

HAYALON™ PIRANTA

"Piranta-Z" and smaller "Tracer-22"



The Piranta gives clean precise cuts.

Like most hunters I am always on the lookout to improve or update the items that go into my hunting backpack to make my day easier on the hill. Even though you might think you have all your gear sorted, it's always a good idea to be open minded about new products.

When a mate at the local deer hunting club showed members some new products from Trecka Outdoors I thought ok some new knives, they look good but I currently have three in my hunting backpack, a few spares in the ute and I am happy with what I use. Then I started thinking about the amount of time a really sharp blade is either used or required and I vividly remember a tough old buffalo ear getting turned a whole lot easier when a fellow guide brought his surgical blade into use.

A couple of weeks passed before I got the opportunity to try these Havalon surgical knives out and with much interest I checked out the product when they arrived. It was pleasing to immediately see a good quality sturdy design. The surgical blade when extended locked positively into place with no movement at all and this is terribly important when dealing with such a sharp cutting edge. Another feature I really liked was when you disengage the locking mechanism the blade only closes when you apply pressure on the back of the cutting edge. No spring mechanism means no possibility of the blade getting shut onto your fingers accidentally when you're finished with the knife.

The two models I tried were the larger Piranta-Z, this knife features a longer and wider handle, and still uses the same super-sharp 60XT blades. The handle is constructed from lightweight, durable black

zytel military plastic. Each knife includes 12 additional stainless steel #60XT blades, 2-3/4" in length. The overall length of the knife open is 7-1/4". You'll like the easy-grip rubber side panels, ambidextrous thumb studs for one-hand opening, improved liner lock construction, lanyard opening and pocket clip. Also with the larger model the Havel's 70XT Round tip blades can be used, this a thicker stiffer blade great for longer sweeping cuts and ideal for skinning where you need to be careful to ensure your not slicing holes in capes.

The smaller model Piranta Tracer-22 fits the #22 surgical blade, the most popular blade used by professional taxidermists. Actually the Piranta Tracer-22 fits all of the blades in the #20 through to #25 range. A lot of hunters are using the #22 for a variety of



Pouch optional for spare blades and knife

situations including caping and skinning. It can give you greater control in situations where you don't want to accidentally cut through the hide or slice internal organs when boning out an animal.

So it was into the field with young Stefano at the first opportunity and soon enough we found a young sambar hind feeding in a lush gully, which Stefano harvested with his .300wsm. The hind was a perfect freezer candidate, and an ideal test for the knives. Seeing though no caping was required, just a manual butchering job, I chose the larger handled Piranta-Z and from the very first cut this knife performed flawlessly. Long strokes to remove the skin across the spine were quickly completed and fast removal of the prime backstraps were carried out in a very short space of time. We were pleased to notice minimal amounts of hair on the surface of the meat we were

butchering, less so then what would normally find its way onto the meat when field butchering an animal lying down and no doubt this was a direct result of having a super sharp blade cutting through the animal. Of course personal care has to be taken when dealing with a surgical blade, but it really isn't any different then handling and using a normal sharp skinning/boning knife.

The back legs always provide some resistance for a knife when you have to cut through leg muscles to reach the socket but the small blade on the Piranta-Z managed without any fuss and seeing though it was a hot summers afternoon we had to work fast to ensure the flies didn't spoil any meat. In no time the legs were removed and at no stage did I think the knife was inadequate for the task.

We were on a roll with the knife and I was curious to see if I could get all four legs, the backstraps and eye fillets off without changing blades or touching up the edge and whilst I was careful to avoid dirt or heavy forceful bone contact the butchering job was completed with the knife still holding its edge and I'm sure if I needed to skin the back legs out then the blade would have held up for that as well. On the subject of blades, they are easily interchangeable and come in a few different designs to suit the type of work you are using the knife for and to carry a few spares in the backpack is always recommended.

The smaller Tracer-22 model got a workout when another yearling sambar was found on dusk and this ensured full freezers for the summer barbeque season. Stefano found this knife to his liking and again the breaking



down of an animal was completed with the use of a single blade. In fact I think he liked this knife so much it slipped into his pack with minimal noise on his behalf when the butchering was finished.

I'm sure when it comes to turning lips, trimming glands, working ears and all the menial chores of caping an animal then both knives would be suited for the task at hand. But I did like the support and feel in the hand that the larger knife offered when butchering an animal, but then I guess I have been used to using larger handled knives over the years. A holster can be brought for these knives and there is a handy space included to store spare blades, again lightweight but sturdy in design this will keep all your knife gear together and safely packed away.

The question we asked ourselves when heading out of the hills was would these knives find a regular spot in our gear lists and we both firmly agreed that there is quite a few advantages to be had with having a Havalon Piranta knife in your backpack.

They are certainly more than capable of any of the typical tasks a hunter will find himself in with caping and butchering of animals and on our next backpack hunt we will find ourselves shaving a few more extra grams of weight off our gear list by including the

Piranta knives and this can only be beneficial to the outcome of the hunt.

Sturdy in design, super sharp and very practical for the hunter looking to gain an edge when knife work needs to be carried out I have a feeling these knives will be around for a long time to come. I fully recommend them to any hunter so be sure to check out these quality products from Trekka Outdoors.

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The Knives can also be purchased through the Wild Deer website at

www.wilddeer.com.au

Good Hunting.



The "Blaze" Edge is easily Visible when dropped.

HAVALON™ PIRANTA

With Surgically-Sharp Replaceable Blades

"PIRANTA-Z"

- Military grade zytel handle, length 184mm
- 12 additional stainless steel #XT60 blades, 70mm
- Easy-grip finger grooves, ambidextrous thumb studs
- Frame-lock construction
- Open back for easy cleaning, pocket clip

"ORIGINAL"

- Stainless steel handle, G10 inlay
- 12 additional #XT60 blades, 70mm
- Frame-lock construction, length 171mm
- Open back for easy cleaning, pocket clip
- Easy-grip finger grooves, ambidextrous thumb studs

"EDGE"

- Military grade zytel handle, length 184mm
- Easy to find **blaze orange**
- 12 additional stainless steel #XT60 blades, 70mm
- Easy-grip finger grooves, ambidextrous thumb studs
- Frame-lock construction, pocket clip

"TRACER-22"

- Rugged black aluminium alloy handle
- 12 additional #22 blades, 54mm
- Frame-lock construction, length 153mm
- Open back for easy cleaning, pocket clip
- Easy-grip rubber inlay, pocket clip

Replacement Blades Also Available! Trade Enquiries Welcome!

You'll never have to sharpen again!

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Ask at your local Hunting or Outdoor Retailer!

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