

# TRIED & TESTED

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



## BLACKHAWK WARRIOR WEAR ZIP GRID FLEECE HOODY

**USER:** Bill  
**LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP:** Two Months  
**FOR USE WITH:** Keeping the chill off  
**COST:** £59.99  
**AVAILABLE FROM:** www.tactical-kit.co.uk

Although I've only had this minimalist fleece for a relatively short period it's rapidly becoming a favourite of mine. I'm a great fan of lightweight clothing systems in general, and this piece certainly ticks all the boxes for me.

I've owned numerous pieces of Blackhawk gear over the years and have always been impressed by the quality and attention to detail shown in every one; this little hooded top is no exception. Much thought has gone into how it will work as the thermal element of a low volume layering system, with the adherence to the principle of "less being more".

The top is constructed of an excellent quality lightweight micro grid fleece. Worn under an outer shell garment this grid pattern will trap air; air is a great insulator, so this gives a creditable ratio of warmth to its 468g weight. The fleece is also highly dynamic, with additional incorporated stretch panels allowing an athletic fit with little additional fabric to "bulk up".

In terms of features the top is relatively Spartan; you get a small chest pocket, ¾ length zip for mechanical venting to encourage air flow and moisture transmission, a simple hood (good for us follicly challenged folk!) and thumb loops for ease of layering and additional thermal hand protection. All seams are of "flat lock" construction so as not to chafe beneath gear and body armour.

Worn over a base layer and beneath an outer shell garment this is a superb piece of kit and I can see it's going to be playing a large part in my personal clothing set up going forward.

Price is a reasonable US\$79.99, and it is available in sizes S to XXX. Colours are black or Coyote Tan. For more information check with your local Blackhawk "Warrior Wear" stockist or visit [www.Blackhawk.com](http://www.Blackhawk.com)

**WORN OVER A BASE LAYER AND BENEATH AN OUTER SHELL GARMENT THIS IS A SUPERB PIECE OF KIT!**

## 5.11 LBE HOLSTER

**USER:** Jack  
**LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP:** One Month  
**FOR USE WITH:** Every time I want to carry any pistol!  
**COST:** £19.99  
**AVAILABLE FROM:** www.tactical-kit.co.uk

I've been looking for the perfect holster for my Hi-Capa Extreme for a long time... my universal drop-leg is okay, but tends to flap around a bit when I run, so I really wanted to mount the gun on my rig. A Serpa would be great, but of course you can't get them for these guns. Then I found this on the Tactical Kit website... 5.11 is real-deal kit, so you know it'll last, and from the moment I tucked the Extreme into the Velcro loop-lined interior, I knew it was perfect!

I've been using an M4 mag pouch as a rig-mounted holster, but I was fed up with the tearing sound of Velcro every time I wanted to draw my side-arm - not very tactical. The 5.11 has a solid popper, with a stiffened, angled thumb-break... and it works a treat! Unlike other breaks I've used, this stays rock solid, and just needs a flick of the thumb to release. It's well positioned though, so you won't lose your pistol with this holster.



For such a compact and cleanly designed holster, there's a lot of adjustment - the retaining strap can be positioned anywhere (that loop lining isn't just there to keep your gun cosy), and there's another strap to tighten the lower section, for slimmer guns.

I've got no problems fitting in my Hi-Capa Extreme, Hi-Capa 5.1 or my Glock, and the fact that this is a right-handed draw holster only is no problem for me. The MOLLE attachment is 5.11's patented 'Slick Stick' system - basically, the straps are free-floating, and can be withdrawn quickly to move the holster around on your loadout. Once it breaks in, it's a lot easier than normal straps.

It's available in black, olive drab and tan, and bearing in mind this is the real thing (it's made of 1050D nylon - heftier than many airsoft rigs!), at just twenty quid, I'd say it's a bargain!

## S THUNDER (FOAM BALL) 40MM GRENADES

**USER:** Bill  
**LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP:** Two Months  
**USAGE:** When the M79 comes out to play  
**COST:** £44.95 for the short, £49.95 for the long.  
**AVAILABLE FROM:** www.airsoftworld.net

I have, like many of you out there I'm sure, a love/hate relationship with airsoft "40mm" gas grenades. Over time I've tried the offerings many different manufacturers in many different brands of M203 and M79 and been pretty underwhelmed to say the least.

On a good day it's all "pomp" and away goes a healthy shower, but on a bad day it's pull the trigger and... not a thing! This usually seems to happen to me at the most inappropriate moment too! Slow to reload at the best of times, most are fire and put away until you return to the Safe Zone.

Not so with the new BB grenades and Foam Ball grenades from S Thunder. This Hong Kong manufacturer seems to have come up with the answer. The shells are ruggedly made and easy to reload and re-gas even in the field.

The BB grenade loads into one central cylinder; simply fill with 80 bbs, seal with the cap provided in the pack and you're good to go. The 33mm Foam Ball shell is just as user friendly and comes in both long (up to four balls) and short (two balls) lengths. I had the long to test and found that mixing bbs and the foam balls got some interesting results.

I used our Team Test "Kickass Gas" to power up the shells and with .20g bbs got a good spread out to a maximum of 70 feet. I got the same distance result when using all four foam balls provided in the long shell, but when I loaded a bunch of .20g bbs behind a single ball it sailed away a good 100 feet plus!

Speed testing on the bb shell was impressive too. I managed to fire and reload the same shell three times in a minute or so under field conditions. Over ten refills the shell performed impeccably with not a single misfire.

**SPECIFICATIONS:**  
 SIZE: 4cm diameter, 180cm height  
 FILLER: 33mm Foam Balls or Confetti  
 FILLER VOLUME: 4 Foam Balls  
 SOUND VOLUME: 90dB  
 EFFECTIVE DISTANCE: 15-20m  
 NET WEIGHT: 265g



## VIPER AK CARRIER

**USER:** Jack  
**LENGTH OF OWNERSHIP:** One Month  
**USAGE:** Lugging my guns to games  
**COST:** £39.99  
**AVAILABLE FROM:** All Good Airsoft Retailers and Tactical Gear suppliers.

Don't panic... just because Viper call it the AK Carrier, doesn't mean you're not allowed to put anything else in it! It's just good to know that it's designed to accommodate a full length AK... and it does - if you're looking for a bag to cosset your weapons you've come to the right place. The AK Carrier is soft, soft, soft, with an almost memory-foam feel to the inside, but it still holds its shape even when empty (unlike my Swiss Arms bag that flops around like a frightened carp).

There are five large mag pouches on the front, with an adjustable shoulder strap on the back. Besides wishing for even more pockets, my only criticism is that the carry handles are too far back - with my AK, M4, or M14 inside (SOCOM - you wouldn't get a full length one in here), the bag's a little front heavy. Not a problem for me, as I use it mostly to protect my kit whilst it's in the car, but it would be a little annoying if you had to carry it for any great distance.

Overall though, it's a valued addition to my luggage.

