

Bistoli's

Adjustable Cheekpiece

by Daniel O'Dea



I recently had the opportunity to review a Bistoli product that is a modern touch on the old strap-on cheekpiece. Nothing new here, you say? Like the Bistoli Mk 2 Shooting Mat I recently reviewed, a little bit of thought and ingenuity really adds value and use to a product.

In this case, the main difference between this new strap-on cheekpiece and the old padded leather bag held on shoelace style is that it is *adjustable*. This adjustment is achieved via the use of three different moulded EVA foam height-adjuster inserts of varying height profile, from about 15mm to about 30mm.

The main body of the unit is held in place by three Velcro straps. I noticed that the inside of the main pocket is silicone rubber lined to grip tightly against the stock. Once strapped in position on the stock, an overflap is lifted and the desired foam insert for the correct cheekweld adjustment is put in place. With the insert in place, the overflap is closed back over and held tightly by the ever-present Velcro.

In another value add-on, with the overflap lifted, two small pockets, one on each side of the stock, are accessible for storage

Attached with three Velcro straps, the Bistoli Adjustable Cheek Piece offers quite a lot more than the old leather bag held on with a shoelace!

for a range card, licence or other relevant papers. Finally, to the right outside of the overflap is provision for 10 spare rounds of ammunition by means of a sewn-in bandoleer.

The whole item is made out of hard-wearing neoprene-backed 600D polyester. The reviewed cheekpiece was in black, but it is also available in green in both right- and left-handed configurations.

Gunfit is very important to accuracy, and for rifle-shooting, cheekweld can be paramount. To explain, when a rifle is shouldered and your cheek is 'welded' to the stock, your line of sight should ideally line up directly with the centre of your optic, giving you both a solid platform and full use of the available field of view. If the stock is designed for use with iron sights or if your optic is mounted high (by either fault or design), you can end up with a situation where to properly align the scope, your cheek must ride high (sometimes referred to as 'chinweld') or even float



The underside is lined with silicone rubber to grip tightly to the stock surface.



The cheekrest is adjustable by means of three EVA moulded foam inserts of varying height.



The right side has an elasticised bandoleer for 10 spare rounds.



Internal pockets either side of the cheekpiece are accessible with the flap up.

Bistoli's Adjustable Cheekpiece

free off the stock, leaving your head free to bobble around, rather than be locked down in a consistent and firm position.

In years gone by, this was very common when scopes were added to old military rifles designed for iron sight use. These days, with the advent of larger optics and a trend to heavier barrels, the dimensions of both these features (large optic objective lens size and barrel diameter) dictate the use of higher rings for scope mounting, with the common result being a loss of cheekweld.

In a perfect example of the scope-mounted ex-military rifle situation, I happened to have access to a scoped M14. Although this is not a rifle commonly encountered or shot by the average licensed sporting shooter, it stands as a perfect example that rings true of hundreds of old .303 Lee-Enfields, 6.5x55 Swedish Mausers and other commonly encountered ex-military rifles perhaps scoped these days (with all respect) by older soldiers with failing eyesight.

Designed for use with iron sights, the M14, when fitted with a scope, has an optic line of sight far too high to obtain a clean view through the scope while obtaining a good cheekweld. Without the cheek-piece fitted, my natural hold had my eye



With the rifle cleared, the magazine removed and action locked open, Daniel O'Dea demonstrates cheekweld and the line of sight relationships with the Bistoli Adjustable Cheek Piece installed.

lining up with the iron sights, which was ironically still perfectly visible under the factory Springfield scope mount. However, fitting up the rifle with the Bistoli Adjustable Cheek Piece using the middle-sized foam insert had my eye perfectly lined up with the centre line of the scope while still maintaining that ever-important cheekweld.

For this situation and many more, I'm



Here, the cheekpiece is removed. Note the natural line of sight with correct cheekweld in both instances indicated by the red lines.

sure many sporting shooters of all competitive disciplines or even shooting in the field will find the Bistoli Adjustable Cheek Piece a very useful product. And, for a recommended retail price of around \$50, no doubt every shooter can afford to give it a go to achieve that all-important gunfit.

For more information, contact your local gunshop or visit www.teznic.com.au ●



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