

Lyman Combo kit

- it's in the bag!

by Con Kapralos

The Match Bag and Bag Jack combo in use.



American shooting and hunting accessory firm Lyman Products never fails to impress with its innovative and well thought-out items. Every year the company refreshes its range, bringing in new alternatives to cater for the sports shooter and hunter alike.

The excellent reloading offerings are highly regarded the world over, as are items tailored to both the shooting and hunting fraternities. The company is represented in Australia by Nioa and we're fortunate they stock a huge inventory as is evident by the Lyman Products section in the 2017-18 Nioa catalogue.

One piece which caught our eye in the catalogue was rather similar in design to something I use in my profession in the scientific research field. It was an adjustable platform employed to elevate equipment at a pre-determined level, be it specialised glassware, reaction vessels or anything else that needs a lift. When I noticed the Lyman Match Bag/Bag Jack Combo I immediately thought: "Yes, why wouldn't that work?"

However, the Lyman option is tailor-made for the range shooter. Nioa was contacted with a request to review the Lyman adjustable shooting platform and this was duly delivered with the Match Bag/Bag Jack Combo sent for assessment. It's a no-brainer that Lyman offers this as a pairing, with the Match Bag perfect for range work and it complements the Bag Jack extremely well.

The unit up-close

The coupling, as already stated, consists of

the Bag Jack and Match Shooting Bag. The Bag Jack is basically a platform made from sturdy aluminium and steel components. Its dimensions are 255mm x 255mm. In the fully closed position it measures 60mm high and extends out to 325mm. Both the top and bottom platforms are fabricated from steel, as are the cross bracing pins and large threaded bolt which is used to raise and lower the platform. A well-proportioned plastic knob turns the large threaded bolt with ease.

Once your desired position is attained the platform stays there without the need to lock the adjustment dial. The braces that raise and lower the platform are aluminium, which helps keep the weight down but still gives the strength and rigidity needed. The top surface of the platform has a foam rubber lining which ensures the Match Bag doesn't slide off the platform with recoil. Under the bottom platform, four rubber legs also give a slip-free grip on any shooting surface, be it a range bench or tailgate of your shooting truck. The Bag Jack weighs in at 2.87kg.

The Lyman Match Shooting Bag is shaped to tightly squeeze your rifle and give you a stable and secure shooting platform. It is made from heavy duty, abrasion-resistant 600D nylon with micro-suede padding on the rifle contact points. It's also furnished with a non-slip rubberised base to keep it in place on the Bag Jack when in use. The bag is supplied already filled with a ground plastic material which holds its shape incredibly well while being light enough for easy carrying. Its dimensions are 200mm wide x 260mm deep x 150mm high and it weighs 3.40kg.



The Match Bag and Bag Jack are made to work in tandem.

At the range

Leaving my normal shooting rest and rear bag at home, the Lyman Match Bag/Bag Jack Combo was put through its paces during several range sessions. The unit was simple to set up and any height required was easily adjusted. The Match Shooting Bag smoothly cradled the fore-end segment of my rifles' shot on the day, but the buttstock of the rifle being shot still had to be positioned in the shooter's shoulder pocket. You could opt to use a rear bag if required but in this case none was necessary. The surface of the bag allowed the rifle to move into the shoulder under recoil and then was easy to slide forward to assume the original firing position.

The Lyman Match Bag/Bag Jack Combo can also be used in any scenario where a stable rest is required, even as a cradle to clean your rifles - its purpose of use is entirely up to the individual. It was easy to set up and I'd thoroughly recommend it for a shooter or hunter looking for a rest and bag that's versatile and adaptable without being a full-specification bench rest with the price to match.

The Lyman Match Bag and Bag Jack Combo retails for approximately \$129 and is available through all good firearms retailers. For more information visit nioa.com.au ●