

Kit crunch

Single-handed lamp

George Wallace reviews the NexTORCH T6A Tactical Kit.

MUCH OF MY TIME IS SPENT BATTLING WITH our beloved firearms licensing departments. It is therefore a very pleasant relief when I get to play with a few shooting-related toys.

The current one is a pretty handy piece of kit and has been kindly loaned by Koolbox Ltd (www.koolbox.co.uk). That may seem an unlikely name for a company selling torches for pest controllers but if you look at its website you will see that it does a lot of other things as well.

The NexTORCH T6A Tactical Kit sounds like something for issue to Special Forces or police armed response units (and it may well be, for all I know), but it is also an extremely useful tool for the single-handed lamper. The torch is small, light and very bright and comes in a box with spare xenon bulb, a set of batteries, a remote “rat tail” switch and a clamp to attach it firmly to the barrel of a rifle. It was adaptable enough to fit over the sound moderator on my .22 LR – which was lucky because the rest of the barrel is covered by the fore-end.

On the .22 Hornet, it clamped securely just behind the moderator. If you find that produces glare in the scope, then it is simple enough to pop a bit of tape

or something in between. My BRNO is fitted with a T4 moderator and I didn't have a problem.

The rat-tail switch can be attached anywhere and, like a signalling lamp, is on when you press and off the instant you let go. In these days of increasingly lamp-shy foxes and rabbits, it seems to me a very useful bit of kit.

All you chaps know a great deal more about lamping than I do, so these are just my own thoughts which may or may not be relevant to the way you do things. Especially if you're one of those rich buggers with top-of-the-range night vision equipment!

Hereabouts, if you leave a lamp on for more than a couple of seconds, Brer Fox will clear off into the next parish and even Brer Rabbit can get a bit twitchy. You need a good, bright light to identify your target, but that same light can frighten him while you are trying to line up the shot. Some lamps have a dimmer switch which helps, but even then you need good communication with the lamp man if he is to turn it on again at the moment you are ready to shoot. If you have your own, less bright, light attached to the rifle, the big lamp can be used to spot the quarry, you can then line up the rifle and get yourself settled and steady before giving the switch a quick press to illuminate the target just long enough to get a shot.



And that's where the NexTORCH comes in. Its bright, white beam will illuminate a fox or rabbit clearly at well over 100 yards and reflect his eyes – all you need once he has been identified – from much further. You've still got to hit him, but that's another story.

There are a couple of caveats. If you attach something to the barrel of a rifle you absolutely must check the zero before going hunting. And also make sure the remote rat-tail switch is sited – a sticky patch is provided with the kit – so that pressing and releasing it doesn't disturb your aim.

The NexTORCH T6A Tactical Kit has a recommended retail price of about £24 and you can also get a set of colour filter lenses in red, green and blue to ring the changes on wary quarry. The lens set is about £27.

Far left: the kit and instructions; above left: the torch mounted on the sound moderator of my BSA Martini .22 LR because there is nowhere else to put it; and below left: the torch mounted on the barrel of my BRNO .22 Hornet.

NEXTORCH T6A TACTICAL KIT

For more information on this product visit www.koolbox.co.uk or contact Koolbox on 01509 233333.

