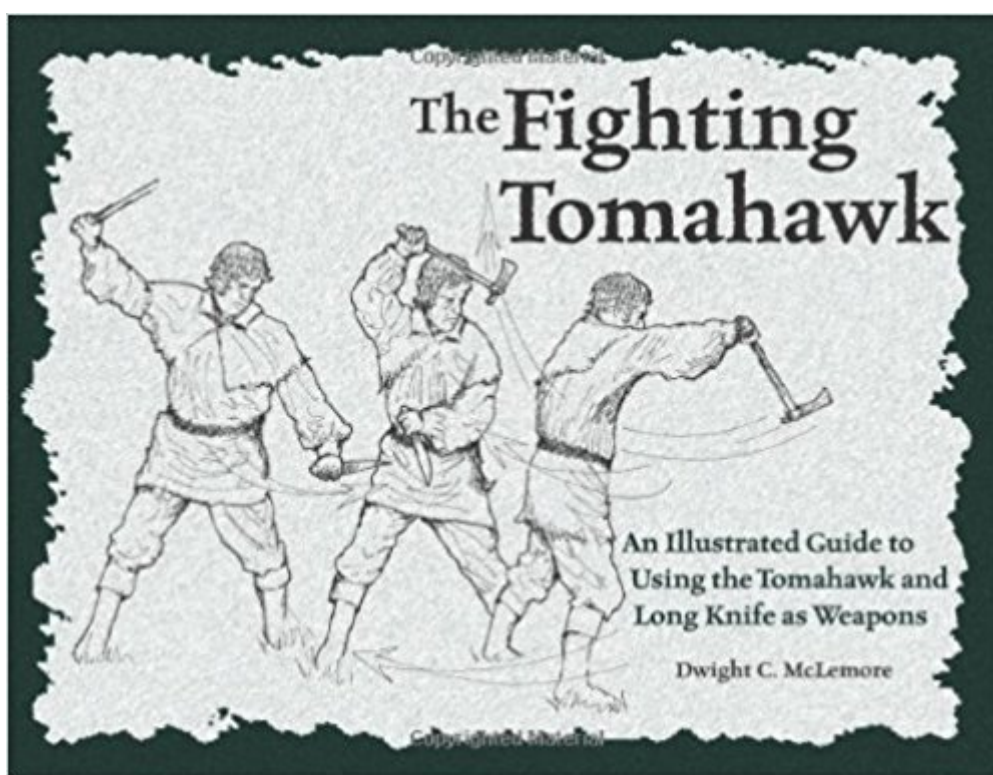


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# The Fighting Tomahawk: An Illustrated Guide To Using The Tomahawk And Long Knife As Weapons



## Synopsis

The low-tech, high-impact tomahawk has been carried in every American war, including Vietnam, Afghanistan and Iraq. Here the author traces the origins of the tomahawk and uses his dynamic drawings to show how it can be utilized singly or with the long knife in both offensive and defensive encounters. Includes fighting scenarios, throwing lessons and applications of the war club.

## Book Information

Paperback: 296 pages

Publisher: Paladin Press (May 1, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1581604416

ISBN-13: 978-1581604412

Product Dimensions: 10.9 x 0.8 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.8 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #733,078 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #59 in Books > Crafts, Hobbies & Home > Antiques & Collectibles > Firearms & Weapons > Swords & Knives #1641 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Martial Arts #9088 in Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting > Exercise & Fitness

## Customer Reviews

Dwight C. McLemore is a retired combat arms officer with the U.S. Army and is an accomplished bladesman and instructor. He is renowned for his vast knowledge of Bowie and big-knife fighting and has more than 18 years of experience in self-defense and martial arts. The owner of the School of Two Swords, McLemore is rated expert level with the American Knife Congress, is certified in kung fu and holds 1st dan in kendo.

