

Range Bag

So you are heading to the range. What is the first thing you need to do? The essential item you should consider is your range bag.

Your range bag is a dedicated bag which, as the name implies, is used for the range. Stay away from the urge to use any bag or backpack. Make certain you have a dedicated bag. One reason for this is security. Another is organization.



When thinking about security, the main reason for a dedicated bag is to make certain you do not utilize a bag which may be used to board an airplane at a later time. A lot of items end up in the bag at the range, including live ammunition, magazines, and miscellaneous parts and even fired brass casings. The last thing you want is to have a loaded magazine accidentally fall into a fold of the bag and then have it discovered when you are being screened by the TSA. Now you have inadvertently committed a federal crime!

Organization is the main benefit of a dedicated bag. You know where your shooting supplies are located, since they are all located in the bag. What supplies do we need to have in our bag? The first items which come to mind are a gun, ammo, magazines/speed loaders, targets, eye and ear protection, cap. If you only take these, you may be able to simply get by. Then again, simply “getting by” should not be our objective. We want to have fun, practice, train, as well as be safe and not find ourselves saying, “Oops, I forgot...”. One item mentioned above was targets. Unless the range supplies targets for free, you may wish to include with your targets are ways to secure your targets to the backer board and pasties to cover the holes which seem inevitable due to your precision sight picture utilization. If you shoot steel at times, you may wish to also include a can of spray paint.



Cleaning supplies and tools are a key items for a range bag. At minimum, you'll need a bottle of lube and a Boresnake® in the appropriate caliber; a container of solvent will complete the trio. You're probably not going to attempt a thorough cleaning in your booth at the range, however stoppages occur, it's best to be prepared for these unplanned occurrences.



When considering hearing protection, be certain to consider amplified hearing protection. A great advantage of the amplified types are while they protect your hearing, they permit you to

hear normal conversations without removing your muffs. How many times have you opened the cuff of your hearing protection to listen to someone on the range and a nearby shooter discharges a firearm with an enormously loud bang? These muffs also permit you to hear conversations around you of which you may not be aware if you're eyes are not focused on the speaker. Range Safety Officers normally utilize these so they can be alerted to possible incidents before they escalate. Make sure to not overlook a few pair of foamies in your bag also. They are not only important when ambient noise is extra loud, they can always be given to assist a fellow shooter when they may have forgotten their hearing protection.



Another item which some may consider a luxury item, is an Uplula™ magazine loader. Many manufacturers will supply a crude magazine loader with their pistols, however if you use this item once, you will be sold on make it a staple in your personal bag. An added benefit to alleviating magazine thumb, is that the Uplula™ loads magazines in various calibers from 9x19 through 45 ACP. For the fashion conscious shooter, various colors are available.



While safety is of utmost importance, a first aid kit is an essential item. You should have a blow-out kit (QuickClot®, Israeli compression bandage, ACE® bandages, tourniquet, triangular bandage) in case there is actual gunshot wound, however most useful will be simple first aid items such containing peroxide, Neosporin® and Band-Aids®. An extra supply of 4x4 gauze pads and adhesive tape will also compliment your kit.

Other items to consider are miscellaneous tools. Some firearms require special tools to take down the gun; these are essential in a range bag. Leatherman® style multi-tools are a nice addition; a mini gunsmith tool kit is better so you don't mar the firearm you cherish.

Remember to keep an inventory of the items you store in your range bag. You'll need to review this at least monthly to make certain you have not exhausted your supplies prior to heading to the range.

So have a fun, productive shooting session and do it right!

Protect yourself and your family by signing up for a firearm safety or other personal protection class from Advantage. You'll learn more tips like these. You will learn how to use your tools to protect yourself, your equipment and your loved ones. Learn more about available classes online at www.AdvantageFET.com.