

TRIED & TESTED

THE KIT THAT WE HAVE BEEN USING AND ABUSING OUT ON THE SKIRMISH FIELD, WE TRY BEFORE YOU BUY.



S-THUNDER WATER SPRAYING AIRSOFT LANDMINE

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Two weeks
FOR USE WITH: Woodland warfare
COST: £19.99
AVAILABLE FROM: www.airsoftworld.net or www.s-thunder.com

Here's a clever idea – a landmine that you fill with water, pop in a 12g CO2 cartridge, then bury in your enemy's path. As soon as they stand on it the gas cartridge is punctured and they'll be soaked in a head-high spray that lasts a good two seconds! Of course, this could make you a little unpopular if people get water spraying up into the barrel of their guns, but fortunately it is quite a fine mist – the concentration of the water is around the ankles, so look out for people with wet trouser legs!

Made of really tough plastic, the mine stands up to quite a kicking – the worst I could do to it as I booted it around the garden was to knock off one of the four directional jets, but this was easy to pop back into place, undamaged. In the picture the mine's sitting on the ground, but that's only so you can see it – obviously you'd normally bury it. Of course, this means you're going to have to lug a small shovel around with you. If you're serious about your military simulation, you won't be bothered, and certainly if you were looking at setting up a base and protecting it with a mine or two, it all adds to the realism.

The S-Thunder doesn't make much of a bang when it goes off, but there's no mistaking the huge spray – this should take out plenty of people when it goes, but you'll have to make sure that the marshal tells everyone what to expect in the briefing.

A cylinder that takes airsoft gas can be used instead of the CO2 cartridge, but using standard gas I didn't have much success. The CO2 is so convenient it's not worth using anything else.

If you're willing (and have time) to dig holes and cover up this mine, it's a great bit of kit. Needless to say, it relies on someone's foot actually finding it, which is quite a disadvantage over a trip-wire system, but its large area of 'destruction' could make it devastating to an opposing team.

97% OF OUR READERS SAID THAT AI INFLUENCES THEIR BUYING DECISIONS ON TACTICAL GEAR



Jack

Paul

Jack loves new kit, but if it's not the best it can be he'll tell it like it is. From ideal gear for new players, to high-end tactical kit, he'll test it until he's impressed or it breaks.

COMBAT ASSAULT GLOVE

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Five months
USAGE: Urban & desert environments
COST: £19.99
AVAILABLE FROM: Soldier of Fortune www.sofmilitary.co.uk sales@sofmilitary.co.uk

There's a definite echo to Oakley's gloves going on here, and that's no bad thing, especially at half the price, but with all the protection. Designed with tough knuckle protection and vents in the fingers, they're proving more than capable of standing up to the rigours an airsoft field can throw at them.

The palm is layered with synthetic leather, which adds extra protection. This layering doesn't interfere with the control of your primary or secondary though, and with the adjustable cuffs it's easy to feel comfortable and secure.

Available in black, tan or ACU, and sizes small to XXL (I found them a snug fit in my usual glove size of large, but better than the ends of your fingers flapping in the trigger).

If you're a brand junky (with a pedigree to match) you'll want the Oakley's, but if you're after some affordable protection, these gloves are well worth a punt.



VIPER COVERT ANGLED DRAW HOLSTER

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Two Months
USAGE: Posing as the baddy from Behind Enemy Lines!
COST: £19.99
AVAILABLE FROM: Most airsoft and decent army surplus shop.s

I'm sure we've all been there... watching a good war film, and just thinking "I want to be that guy!". For me, it was the bad-dude sniper in Behind Enemy Lines. With a rifle that looks very similar to my VSR10, a knock-off tracksuit top and a shoulder holster, it was a look that could be a great change to the usual ACU and desert camo.

Viper's Covert Angled Draw Holster looked the best, and cheapest option, but when I got it out of the pack I was pretty dubious. I wasn't expecting a lot for the price, but after quickly chucking it over my back, I got the impression that it would be too loose and lightweight. However, once I had my wife help me adjust it I was pleasantly surprised... when all the straps are pulled up correctly, it sits well under your arms, and doesn't flap too much (especially with the lower fastenings attached to your belt).

Your gun is angled down, and it takes a bit of a leap of faith to trust the popper fastening to hold your GBB pistol when you're sprinting, so you might want to consider a lanyard (although it doesn't look as cool this way).

It's a novel way of carrying your side-arm... The system holds two extra mags, and it's a great bit of kit for those moments when you just have to dress up like your favourite baddy. Now, I'm off to the market to look for a cheap tracksuit top...



MAGPUL AFG (ANGLED FORE GRIP)

USER: Paul
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Two Months
USAGE: All the time!
COST: £30.00
AVAILABLE FROM: www.fire-support.co.uk



Tactical Fore Grips are nothing new, in fact they have been around since WWII, with the most noticeable being attached to the Tommy Gun, then again in Vietnam, where members of the ASAR used the pistol grip from the L1A1 to attach to the SLR's forward furniture to fashion a vertical grip, which essentially made the rifle more controllable. (More control equals better accuracy).

Moving swiftly right up to date the SA80 overhaul saw the addition of the B&T Picatinny Rail, which in turn saw the welcome addition of vertical tactical grips; however a tactical grip doesn't have to be vertical to work. Take for instance the Magpul AFG, this does really fall into the category of "Theory Based" products.

Simply put, these products are designed to enhance weapon performance and user interface beyond what is currently available.

The primary difference between the AFG and standard vertical fore grips is weapon controllability. This is a direct result of hand position, grip style and body mechanics.

The natural, ergonomic hand position with the palm facing up results in better blood flow than the "clenched fist" that the shooter would adopt with a traditional fore grips. In fact soldiers have reported fatigue and loss of sensation especially during extended periods

of use. The AFG improves on the "thumb break" hold often used with standard vertical grips by allowing the thumb to rest comfortably alongside the top rail, pointing forward, with the rest of the hand in full contact with the fore end. Heavy-duty reinforced moulded polymer construction stands up to the hard knocks of tactical operations, and deep, moulded-in grooves help you maintain a firm grip even with wet hands.