



QueenCutleryGuide.com

Mountain Man Express Drop Point Blade Switchblades by Queen Cutlery

Brian Guth and Dan Lago

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Introduction.

The "Express" series of switchblades was one of Queen Cutlery last great successes and we plan to cover it in a set of five different reference articles, covering well over 115 knives. Please see our completed article on the [John Henry Express](#) knives which were Queen's first modern effort of this series ([John-Henry-Express-Switchblades-Brian-Guth-and-Dan-Lago-8-17-2021.pdf \(secureservercdn.net\)](#)).

The approximately 95 Mountain Man Express knives are divided into four articles by the style of blades used and special steels or handles, since this allows collectors to more easily find the knife they are interested in and avoids having a single reference article of over 100 pages!

Clip Point blades Mountain man Express knives were the next series offered and are the second article in our set: (*offered on Queen Cutleryguide.com. "knives"*);

Drop Point blades Mountain Man Express knives are the third article in our set: (*this article*)

Wharncliff blades Mountain Man Express knives are the fourth article in our set: (*offered on Queen Cutleryguide.com. "knives"*);

Damascus or Mammoth Special Versions of Mountain Man Express knives are the fifth and final article in this effort: (*offered on Queen Cutleryguide.com. "knives"*)

While federal law limiting automatic knife ownership to police or active-duty servicemen, has not yet changed, enforcement of those laws had greatly slackened and Queen Cutlery joined many American cutlery companies in producing "automatic" or "switchblade" knives in their own style. Many of these modern knives looked "Tactical." But, in its last two years of operation, 2016-2017, Queen successfully found a niche that looked "traditional" and captured the interest of younger and older knife enthusiasts.

Queen began the Express series with the Kabar Grizzly switchblade as a model which dates back to the 1920s. but updated it through the efforts of Jeff Schley, Queen's last Master Cutler, to improve the opening of the blade. Since the John Henry Express knives were 5.25" closed and featured a very large blade, the smaller Mountain Man, with 4.5" closed length, and a proportionately smaller blade was easier to carry and buyers often thought the Mountain Man snapped open more quickly. The Mountain Man pattern had been Queen's best-selling knife in the early decade of the 21st century and had a large number of collectors already interested in that pattern, so adding the "express" mechanism was a good choice. None of the Mountain Man Express knives were ever shown in a Queen catalog as the company finished up in a very nearly custom shop mode.

These knives sold at a high price for Queen knives and were often produced in very small editions for each handle. Usually, edition sizes have not been documented. These knives were generally extremely well-finished and since most of these knives have been stored rather than used, future collectors have many good opportunities to find knives in very good condition. It is very likely that these knives will remain a collector favorite in our opinion.

Drop Point Mountain Man Express Summary Queen offered in this pattern in the currently very popular drop point style frequently used by modern hunters. Forty-five versions of this pattern are displayed in four images (almost 50% of all the Mountain Man Express versions made by Queen) with the factory name of each handle material based on factory invoices to provide the most detailed summary of these rare knives. On You tube, one can see a video by LeRoi Price of Mike Latham demonstrating one of these knives ([Queen Moutainman Express switchblade \(KA-BAR GRIZZLY pattern\) demonstrated by Mike Latham - YouTube](#), Leroi Price video, 3-11-2019)

Since our photos show knives in display boxes, (with up to 12 knives per case) we have shifted to landscape format to provide slightly better view of the knives. Even though knives are numbered in each photo, they are NOT listed in factory production order, but in the order they were purchased and stored. So, each photo uses the same numbers over again – it is simply much easier to keep track. At the end of the article, we show a link to an Excel database to keep track of all these knives as a total group.



