

INDIVIDUAL EQUIPMENT

An understanding of one's shooting equipment, how it properly employed, and how to care for it can greatly increase your performance on the range. This section includes a brief description of the various items found in a typical shooter's kit.



- **Shooting Glove:** The shooting glove provides a cushion between the hand and the rifle sling. The two types of gloves normally used are full-fingered and open fingered mitts, which contain padding and rubber to prevent slippage. A specially designed shooting glove is not necessary; a military leather glove will suffice.
- **Score/Plot Book:** The score/plot book is a valuable learning tool that is used to record your rifle's zeroes, the conditions at the time of firing, and an accurate plot of your shots. In short, everything that occurs on the range should be annotated in this book.
- **Carbide Lamp:** The carbide lamp is used to blacken the rifle's sights, which reduces glare. In the absence of a carbide lamp, a butane lighter, or burning plastic spoon will blacken the sights nicely.
- **Head Band:** A headband is recommended when shooting in hot weather.
- **Ear Plugs:** Earplugs or shooting muffs are required equipment while shooting.
- **Eye Protection:** Eye protection is recommended. Shooting glasses should be clear or a color that makes the target appear to be clearer. Sunglasses should not be used.
- **Scorebook:** Every competitor should know the rules. Obtain a NRA scorebook and keep it with your equipment.

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- Poncho: Although there are rain covers that are specially designed for shooting equipment, an issue poncho does an excellent job of keeping your gear dry.
- Shooting Hat: Some sort of headgear should be worn while shooting. A baseball-type cap, or “boonie hat”, are the two types normally used.
- Sweat Shirt: A sweat shirt should be worn beneath the shooting jacket for comfort, stability, and to dampen pulse.
- Shooting Jacket: There are many types of shooting jackets, ranging from simple cloth to heavy leather. The primary concern when selecting a shooting jacket should be the fit. Another shooter, or coach, can assist you in determining the proper size of your jacket. The jacket should not be so tight that you cannot buckle all the front buckles, or that you cannot raise your arms above your head. Nor should it be loose enough to slide on your torso when all the buckles are fully cinched down. Remember to wear your sweatshirt while checking a jacket for fit.

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- Scope Stand: There are many types of scope stands, varying in shape and type. It is used to hold the spotting scope. A good scope stand should be both sturdy and portable.
- Spotting Scope: The Spotting scope is used to observe the location of your impacts downrange, and to determine the wind's effects (see Wind and Weather section.) The spotting scope should have a wide field of view and between 20x and 30x magnification.
- Shooting Stool: There are commercially manufactured shooting stools available, such as the one pictured above, that are specially designed for the purpose. A shooting stool is used to store all of your shooting equipment, ammo, etc., as well as to sit on during scoring.
- Magazines: Twenty round magazines are preferred, as they do not interfere with the various shooting positions.
- Rifle
- Sling: Most competitors prefer to use a leather "match" sling as it provides more support than a nylon sling. A cotton (web) sling may be used as long as it is in good condition and properly adjusted.

