

Peli 1607 Air Case

Combining durability and lightness, the black 1607 Air Case from Peli offered water, dust and impact protection to my equipment in a travel-ready package. The case is moulded with a proprietary lightweight resin (Pelican lightweight HPX resin) that forms honeycomb structural elements, reducing the weight of the case while preserving durability and impact resistance.

Drop-tested off the roof of our three-story office, crush tested under my car and submerged for one hour in our local river, this deep case with interior dimensions of 53.5x40.2x29.5cm (21.05x15.81x11.63in) features a watertight O-ring gasket and an automatic purge valve for air pressure that protected my gear (i.e. cameras), receiving only a rather impressive tyre mark, and very minor cosmetic damage but nothing that affected its performance. The two double throw latches used to close the case, alongside stainless steel hasps that support the use of padlocks, all remained perfectly usable.

Optimised for travel, the case comes with over-moulded handles and a retractable trolley handle (the case features two wheels for getting around more easy). At an internal volume of 0.063m³ (2.24ft³) weighing 6kg (13.20lbs) and measures 61.3x47.8x33.7cm (24.13x18.80x13.25in) the Peli 1607 Air Case came with a neat set of two stories of padded dividers with hook-and-loop straps, which helped me organise my gear and cushion it against bumps and scratches. Another amazing product by Peli.

Streamlight PROTAC HL USB Headlamp

Headlamps are being used everywhere, from mines and caves to hiking in the woods, as well as being used in occupations. The Streamlight PROTAC HL USB Headlamp is physically a large headlamp, due to its output, being a powerful and bright headlamp. At 229g (8.1oz), it features three programmable lighting modes: high for super-bright light: 1,000 lumens, 13,500 candela, 232m beam, runs 1.5 hours; medium for bright light and longer run time: 400 lumens, 5,400 candela, 147m beam, runs 2.75 hours; and low for a less intense beam and extended run time: 65 lumens, 900 candela, 60m beam, runs 20 hours.

Being USB rechargeable (also accepting multiple battery sources as backup), this lighting solution gave me a bright light with a wide, flood beam. The light is activated through a familiar "clicky" switch, mould on one side of the battery tube, also enabling the momentary mode (simply pressing the switch without fully depressing it). That switch/cap is removed to insert or remove batteries. The two different straps (one to wear on your head and one to use with a helmet) make it easy for the torch to swivel up and down so one can adjust the angle relative to where one is facing. In spite of the size of the light, it is quite comfortable to wear, having a felt covered, large piece that fit against my forehead and covers enough area to avoid any pressure points. It features a tethered diffuser cap for flood beam, and red and green coloured lens filters. I tested it against IPX4 water-resistant and 1m impact resistance, and it came out functioning perfectly, without cracks or breaks. Offering great hands-free lighting and reliability, this bright and powerful headlight offers optimised light, beam distance, and run time, making it ideal for MONS Gear Box.



Katadyn Trek'n Eat Potato Stew with Fried Onions

The vegetarian Potato Stew with Fried Onions (PSFO) from Trek'N Eat, a brand of the Katadyn group, is considered for potential military and paramilitary purchase. Trek'N Eat PSFO is a dehydrated, cook-in-the-bag meal that requires boiling water, stirring, resealing in the package (careful, during the cooking process the bag is very hot) and time before eating. While the meal needed longer to "cook" than indicated, the 150g meal provides 668 calories when cooked (445 cal. dry) – mostly from fats and carbohydrates. The fried onions (small bits) add to the flavour of the meal, and, while tasty and easy to prepare (presuming boiling water is available), the Trek'N Eat Potato Stew with Fried Onions is a good outside meal, needing some work, though.