



BUCK Model 321 Bird Knife

The Buck 321 Bird knife is built on the same Premium pattern design as the 313 Muskrat. It is a slipjoint pocket knife with a narrow, clip point, 440a* stainless steel blade on one end and a stainless round shaft hook shaped “device” on the opposite. This “Gut-hook” is designed to be used in cleaning game birds taken by hunters. The use of this hook shaped device in other knives has been around since the early 1900s. Several other manufactures have produced similarly outfitted knives. Like other Buck 300 series slipjoint knives of this era the 321 was actually manufactured under contract by Camillus Cutlery Company, Camillus, N.Y.

The 321 first appeared in a Buck catalog in 1979, but began production as early as 1978. Production continued until 1992 with their last appearance being in the 1991 Buck catalog.

In all versions the outward general appearance follows other 300 series knives but shares its frontal shape with the 313 Muskrat. However, the 321 is different and was introduced as a double spring/opposite end double “bladed” knife. It has the standard 300 series slanted bolsters, black sawcut Delrin scales, brass liners, brass spring rivet, ‘EZ’ opening nail nic on the clip blade and in most examples a long oval escutcheon plate with the Buck logo of the knife, bolt and hammer.

The Delrin material used for scales is an engineering thermoplastic polymer that is named by the plastics industry as Polyoxmethylen. (<http://www.reference.com/browse/wiki/Polyoxmethylene>)

The 321 was issued over its lifetime in two standard versions with the possibility of other scale and blade stamping differences being very rare. Both standard versions are marked by the tang stamp of BUCK, 321, U.S.A. The second version is identified only by the round end escutcheon plate stamped in block lettering; BUCK. This marking change replaced the traditional knife, bolt, and hammer logo on some 300 series models for the years 1986 thru 1989. Other 300 series knives made in the California plant were assembled with this BUCK marking along with the date stamping system started in 1986. Some 300 series knives made by Camillus during the same time period may or may not be marked with the BUCK plate and none received date stamping.

*Camillus may have issued various types of 300 series knives under their contract with different blade steels. Most common was 440a stainless.

Photo of 1st version of the Buck 321 Bird Knife. Tang of clip blade stamped, BUCK, 321, U.S.A. Front scale escutcheon plate traditional knife, bolt and hammer logo design. “Gut-hook” blade opposite the narrow or Turkish clip blade with “EZ” open finger nic on top of front scale.



Photo of 2nd version of the Buck 321 Bird Knife. Note the change to the printed BUCK escutcheon plate (highlighted). No other changes present. Rare version issued only during mid-1980s.



Photo of the reverse of the 1st and 2nd versions of the Buck 321 Bird Knife. No identifying marks are visible. Both versions have the same reverse appearance.





Photo of “Odd-ball” Buck 321. The narrow clip blade used in the Buck Muskrat 313 Trapper is the same size and shape as used in the 321 Bird knife. Accidental parts mix-ups occurred and end runs of parts were utilized to outfit some Buck models.

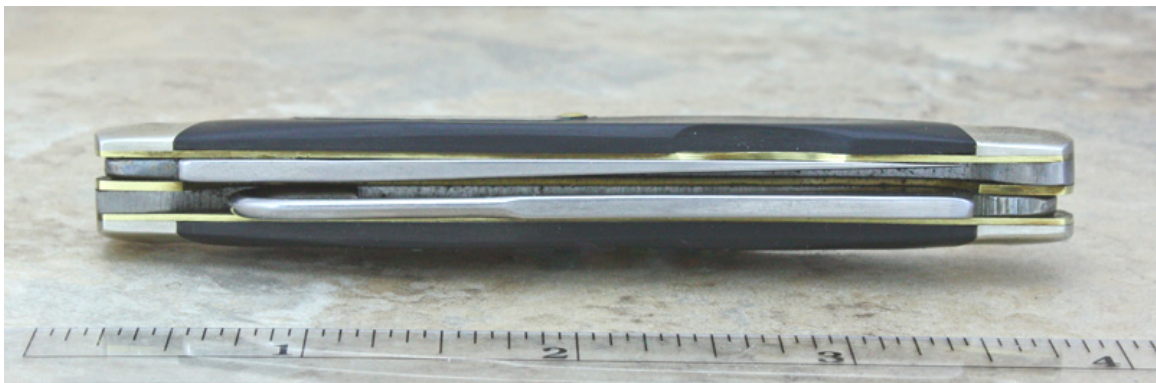


Photo of top view of both versions of 321 Bird Knife. Note only single brass scale liners, this is because double springs allow both blades to lay straight within the blade well. Tang on clip blade unbent.

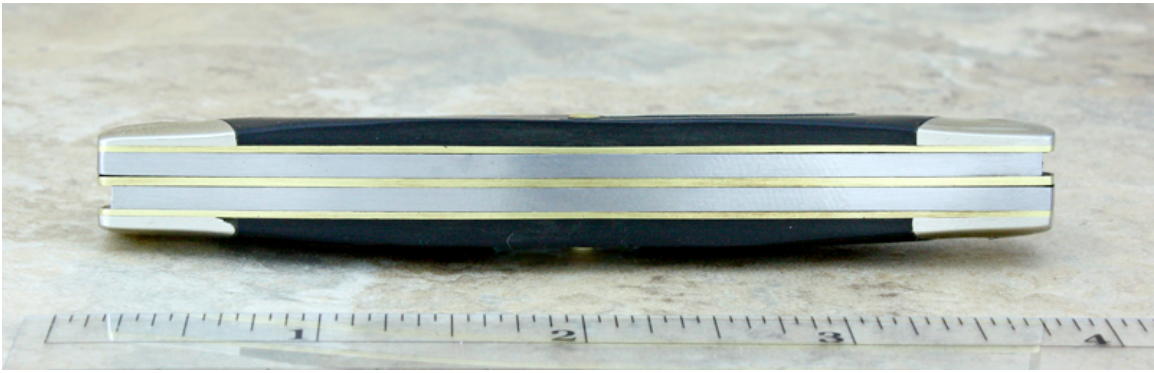


Photo of bottom view of both versions. Note double blade springs and single brass scale liners.



Photo of Bird Knives with similar design as 321. Buck's version follows closely the general construction of these other Camillus Cutlery made knives.

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