

Leatherman Signal™

- 19 tools-in-one
Surviving Tool

Reviewed by
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 **LEATHERMAN**
For Real Life.

TEST FIRE



When thinking of multi-tools for the New Zealand hunter, the brand Leatherman is arguably the biggest in the industry. The company was founded back in 1976 by Tim Leatherman. Tim was inspired during a trip through Europe that saw him needing a handy tool that would fix small “here and now” situations. He had an idea of a multi-tool and created a cardboard prototype. Seven years later that prototype became the very first Leatherman multi-tool.

I was asked to put the Leatherman Signal™ multi-tool through a comprehensive review and having used it for over a year now, I feel confident in sharing my findings.

Specifications

- Primary Blade Length: 6.93 cm
- Closed Length: 11.43 cm
- Weight: 212.6 g
- 25-year warranty!
- All-Locking
- One hand operable
- 19 tools in one survival tool

Functionality. I was very impressed with the one hand operation as it makes the use of certain tools very attractive. The locking mechanisms are also great as they leave no doubt as to when the tool is fully operational. It will either click or you can feel it in the palm of your hand when it's ready. The tools I found to be of value to the hunter are:

- Combo knife
- Fire starter rod
- Hammer
- Bottle opener
- Bit driver
- Carabiner

Compact. It literally takes up next to no room in the backpack when its closed and once open fits perfectly in the palm of your hand.

Bit driver. The Leatherman Signal™ comes with a standard Philips and flat screwdriver. However, Leatherman also offers a separate Bit Kit that carries an impressive 42 options of different drivers - a perfect companion to any of your Leatherman survival tools that offer interchangeable drivers.

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What could be improved

We all have different requirements when we are away hunting. I would have liked more options for bit drivers instead of a knife sharpener, as I carry that anyway. The length of the sharpener also didn't allow me to properly sharpen my knife.

The knife is so easy to unfold on the Leatherman Signal™ but the saw, which I've used on numerous occasions to strike the Ferrocerium rod (fire starter), is hard to open with one hand or when you have gloves on.

What's the verdict?

The Leatherman Signal™ certainly deserves a place in every Kiwi hunter's backpack. With its 19 different tools and functions, you are certain to be covered for all the major uses you may need urgently while away in the bush or mountains. I only had the Ferro rod of this tool to rely on while on an eight day mission and no additional lighter or matches. It became the norm to use it to light the Jetboil and I have now developed a habit of using only that! Once the Ferro rod is worn down you can simply order a new one from your local stockist.

I rate this product highly and after a year of using it on all sorts of different trips it has been submerged, exposed to extreme weather for lengths of time and covered in animal decay. The Leatherman Signal™ washes up well and I have only given it one lube during the year.

If you are venturing into the hills and would like to include a multi-tool in your pack, take the time to consider the features you are going to need. You can then go to www.tightlines.co.nz and view their entire range of Leatherman™ multi-tools, finding the right one for your specific needs!



Fits perfectly in the palm of your hand.

