

# Gear review: Wenger EvoWood18 knife

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The [Wenger EvoWood 18](#) is the classic Swiss Army knife but with an environmentally-friendly twist. This highly-functional tool that is durable, compact and lightweight, has a handle made from sustainably-grown walnut.

Since I have small hands, the size of the knife is important. Who doesn't want to feel a sense of control when handling a knife with sharp blades? At three inches in length and weighing in at a svelte three ounces, the Wenger EvoWood 18 is ideal for multi-day backpacking trips and carrying in your bike's hydration pack.

The EvoWood 18 has nine implements that perform thirteen functions. I put these to the test and here's what I found:

- **Walnut handle:** Don't let anyone tell you that knives must have rubberized handles to ensure a firm grip. Walnut works equally well, even with sweaty palms and wet conditions.
- **2.5" locking blade for safety:** I've never had any "accidents" with pocket knives, but if your finger happens to be in the wrong place when the knife blade suddenly snaps shut, there's a good chance that finger is coming off. The 2.5-inch flat locking blade is sharp enough to whittle wood logs down to kindling for the fire.
- **2.75" double-cut wood saw:** Wenger calls it a "2.75" double-cut "wood saw" but if you've seen *127 Hours*, you'll know its functionality can extend well beyond sawing dead branches from trees and bushes to make marshmallow roasting sticks. Another very sharp blade so use caution.

- **2.4" springless scissors with serrated, self-sharpening design:** These scissors actually cut a very impressive straight and narrow line through a wash cloth. On the trail, these scissors will be valuable for cutting a shirt into bandages or cutting a pant leg to administer first aid.
- **Can opener:** Sharp (really sharp), precise and smooth, I have never, in my life, had a more pleasurable experience opening a can of baked beans than I have with the EvoWood's can opener.

Additionally, the EvoWood 18 has the following features, which may seem trite and superfluous, but you'd be surprised how valuable they really are:

- Patented locking screwdriver:
- Phillips® head screwdriver
- Cap lifter/Wire stripper
- Nail file/Nail cleaner
- Reamer
- Awl

My only disappointment with the knife was the absence of a corkscrew. Other than that, which isn't even a deal breaker, this knife is a must-have in your gear arsenal.

If you live in Minneapolis, you can find Wenger knives at Gander Mountain and Sports Authority.