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## BOXIT 5

### Mobile Phone Cases

**Another handy little product I briefly mentioned last month is the Boxit 5 mobile phone case, which not only gives those working or at leisure outdoors a waterproof phone case to protect against inclement weather, but is also the ideal way of keeping the desert dust at bay. Those of you who have deployed to or travelled through desert environments, particularly in an open-topped or window ventilated vehicle, will know just how quickly dust is attracted to anything with moving parts, resulting in them either not moving or wearing out in extras quick time. On overseas assignments over the last few months it has been sand and dust that my long-suffering mobile has needed protection from, but back in the UK it has been the autumnal and rain that has been the big problem. With the winter temperature now dipping below freezing, condensation will be the next problem, but as the Boxit uses a Gore-Tex membrane across the audio grille, even this problem should be negated.**

**I** have two mobile phones, both of the flip-opening type, and I usually put my SIM card in my old Samsung model when venturing abroad, as it is less likely to be stolen than my newer Motorola Razor. Although the Boxit is designed for the more conventional Nokia or Siemens style of mobile, my Samsung fits it quite well. Of course I cannot use the phone without taking it out of

**Main Image: The Boxit 5 is designed to accept conventional Nokia and Siemens type mobile phones, which can be operated while protected from the elements due to the soft plastic front panel and the Gore-Tex audio membrane behind the grille. This is the smaller of two interchangeable tops to suit different lengths of phone, and there is also**

the Boxit, but as a quick flick of the thumb is all that is needed to pop the top open, that is something I can live with if it protects my means of communication from sand, dust and water.

To check out how the Boxit works with the type of phone it was designed for, I borrowed a Siemens mobile - it belongs to a female, as you might have realised by its colour. The soft plastic panel on the front allows normal key operation and theoretically it is even possible to send text messages under water, though most phones will actually float if dropped into sea or inland waterway. That Gore-Tex membrane behind the grille allows sound to pass through virtually unhindered, while keeping moisture out, allowing the phone to be used in the worst of weather. If you wish to use the phone with an earpiece, a removable rubber cap can be replaced by a simple grommet through which the wire is threaded.

**the option to fit an antenna cap if necessary**

**Above: Although not designed for flip phones, the Boxit is a very useful way of protecting such essential communication devices from dust, sand and water damage, be the environment desert, beach or rain-lashed UK training area**

**All images © Bob Morrison**

There are two different cap sections available to suit different phone lengths, plus a compressible and removable wedge section to accommodate any difference in phone thickness. If you have one of the older models with an external antenna, there is even a screw in cap to allow for this. The Boxit also has a four-position belt clip, and a broad Velcro strap to allow it to be carried on the arm or thigh - climbers, canoeists, cyclists and many other outdoor sportsmen will find this useful - is available as an optional accessory. UK distributors are ULC of Reading, telephone 0870 1200 311. More information can be found on the global product website at [www.boxit.net](http://www.boxit.net)

outdoor adventurer and even the businessmen. One item I have found to be really handy is their T-Bag toiletry bag, which is shaped like a small briefcase and measures 247x190x82mm. The bag has a coathanger-like hook at the top to allow it to be hung from a nail or branch, a zip around three sides to allow decent access to the many pockets and pouches, and a removable pouch under a fold-out flap that I use to carry prescription medication and medical supplies. Although intended as a soap bag, this handy bag could be used as a medical bag or even a survival bag (it has both a grab handle and D-rings to allow a shoulder strap to be clipped on) and I am sure many other uses could be found for it.

The UK importers of Piper Gear and the BugOut Gear range are Top-of-the-Range, telephone 01937 849 345, and the websites are [www.pipergear.co.uk](http://www.pipergear.co.uk) and [www.bugoutgear.co.uk](http://www.bugoutgear.co.uk) - **BM**