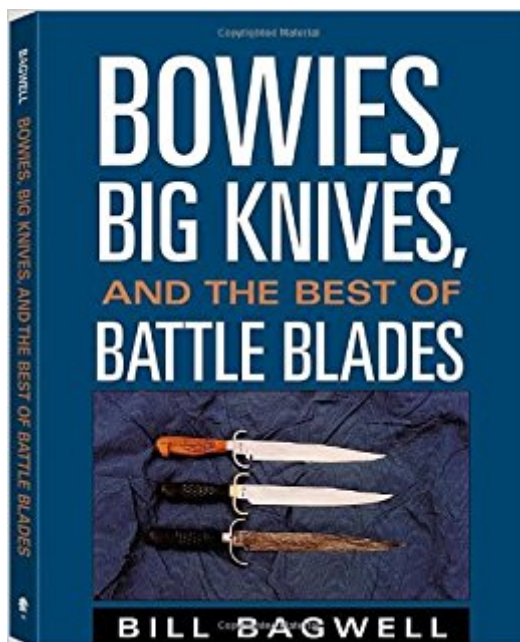


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# Bowies, Big Knives, And The Best Of Battle Blades



## Synopsis

This book binds the timeless observations and invaluable advice of master bladesmith and blade combat expert Bill Bagwell under one cover for the first time. As the outspoken author of Soldier of Fortune's "Battle Blades" column from 1984 to 1988, Bagwell was considered both outrageous and revolutionary in his advocacy of carrying fighting knives as long as 10 inches and his firm belief that the Bowie knife was the most effective and efficient fighting knife ever developed. His assignment as a contributing editor to SOF was to test and evaluate contemporary knives from all over the world, and he soon earned a reputation for cutting to the chase. Candid and frank almost to a fault, he told it like it was - and he could always back it up. Sixteen years after his first column made its debut, Bagwell's convictions on knife design and blade technique have gained validity in the industry, and he has earned the respect of even some of his most vocal critics. This book provides an unprecedented opportunity to study the design and use of Bowies and other big knives and learn which blade designs and combat techniques stand up to both the rigors of battle and the test of time.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Bill Bagwell is a master bladesmith and blade combat expert who, in addition to designing and manufacturing his own large knives, conducts military and law enforcement training workshops on combat knife techniques.

This book consists of reprints of Bowie knife maker Bill Bagwell's articles on large knives in Soldier of Fortune magazine from 1986 to 1988. There have been many advances in large knives, sheaths and sharpening systems in the 29 years since Bagwell's column ended. Bagwell's columns in knife magazines in the 1980s were controversial due to his single-minded preference for Bowie knives and his critiques of other types of knives and knife users..Bagwell made, sold and advocated the use of Bowie knives, based on knife-on-knife duels in the South in the period from 1820 to 1840, before reliable repeating handguns became available. He advocated daily carry of a 9-inch Bowie. Since we currently have small, reliable, powerful handguns, and knife-on-knife duels are rare, this book is valuable primarily to those who need to carry a large knife in the 21st Century. Some of us do, and therein lies the timeless value of much of the information in the book. If you can set aside his single-minded advocacy for the Bowie knife and his disdain for other types of knives, knife makers and knife users, there is some good information here that is worth the price of the book. has done a great job of making it available in Kindle format.

Straight handles are required for multiple grips. Bowies are not short swords or shanks. These American Single Edged Knives were first made in England for the first American Frontiersmen. Fixed Blades for processing food, bear repellent, and the dirty mouthed drunkards. Not for piercing armor, but for every day carry. As time passed James Bowie became an American Martial Artist with a good grip. As the kit grew with the advancement in firearms, the Bowies became the sidearm. So effective that in certain states, Bowies have been banned where they played an important part in American History. If 16th Century sword fighters were given Bowies ,they would love them. Just Remember that a Small Bowie has a Blade Length of 9 inches, anything shorter than that is a pig sticker.

Great book from start to finish except it be forewarned, you will want a custom Bagwell Bowie after reading this book. In a way the book is kind of a commercial as to why he makes the best Bowie knife around and pretty much everything else sucks. His knives likely are the best but for \$4000 or more and a 4 year wait time it's not realistic for most.

Okay book, Nice looking knives. Some moves for knife fighting and blade construction

If you missed the series in Soldier of Fortune back in the day here they are in all of their glory. With bonus material. This is info straight from the master bladesmith himself, Bill Bagwell. If you have

ever spoken to Bill you will immediately recognize that his writing mirrors how he speaks, no nonsense and to the point. A must read for any knife fighter, enthusiast or anyone that uses a blade in the course of their work or hobbies. DO not miss out!

### Outstanding Reference Book

If you train in the knife arts, or perhaps simply are interested in all things Knife, then this book is one for your collection. It is a series of monthly columns by Bill Bagwell, one of the master Bowie knife makers, Each chapter (column) covers a different big knife or subject. This is not a how-to book. It is rather a series of informed opinions for people who already train or simply carry a blade which serves a secondary purpose of self defense. It shouldn't be your first book on knives, but it should be on your short list.

Let me start by saying that I have a respect and love for a well constructed Bowie knife. It really does combine the best features one looks for in a combat blade. Chopping, slicing, cleaving and piercing. A well made Bowie does it all. And with enough reach that hopefully its wielder can stay out of reach of his opponent. I have trained for many years in a combat martial art of Japanese origin, but have not been blinded by "my" art to the point that I cannot appreciate a great fighting knife design when I see one. Also, as an aspiring Bladesmith, I look to greats like Bagwell for inspiration. Ergo, my love of a well made Bowie. I really wanted to love this book. Bill Bagwell has created some beautiful and deadly Bowies over the years. Any of which I would stake my life on. However, this book leaves much to be desired. The first bit of the book, and the last bit are by far the best. That is where almost all "bowie talk" is located. The rest are reprints of Bagwells "Battle Blades" columns published in Soldier of Fortune in the 1980's. As such, they talk much about other knives and how they don't stack up to the well designed Bowie. And I agree completely, most don't. But I think most people buying this book are choir members, fully immersed in the church of Bowie. As such, I find the bulk of the book detracts from the premise of the book. I honestly wanted to know more about what goes into great bowie design, why it was engineered the way it was, how it was used, etc. But those portions of the book are few and far between. To be fair, the description of the book indicates that the book contains reprints of Bagwells articles published in SOF. But, seeing how I didn't subscribe to SOF in the 80's, there is no way to know what those articles consisted of. From chapter 4 on, all we get is reprints. Each chapter is short, as necessitated by a magazine article. And so many of these articles/chapters consist of "Look here at this knife. This is why it isn't

very good."Chapters 1-3 are outstanding, consisting of exactly what I was hoping for; design, engineering, history and use. But the rest of the book seriously felt like filler.I don't regret buying the book, but would've been satisfied with a booklet without the reprints at 1/4th the price.

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