

Bore Tech products

by Technical Advisor Brendan Atkinson



Hinterland Shooting Supplies (HSS) is a small company operating out of Tewantin in Queensland. We met the owners Richard Garwood and Fiona Parker at the SSAA SHOT Expo - their stall was right next to SSAA Publications.

HSS distributes SKB protective firearm covers, Dura Coat refinishing products and the line of Bore Tech firearm cleaning products. They are also agents for Hi-Viz fibre-optic sights and McMillan fibreglass stocks. Check out www.hss.net.au on the web.

They sent us a small sample of their products and these were our findings.

Bore Tech Eliminator

With so many bore cleaning products on the market, we reckon that we have heard just about every claim possible. Probably the most fussy barrel cleaners are the benchrest shooters, who clean after every group to preserve every scrap of accuracy in those expensive barrels. Many benchrest shooters use two solvents - one for copper and one for powder fouling.

Bore Tech produces a number of specialised cleaning agents such as Benchrest Blend, Rimfire Blend, Shotgun Blend, Moly Magic, Black Powder Solvent and several others. However, there was one particular product that we were keen to check out.

Some of the accuracy chat groups on the internet have mentioned this Eliminator product and we were interested to see if the claims made had any substance. The results that we obtained were interesting to say the least.

This is the first bore solvent that we have used that has absolutely no smell. Bore Tech advises that it does not contain any ammonia, toluene, naphtha, kerosene or any other petroleum distillates. It is non-toxic, non-inflammable and completely biodegradable. It does, however, warn that it is harmful if swallowed. It suggests that if this happens one should call a poisons control centre. I don't know what one would tell

them as there is no mention anywhere on the bottle as to what is in this stuff.

Eliminator is a patented chemical cleaner, which acts on copper fouling in two ways. Firstly, it changes the electronic state of the copper, which is broken down into its cupric state - this allows it to be easily removed from the bore. The second step involves chelating and binding remaining copper in such a way that it cannot re-adhere to the bore. This latter step also separates the copper from the solvent, which allows remaining solvent to continue its job.

We had a number a barrels to clean, ranging from expensive benchrest stainless steel to a couple of well-worn hunting barrels that were known to foul with copper.

We took a .257 Roberts barrel which had fired around 28 rounds of copper jacketed bullets since its last cleaning. Following the instructions, we passed a number of patches wet with Eliminator through the bore to get rid of loose fouling. The first two patches came out almost black and the third one blue. We then anointed a nylon brush with Eliminator and made a dozen passes through the barrel. Following this, we repeated step one. We then put this barrel aside and repeated the procedure on a stainless 6mm barrel. By the time we had finished that one, some five minutes had passed and it was time to check out the .257 again.

The first clean dry patch showed lots of blue and it took several more to produce a clean one. We then examined the bore with a bore scope and it certainly appeared to be clean and free of copper. Not convinced, we applied step one again and yes, we got some more blue color out of it. This did not really surprise us, as this barrel has been known to foul. At the end of the second session, it was perfectly clean.

The 6mm was a stainless barrel and as expected, it came clean with just one session.

The bottom line here is that we did not use a bronze brush at all. Eliminator would

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have attacked it vigorously and given a false impression of lots of blue color being produced.

As a check to see that the blue color was not coming from the bronze jag, we used a stainless steel one and also a nylon brush with stainless steel winding. We placed Eliminator on both and then wrapped them in a piece of white cloth. No blue color was found, so what was seen during use must have been coming from the bore of the barrel.

At a recommended retail price of \$55 for a 16oz bottle, it's not cheap, but if one is looking for a specialised bore cleaner then this is worth a try.

Bore Tech bore brushes and jags

Bore Tech phosphor bronze brushes are sold in packs of three, at a retail price of \$10 for most of the popular calibres. Those using a .17-, .20- or .50-calibre will pay a little more.

We were supplied some brushes in 6mm and 6.5mm for review. They are of sturdy construction and the brush section is shorter than most at 45mm. This is not a bad thing - we have noticed that some of the longer brushes tend to shed hairs after

a short time anyway. The brushes have a male attachment thread to suit Bore Tech cleaning rods and we can report that they will also fit most other brands with female ends.

A Bore Tech bronze brush was used for cleaning during an entire 10-target benchrest match and it still had plenty of life left in it. At the price quoted, they would appear to be good value for money.

Bore Tech premium patch jags are formed from solid brass and are available in all popular calibres. A nice touch is the reverse taper on the shaft, which protects the muzzle when the jag is withdrawn back into the bore. This type of jag is designed to allow a patch to pass through the bore and then drop off as the rod is withdrawn. This is the correct method for cleaning the bore - one does not drag carbon and other crud back through a barrel or damage may result.

When using any bronze jag, one must also use a patch that is a snug fit in the bore. It has to be snug to do its job. HSS can supply patches in various sizes.

From what we saw, Bore Tech brushes and jags are of very good quality and we would use them in any of our barrels with confidence. ●