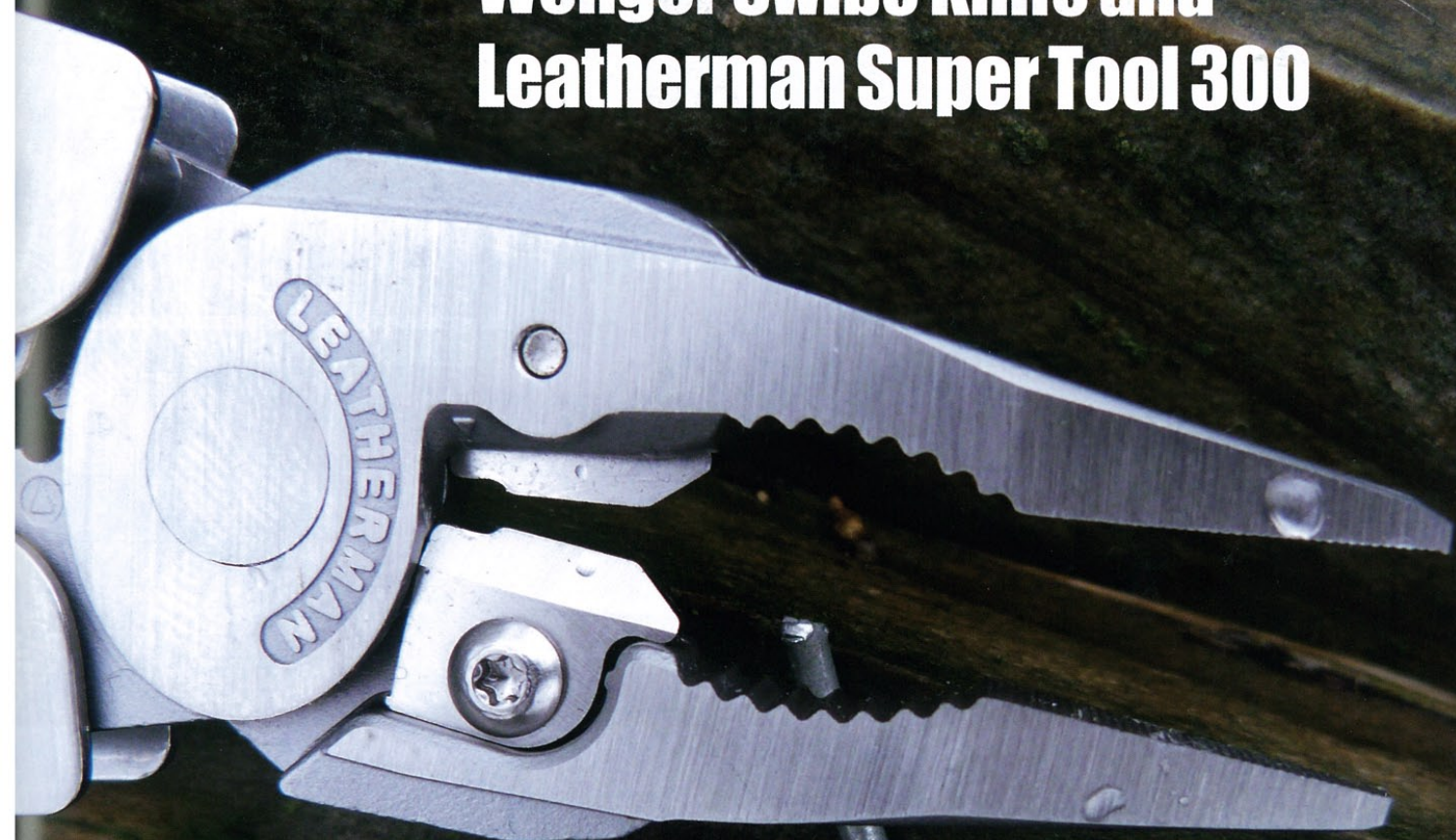


Wenger Swiibo Knife and Leatherman Super Tool 300



High-tensile wire? No problem.

WHO ARE WENGER & LEATHERMAN?

Leatherman is an American company that was started in 1983 by an entrepreneur called Tim Leatherman. While travelling and exploring around Europe he discovered he needed a tool that was more useful than his simple pocket knife, so he designed the first Leatherman multi-tool. He couldn't find a company to make his new tool so started manufacturing it himself. Tim managed to get a mail-order company to take on sales of his new multi-tool and in the first year of production had orders for more than 20,000! Since then the company has expanded and become famous for the Leatherman multi-tool, which is now available in many different styles.

Wenger is a Swiss company and is one of the two true Swiss Army Knife makers. In 1908 Wenger and their competitor, Victorinox, were awarded a contract to each supply the Swiss Army half of their required knives. This arrangement still stands and they are the only two companies allowed to have the distinctive Swiss Cross etched onto their knives.

Tight Lines Ltd from Napier distributes both of these brands and kindly sent me two examples for review. Join me as I put them through their paces.

