

# ances effectiveness, maximizes potential <sup>21</sup>

approach to defensive knives. Sharon and I have been devotees of Crawford Knives since Wes was a young boy, his son active in the family business these days, as well.

Wes showed us several new models, the "Rooster Spur" one of them. The Rooster Spur is a neck knife that weighs just under three ounces when the Kydex sheath and the neck chain are on the postage scale, too. Overall length is 5-5/8". The actual edge is about 1-3/4". The knife is made from 440C and has a subdued finish.

The knife is designed to be worn under one's clothing on the neck chain, upside down. Acquisition of the knife is fast and sure. When the Rooster Spur is held properly, there's plenty of positive gripping surface and the edge is presented point upward toward an opponent. Get close enough to an attacker and rake this "spur" downward across any part of the anatomy presented as a target. Serious cuts could be inflicted, certainly, and this knife can be easily kept out of sight after being drawn. As an opponent closes with you, produce the knife. Handy ridges along the top strap help to give a positive purchase for the thumb. If you are being "braced" by an opponent you are certain is unarmed, as he is about to attack, you may choose, instead, to reveal the Rooster Spur's presence, giving the guy a last second chance to be on his way. That sort of decision depends upon one's instantaneous appraisal of the threat level inherent to the situation.

Some of Sharon's and my favorite clandestine knives bear the name "Crawford" and have been part of our household for decades. The one problem you'll have, if you start getting into Crawford knives, is you'll want to buy this one and that one and the other one. Warning: Crawford Knives are habit forming!

Something else that's habit forming, once you start getting used to one, is a laser. And, I've been using the SureFire ([surefire.com](http://surefire.com)) X-300 WeaponLight for quite some time now, too. Regular readers will know that I am not about to say that everyone should mount a light on their handgun. That said, I've been working with the X-300 and gradually realizing that, in

many cases, having a light on a weapon could indeed be as good as it is cracked up to be. So, with my already mentioned fondness for lasers and my serious liking for SureFire lights, trying the comparatively new SureFire X400 LED Handgun/Long Gun WeaponLight with its own laser just seemed to make sense.

The X400 has a 170 lumens white light output and a five mW (mega Watt) red laser. Tactical run time before the light output drops below 50 lumens is 2.4 hours. The X400, like all SureFire lights of this size, is powered by two SureFire

123A Lithium batteries. The light can be mounted on a handgun or a long gun, as noted, and is water resistant to 60 feet, O-ring and gasket sealed for weatherproofing. The body is from mil-spec hard-anodized aerospace aluminum. The light can be set for light alone, laser alone or both. Despite the powerful white light, the red dot is clearly visible

on a target even in the brightest daylight or interior light. The activation switch is ambidextrous and can literally be worked with one finger. If neither the light nor the laser is desirable under your tactical conditions, the system can be disabled until you need it. Placing the X400 on a weapon is extremely simple and the laser can be zeroed with relative ease, as required.

In terms of handguns, I only own two that have a Picatinny Rail. One of those is my Glock 22, which already has an excellent laser unit attached. The other is the Taurus ([taurususa.com](http://taurususa.com)) PT809 9x19mm, which I recently profiled here. Mounting the X400 WeaponLight to the Taurus PT809 took under a minute and dismounting was easier still. Weight of the unit with batteries included is negligible at five ounces and would only serve to make a pistol more stable in operation.

Versatility in a weapons battery not only enhances effectiveness, but allows you to maximize each item's potential. The SureFire X400 WeaponLight is a versatile accessory for a variety of tactical applications and, like any SureFire product, is ruggedly built, reliable and easy to use. Now, if that little Glock 27 were only a tad longer in the frame – well, you can't have everything!



Right profile of the Taurus PT 809 with SureFire X400 WeaponLight mounted.



On a sunny day, the light from the X400 WeaponLight is so blindingly bright that only the shooter can see the laser. When viewed from the side, the laser is visible. With the light off, the laser is clearly visible.