Figure 1, Drop Point Express Mountain Man #1. From left: 1. Blue Glitter Acrylic, 2. Brown Synthetic Jigged Bone, 3. Smooth Orange Camel Bone, 4. Shattered Pearl Acrylic, 5. Silver Shockwood, 6. Yellow Rope Jigged Bone, 7. Brown Jigged Bone, 8. Smooth Red Camel Bone, 9. Orange Maple Burl, 10. Factory Sample, 11. Spiral Cut White Jigged Bone, 12. Light Brown Jigged Bone.



Figure 2. drop point Express Mountain Man #2. From left: 1. Red Vein Micarta, 2. Brown Micarta, 3. Black Micarta, 4. Smooth Green Camel Bone, 5. White Cracked Ice Acrylic, 6. Silver Shockwood, 7. Lightning Wood, 8. Desert Iron Wood, 9. Pink Micarta, 10. Brown Worm Grooved Bone, 11. Smooth Camel Bone Mix

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Figure 3, Drop point Express Mountain Man #3. From left: 1. Yellow Bone, 2. Green Micarta, 3. Green Vein Micarta, 4. Maroon Micarta, 5. Golden Maple Burl, 6. American Walnut, 7. Green Jigged Bone, 8. Smooth Oiled White Bone, 9. Marvel Wood, 10. Spiral Buffalo Horn, 11. Light Blue Shockwood.



Figure 4, Drop point Express Mountain Man #4. From left: 1. Black Maple Burl, 2. Rams Horn, 3. Blue Ivory Bone, 4. Yellow Micarta, 5. Black Silver Acrylic, 6. Blue Jigged Bone, 7. Green Shockwood, 8. Torched Stag, 9. Red Shockwood, 10. Black Buffalo Horn, 11. Smooth Charcoal Camel Bone, 12. White Jigged Bone.

Though this collection is large, it is NOT complete. Some of these Mountain Man Express drop point knives were offered in very small editions for a very small time. The following section lists knives that we know the factory made, from personal visits and reviewing online collections but were unable to acquire samples. We have not been able to acquire photographs nor actual copies of the knives listed below, at this time.

These ten additional drop point knives confirm that this blade style was by far the most popular among the Mountain man Express knives:

- Spiral maple
- Brown camel bone
- Silver veined micarta
- Black/silver micarta
- Blue/silver micarta
- Blue/gold
- Black/gold
- Green jig
- Red swirl acrylic
- Blue swirl acrylic.

Indeed, there may still be knives that have escaped our attention, but were still made in the factory. As mentioned in another section of this series of articles, there is a certain risk in Express knives that have not been documented, since incomplete knives and parts were sold during the bankruptcy auction and in the future some custom or parts knives may be offered. The packaging shown below may and etches help, but detailed examination of a knife is suggested. If you have some of these rare knives, with good provenance, we would very much like to hear of them and have you share photographs of them. Thank you.



Figure 4. All versions of the Mountain Man 3EXP were provided with a nylon pouch, and the same size insert card, printed on both sides as shown above.

Figure 4 displays the packaging for all versions of the Mountain Man Express knives by Queen Cutlery (3EXP). So, as Queen Cutlery moved past the experimental phase with the John Henry Express knives, these 3EXP knives are much more predictable for collectors. Each insert card is specific to the knife enclosed, showing the blade style and the factory name for the handle material.

To help manage the large number of these knives in all four articles, we have added an excel database based on all the Mountain Man Express knives to provide an efficient summary of name, blade type, steels, to help keep track of the overall knives in this series. It can also be used to monitor one's own growing collection. (*offered on Queen Cutleryguide.com. "knives"*)

As a first edition article, if any reader has other knives, with good provenance, or has suggestions for improvement, we would be happy to add them to future editions of this summary. Thank you.

References.

Brian Guth and Dan Lago. 2021. [John-Henry-Express-Switchblades-Brian-Guth-and-Dan-Lago-8-17-2021.pdf \(seureservercdn.net\)](#).

[Queen Moutainman Express switchblade \(KA-BAR GRIZZLY pattern\) demonstrated by Mike Latham - YouTube, Leroi Price video, 3-11-2019](#)