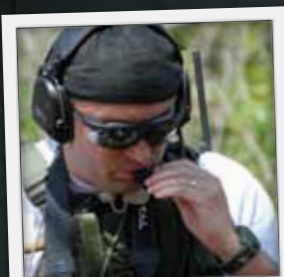


TRIED & TESTED

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



Paul



Bill



Jack

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.



BLADETECH INDUSTRIES READY MAG

USER: Paul
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: One Month
FOR USE WITH: Ideal for a Ready mag
COST: £19.99
AVAILABLE FROM: Available from Wolf Armouries UK

Ready Mags are a relatively new concept, that US Soldiers have taken to in their droves and will securely hold your primary and secondary mags (even upside down) attaching the mags to your weak side makes for a more natural and quicker re load time and will keep the front of your gear clear.

This magazine carrier is perfect for any skirmish field action and is designed especially to M16 mags, and provides a secure fit yet easy access for tactical reloading.

I realise that this form of Injection moulded pouch is not going to be for everyone,, they are very much the "Marmite" of pouches (your either going to love them or hate them) but don't be influenced by the Marmite haters out there, because unless you try them out for yourself, your never going to know what you're missing, if anything at all.

£19.99

THIS MAGAZINE CARRIER PROVIDES A SECURE FIT YET EASY ACCESS FOR TACTICAL RELOADING

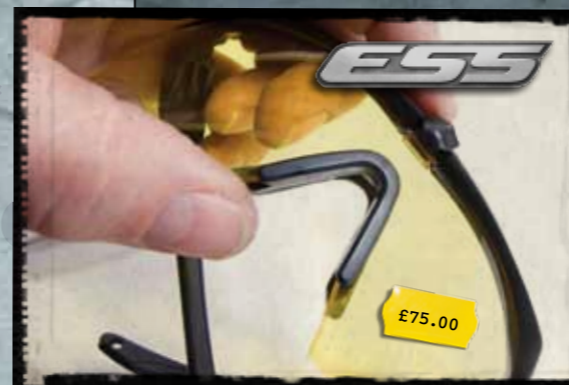
BLADETECH

ESS CROSSBOW THREE LENS KIT

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Two Months
USAGE: Eye Protection
COST: £75.00
AVAILABLE FROM: All Good Airsoft Retailers

For several months my eye-protection of choice has been a pair of ESS Profile goggles. I wanted to make sure no stray BBs could find their way into my eyes, and they've worked a treat, and resisted misting well. Except in night games... even with my Fog Tech solution, I was suffering misting!

The Crossbow seemed a great option - not cheap, but with three 2.4mm lenses, a great fit, and a MOLLE compatible carry case, you do get a lot for your cash. A testimonial on the ESS website claims that the glasses are un-foggable, so I had high hopes for my first game wearing them in March.



£75.00

As you'd expect from real-deal military glasses, the lenses are beautifully clear - the quality of polycarbonate really is excellent (a hell of a lot better than the De-Walt safety glasses I wore when I started in airsoft), and while my Profile goggles give good peripheral vision, these are outstanding. Sadly, I did still manage to fog them up - by lunchtime I had to clean the glasses off with one of the supplied microfibre cloth bags, and then apply a little Fog Tech. Since then, with a little treatment before each game, I've had no trouble, except for those pesky night games! For safety's sake, I do have my glasses very close to my face, and also wear a baseball cap. Combined with the fact that ever since I was a lad, I've tended to run very hot, maybe that's why I still managed to mist them up.

The smoke lenses look great, but can hamper things when you run into a building, and while the yellow tint is an acquired taste, it can be a great help in low-contrast situations. I tend to use the clear lenses most, but I'm looking forward to popping on the smokes in the summer!

I love these glasses, and they're now my go-to protection. Vision is flawless, and the lenses are very easy to change, yet totally secure, thanks to a cunning "Dedbolt" system that swivels round to lock the lens in place. An elastic retention strap is also supplied, but be careful if you remove it, as I managed to break the little tab off the strap whilst trying to get mine off. I prefer glasses without the strap but it's worth taking a bit more care than I did.

While the "Clearzone" coating is better than my other glasses, I still haven't found a perfect solution for night games - the Crossbows still need a quick wipe and application of Fog Tech on my sweaty bonce, but I've got one last thing to try for that - fan assisted goggles! Still, for all my other games, I'll be keeping the Crossbows close at hand.

S-THUNDER WATER & POWDER DUAL USE AIRSOFT LANDMINE

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: Three Months
USAGE: Woodland warfare
COST: £39.99
AVAILABLE FROM: Airsoft World

The easiest way to describe the S-Thunder water and powder mine is as a moscart that's triggered when you stand on it! Pop it open, fill it with airsoft gas, and then pour water or powder into the top. When some unsuspecting bad-guy steps on it, there's a hefty bang, and your choice of filling sprays out.

I tried it with flour first, and while it does make for an impressive cloud in the picture, it doesn't come much higher than your shins. If you were running through the woods you could be hard pressed to notice you'd triggered it. The same can be said for using water, which is generally deflected by your boot. The bang is good and loud (like a moscart, and even louder when you use water), but there's a chance that someone running over it in the middle of a fire fight might not be aware they'd triggered a land-mine.

If the S-Thunder were to be used in a quieter area - somewhere that the enemy would be creeping up on you, rather than bundling in, it would be an effective tool - it's well made, and should stand up to a fair bit of abuse. Even just filling it with gas to get a bang, it works, but unlike a trip-wire detonated device, it does rely on the enemy standing directly on it. In the picture the mine is sitting on the ground so you can see it in action, but obviously in play you'd either dig a small hole, or cover it with leaves.

If you're aware of the limitations (maybe you could ensure there's a marshal near where it's set), it's a neat little bit of kit that could easily find a space in your loadout.



£39.99

HEAVY DUTY THROAT MIC

USER: Jack
LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP: One Month
USAGE: Communicating with your team
COST: £32.49 including delivery
AVAILABLE FROM: A popular on line auction site

I spent a long time looking for a good throat mic before coming across this model. I'd been lucky enough to have one on loan that was worth a whopping £80. The clarity was good (for a throat mic, but more on that later), the earpiece was clear, and the build quality was excellent. Trying to find something similar wasn't easy, with a lot of fairly flimsy looking units for sale.

When I found this "Heavy Duty" throat mic I had high hopes, as in the pictures at least, it looked exactly the same. At just over £30 delivered, I took a punt... and dammit if it doesn't seem exactly the same as the £80 model! The Push To Talk switch is the same tough construction with a rotating clip, the mics work just as well, and the earpiece is comfortable and clear. I'm very impressed! These aren't some "knock-off" units - I found a few other mainstream stores selling them for a few pounds more, and CB37 are well established in the UK motorcycle and CB markets.

So, good for throat mics? They're not for everyone - they work by picking up the vibrations from your voice-box, so if you have a bit of a chubby neck you might have problems. If they're not positioned correctly, the mics can send a muffled, or severely broken signal out to your team mates, so make sure you put them on carefully. However, the convenience outweighs the disadvantages - a conversation is easy in the noisiest environments (no need to shout if you're in the middle of a fire-fight - in fact, the throat mic will even pick up a whisper), and the PTT button is big enough to thumb on with the chunkiest of gloves. And it looks cool!

I bought my mic with a cable to suit my Motorola radio, but it's available for Kenwood or 2 Pin Icon/Standard/Cobra radios. In fact, if you change your handset, you only need to buy a new cable. Brilliant!

I wouldn't be without my throat mic now, and my mate's planning on buying one too - at this price you can't go wrong!



£32.49