Description

First was a new Leatherman Super Tool 300, which is a larger version of the basic Leatherman multi-tool everyone is familiar with. Leatherman claim it is their strongest and most robust version produced. The multi-tool is a folding pair of pliers with wire cutters and incorporates a range of other tools folded out of the way in the handle. These fold outwards and lock into place when needed. They include a wood/metal file, knife blade, serrated knife, saw, two flat-head screwdrivers and one Phillips screw driver, a ruler along the handles, a can opener and of course, a bottle opener. The entire multi-tool is made out of stainless steel and folds up to 11.5 cm long but weighs a hefty 277 grams. It fits nicely in the leather or nylon sheath it comes with, which can easily be threaded onto a belt or, as I prefer, tucked nicely into my pocket. They aren't the cheapest

A noise caught my attention. Looking up over my mate Richie's shoulder, I quickly found the cause of the disturbance – a fat spiker. We were about to clamber up a mountain to chase a chamois but the spiker tempted fate by popping up within 500 yards of the car, which was very handy.



500 yards from the car – thank you very much!!



tool around, retailing at around \$200, but it's the old story – you get what you pay for – and quality is always worth it. The Super Tool 300 is also covered, as are all of Leatherman's multi-tools, by a 25-year warranty.

Also in the package was a Wenger Swibo 160mm boning knife. The stainless-steel blade is heat treated and tempered to give it greater hardness, flexibility and a longer lasting cutting edge. The back of the blade is rounded to avoid accidental injury. The plastic handle is patterned so that it doesn't get slippery, even when wet or covered in blood, and is sealed onto the blade to limit any spaces for bugs to thrive in. It is a good quality knife for a good price, retailing at about \$55.

Let's go hunting!

A noise caught my attention. Looking up over my mate Richie's shoulder, I quickly found the cause of the disturbance – a fat spiker. We were about to clamber up a mountain to chase a chamois but the spiker tempted fate by popping up within 500 yards of the car, which was very handy. The 30-06 made no mistake and I had the perfect beast to trial my new knife on.

Although gutting a deer was not the purpose it was designed for, I was impressed by how the steel kept its edge – even after cutting through dirty deer hair. I was even more impressed with it when it came to boning the animal, which we had carried out whole and chilled for a week. A couple of passes on the steel had the blade back to razor sharp for the butchery session that my co-students and I put it through one evening after a long day of lectures.

The knife was perfect for breaking down the spiker and it wasn't a bad knife for processing out a couple of home-kill lambs. But when my mincer jammed, it wasn't the tool to use to pull out the stuck sinews. Instead, I fished the Leatherman Super Tool 300 out of my pocket.

My first adventure with the Super Tool 300 was on a trip with Simon Gibson to South Westland, where it proved its worth on the first evening. My white spirits cooker ruptured the fuel line



Great meat and a great knife.



while in my pack, rendering it unusable. That was far from ideal and we had to revert to cooking on an open fire. This worked as we were blessed with fine weather, no cold instant cheesy mash was necessary, but fishing the billy off the coals was another story and that's where the Leatherman came in handy. It was also useful on the same trip when I damaged an eyelet on one of my boots as it enabled me to bend it back into place without too much drama.

I have found the Super Tool most useful as a multi-purpose tool to carry on the farm. The wire cutters have stood up to cutting high-tensile wire without being damaged like some of the dedicated agricultural pliers seem to. It has become a functional part of my working life and get daily use whether I'm cutting the string on bales of hay or pulling out a stuck pin from the three-point linkage arm that holds the tray onto Granddad's Fergy.

Conclusion

I am very impressed with the quality of both the Wenger Swibo and the Leatherman Super Tool 300.

The Swibo is now my go-to butchering knife and is great in the kitchen when I am sorting out my venison for cooking. I just have to make sure I keep it hidden from my flatmates!

The Leatherman is now a permanent fixture in my pocket when I am on the farm and is very useful. I was given a smaller version of the Leatherman multi-tool by my brothers when I turned 21 that now lives in my hunting kit. It's lighter than the Super Tool 300 and I don't think I need to have such a robust tool in the mountains, especially if I am carrying it a long way!

For the hard life a farmer's tool gets, the Super Tool 300 is great and so far it has exceeded my expectations.

See these products at www.tightlines.co.nz

Home-kill lambs were a breeze with the Wenger.

Gunworks Canterbury

Simply Superior Sound Suppressors

Lightest, best value, most popular overbarrel suppressor on the market

- Superior workmanship • Superior decibel reduction
- Custom built around your barrel • Advanced autofrettage design
- Improves rifle accuracy • Easily removed
- 7 day turnaround • Barrel isolator tube standard
- True Flite Ultra Match Rifle Barrel Agents, approved barrel fitter

Lifetime Warranty

Robbie Tiffen - Master Riflesmith - Professional Gunsmithing since 1983

Phone 03 342 1001 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

Email: gunsmith@gunworks.co.nz www.gunworks.co.nz

**.17HMR
Now Available!**