This book shows the flow lanes around the body that every weapon travels because of the shape and length of the human appendages. What the student should realize is that this is the way all weapons move in arcs around the body. This book is good at showing the student edge awareness. In other words keep the sharp edge toward the attacker. This book does bring both hands into play by demonstrating how to employ an edged weapon in both hands to take advantage of the defensive reaction people will fall into if untrained. Simple straight forward a very good book for beginners that need to learn to move while wielding a weapon or two. This is the basic formula of

the mechanics of two legs and two arms with weapons used as extensions that take the place of conditioning the fist as striking tools. The next step would be to bring the legs into play by trapping, tripping and kicking the attacker. One of the best comments from the book is that in throwing the weapon at the attacker it does not matter so much which part of the weapon makes contact. By striking the attacker with which ever edge will cause the attacker to take inventory of the damage giving you an opening to evade or attack changing the momentum of the attack.

Wow, I have been enjoying reading this book, and really appreciate the general research that is behind it. More than a book on some number of techniques with the hawk, this volume presents a historically plausible approach and training methodology for the tomahawk. The book was thicker than I expected which is a product of providing so many generously sized drawings of the training and use. I really like that I don't have to stop and put on my glasses to look at a drawing when I am referencing the book while training. The diagrams all clearly illustrate the point being taught. While the author has a book on use of the knife, the section here on knife as a support arm is plenty to prepare the wielder to be dangerous with either hand. With both drills to learn the body movements, and practical applications, the book covers the basics and then some for enthusiast to acquit themselves well as a pioneering reenactor or to defend the homestead if it came down to that. The approach is scholarly, along the lines of Western Historical Martial Arts training rather than populist flashy like "be a tomahawk ninja." I haven't yet, but can easily see myself setting up the training apparatus described here. I am also seriously considering trying out the authors videos on the subject based on the quality of this material.

First off, let me say that I actually teach and demonstrate knife and tomahawk throwing and combatives. As such I'd like to think I have a good perspective on the topic. Now, this is an amazing book to learn from and one I recommend and loan to my students all the time! It's easy to follow, realistic to the weapon and time periods (A plus to re-enactors/living history) Easy to apply in a real world scenario as well, doesn't get bogged down with theory and can be adapted to other weapons.

My husband loves this book. It's easy to read and has pictures that go along with it. It's very informative, according to my husband.

Very Informative. It give you ideas for creating a program of "exercises" to train with a tomahawk. Each of us are different in our abilities. This book allows you to glean what is useful personally, and

still see the potential in the available information. No it will not make you a ninja, but will make you aware of the tomahawk as a weapon both for today and historically.

\* See review of Volume II as well \*I have several books from this author, and for what they are, they are spectacular. Unlike a lot of books, these do not proclaim to be the end-all, be-all, everything for your kung-fuey needs instruction manuals. The author clearly states these are for academic purposes only, and if you want to learn a martial art (especially one that uses weapons), to find a competent instructor and put in the time. Of course, finding an instructor worth a dang is kinda hard when every strip mall karate joint that hands out black belts to 8-year-olds tries to pass themselves off as "competent". Then, there are the legal issues as far as carrying some of the weapons in public. But, I digress... The author always does a wonderful job of historical research, combining that with his martial arts background and some research in how the body moves and reacts. All of the drills have a very natural "feel" to them. All instruction is clear, though some of the illustrations can be slightly confusing. As a professional draftsman, I certainly can understand how looking at the same image for hours and putting it all together makes sense at the time, but the next person to look at it is thoroughly confused (even if it is the same person, but two years later). It happens. Only a couple of images are like that, though. The vast majority are pretty intuitive. One thing I noticed could have been added to this and volume 2 is how most of the techniques could easily apply to a hammer (particularly a typical framing hammer), or even a small crowbar or tire iron in a pinch. There are many times you wouldn't get away with packing a tomahawk, but would go entirely unnoticed with a hammer. My take on any weapon-related martial art is that it **MUST** be applicable to everyday objects. To finish up, several other authors have made it a point to clearly distinguish martial arts, combat arts, and fighting. Most martial arts tend to be pretty worthless in an actual fight (especially an ambush). I have first-hand experience with that painful truth. Don't get this book thinking it'll make you a master fighter. Get it because it's interesting and lots of fun. Sure beats playing golf.

This is a great book great pictures great instruction, there is very limited materials on this type of fighting, the author is straight up about where the information came from the author makes it very simple to go ahead and put together a workout regimen and get busy on the Tomahawk, bottom line great book great illustrations..... Rick former Recon Marine

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