

# collector`s item

Just under two years ago *sknife* founder Michael Bach set out to create the best pocket knife the world had ever seen. Given that precision is the top priority at the company based in Biel, Switzerland, the knife maker had to invest a lot of time in the final assembly stage. The new pocketknife has been delighting a diverse fan base ever since it was released – and for knife collectors, the full damask pocket knife comprises over 1,600 damask steel layers adding up the blade, blade back and handle.

Way back in the Middle Ages, Damascus steel was viewed as a high-tech product that could even pierce steel armour. The *sknife* Damascus knives are forged with up to 1,000 alternating hard and soft steel layers. The decorative pattern of the torsion damask structure inside the material is made visible by an acid treatment.

*sknife* has taken the French herdsman knife's concept of designing a collectible pocketknife to new heights by adding Swiss quality, modern design, blades made from surgical or Damascus steel and an opening mechanism with a unique plain bearing made of high-tech ceramic inspired by the world of watchmaking. The result is a beautifully sleek collector's item and trusty tool that oozes elegance and can be opened with ease.

High-tech ceramic has excellent gliding properties that make it ideal for use in high-end watch movements, allowing the rubies used as jewels inside to keep on turning without the need for lubrication. Due to the sealing effect the glide properties are consistently excellent. *sknife* has cleverly applied these properties to its pocketknives to create a mechanism for smooth and silent opening. What's more, the closing mechanism is water and moisture resistant.

The Damascus pocketknife may retail at somewhere in the region of CHF 1,000 but it's still a top bestseller. The average price of collectible pocketknives from this Biel-based company is between CHF 400 and 2,000. The product is crafted with the utmost precision and built to last a lifetime as a trusty tool.

The surgical steel pocketknife is marketed as a steak knife to go. It boasts a razor-sharp blade with a hardness of 59 HRC and is four times more resistant to corrosion. The steel is sourced from Sweden and the finishing process takes place at *sknife*'s manufacturing in Biel – as is the case for all the company's knives. All of the components are produced within a radius of 30 kilometres from Biel.

The knives are hand-crafted down to every last detail, featuring high-tech ceramic and components from the watchmaking industry. The pocketknives are available in a full Damascus, Damascus and surgical steel version, with the option of a stabilised ash or walnut handle.

SKNIFE

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