this knife a very natural and imposing slicing facility. The blade is coated in a durable matte black TiNi and comes to a very sharp point, geometrically located at the blade's centerline, for excellent puncturing power. The false edge along the spine adds to its already impressive puncturing muscle. The gimping along the top of the spine makes for a very secure grip with or without gloves. With a saber grip the thumb rests comfortably and securely on the spine; there is no slipping whatsoever.

The handle is made from machined 6061T6 and hard anodized. The finish is exceptionally well done; for a minute I thought the clamshells were polymer¹. SOG provides four finger coils large and deep enough to provide an excellent

grip. A slight palm swell would have been nice but given the handle material it would have added, needlessly, to the knife's 3.8oz weight. As it stands, the Tac Automatic is quite flat and fits into a shirt or pant pocket extremely well.

The designers also included a lanyard attachment point, which is indispensable.

An extension of Murphy's Law is anything, which can be dropped and lost, will do so. Regrettably, lanyards are a requisite nuisance.

What's more, the blade handle features a reversible bayonet clip that rocks. I love it, and I can't say it enough.

The design, allows the SOG Tac Automatic to sit well into the pocket, tip up, and no part of the knife protrudes past the pocket line. Equally important, the clip design will not tare up your slacks; you can wear dress slacks and still use the SOG clip to keep your folder accessible and secure. This feature alone is enough to justify its purchase. Simply fantastic!



¹ Laughing



SOG's reversible pocket clip lets the Tac Automatic sit well inside the pocket.

Critical to any folding knife, in particular automatic designs, is the axis point and the blade lockup; because the axis is a single point of failure, any movement whatever, in any plane, is unacceptable - a point largely true of any tactical knife.

In its product literature, SOG accurately describes its lockup with the following statement; "... *once open it locks up like a floor safe...*"

In my testing, I bent and twisted the blade in every direction and observed no play at all – **rock solid**.

Actuation is fully ambidextrous and the blade travel is extremely fast and forceful. SOG incorporated a safety that locks in both open and closed positions. The knife is designed to be carried tip up, so as one pulls the blade from the pocket the safety is engaged preventing an accidental opening; a sure sign that the lights were on and someone was home at SOG.



In closing, I don't get to see very many automatic knives implemented as well as SOG's Tac Automatic.

The Tac Auto incorporates a large comfortable grip, with a reversible pocket clip that is easily the best in the industry, a tough and robust blade that is razor sharp and an HRC of 57-58, in a 3.8oz package that will easily handle the majority of all your tactical needs.

SOG leaves nothing to chance in the Tac Automatic. Every detail was considered. I only hope that, at some point in the future, SOG will make it available in desert sand and olive drab.

If you are in the military and law enforcement, or live in a state where it is legal to own an automatic knife, get a SOG TAC Automatic, you won't be disappointed.

I am not sure if it's Gunny Approved but it sure as heck is FOG HORN Approved.

-SP

Manufacturer's Specifications

<i>Blade Length</i>	<i>3.5" x .125"</i>
<i>Overall Length</i>	<i>8"</i>
<i>Weight</i>	<i>3.8 oz.</i>
<i>Edge</i>	<i>Straight</i>
<i>Steel</i>	<i>AUS-8</i>
<i>HRC</i>	<i>57-58</i>
<i>Handle</i>	<i>Hard Anodized Aluminum</i>
<i>Finish</i>	<i>Black TiNi</i>
<i>Includes</i>	<i>Reversible pocket clip</i>
<i>Country of Origin</i>	<i>Assembled in the USA</i>
<i>Price</i>	<i>\$207.00</i>