

# MINI TEST

In-depth, independent reviews every month

# STEINERT NEOPOD

This extremely lightweight, strong and compact bipod surpasses all expectations

Words and pictures: Chris Parkin

For a materials specialist like me, I was very wrong to judge this 'book' by its cover. Although a quick inspection of the NeoPod shows details you don't always notice in a photo, there are one or two very subtle factors about this bipod that really shine when shooting, especially on lighter sporting rifles. The NeoPod is short fibre reinforced PEEK, which sounds more exciting than it is. The carbon fibres are short – almost powder-like fibres – used within normal injection moulding procedures, rather than hand-laid long fibres. PEEK is tough – a very advanced polymer (Polyether Ether Ketone) that shows superb chemical and mechanical properties with superior durability. It is advertised to have the tensile strength of stainless steel yet half the weight of aluminium. The only metal used is in the springs, catches and spigot.



Click the toggle across to detach the bipod silently in one second

## SPIGOT FOR TWO

The bipod mounts from a spigot that is screw-fitted against your rifle's fore-end stud, slotting neatly and firmly in place with rubberised gasket to aid grip. The bipod legs have a quick release clip that allows them to slot on and off this spigot in an instant, if it is not required, or to be transferred to another gun and due to the geometry. A 'stud' fitting is positioned for normal sling mounting. With the bipod clipped on, the legs fold down with a gentle tug and come up against lugged stops that allow you to 'load' the legs when shooting. The whole lot can pivot left and right by 20 degrees and there is enough freedom to track targets laterally, too. A quick tug and they fold back up neatly under your barrel and are hardly noticed when the gun is slung to carry it. Rubberised feet can be extended telescopically on the legs, springing out gently to set overall clearance from the ground. The clips are all silent and totally ergonomic when adjusting from the prone with stretched arms. With an all-up weight of 82g, it's really light, and as well as separate adaptors for additional guns, speciality fittings are made for certain rifles that don't carry a stud. With the spigot/pivot only 8mm under the forearm, the gun retains a low centre of gravity for stability, especially if placed on the ground and left, although there is no tension control and if you put a light rifle on it with no scope, it can topple, so just be careful. It might be nice if it

was a tiny bit tighter to stop this happening, but that would oppose the principle of its lightweight, fore-end-friendly flexibility. Just bear in mind that with the spigot extending forwards, a gun with Schnabel fore-end tip will obstruct fitting.

## FLEXIBLE YET STABLE

When shooting, I found the bipod fantastic; there was a symbiotic relationship with lighter sporting rifle stocks, as the bipod not only offered stability in the aim, but also discouraged clumsy handling of their often flexible fore-ends that can have them intermittently pressing up against the barrel. Having the bipod fitted, the difference in weight is about the same as loading your magazine, and not only is it quiet in use, if bumped against a rock, etc., it also doesn't project and dig into your back, which can make a long walk wearisome.

It is expensive and although 'made from plastic' makes it sound as though it should be cheap, serious R&D has gone into this material and not only does it have a High-Tec feel, it delivers in use too. I was wrong to judge it prematurely; I will put my name against this product and I will be using it on sporting rifles – it's a cracker! It always feels stable yet easily set up and the weight is just never there. I'm fully aware of my shortcomings when shooting light sporting rifles and I will dare to say that this bipod has taught me more and enabled me to shoot better with light sporters. Thoroughly recommended! **RS**

## CONTACT

Country Sports Wholesale,  
for your nearest dealer  
01223 208110, [www.countrysportswholesale.co.uk](http://www.countrysportswholesale.co.uk)

**ABOVE:** This spigot fitting is totally secure, unobtrusive and allows the bipod to cant 20 degrees either way

## PROS

Subtle brilliance in use, especially with a lighter sporting rifle

Weight, what weight?

## CONS

It initially looks expensive

Won't fit some rifles

## OPINION

Shoot this bipod on a light sporting rifle, carry it in the field... tell me you don't like it!