

Please note: The following review of the SWK "Nightstalker" Nylon Cargo Sporrán is NOT intended to re-ignite debate about the legal or moral issues surrounding the decision to carry a firearm – or any other weapon. It is intended as an unbiased review of the product's advertised capabilities as a holster, and the tactical realities surrounding it.

The SWK Nylon sporrán is a typical box shape, with a rounded bottom, and has three pockets. The main compartment is approximately 8" wide and approximately 10" high, measuring from the center of the curved bottom. The side panels are approximately 2" deep. The pocket is secured by means of a zipper that runs approximately half way down both sides of the sporrán. There are two zipper pulls, so you can choose which "direction" you want the pocket to unzip.

A Velcro flap secures the second, "bellows" style pocket. Finally, the flap itself is zippered, giving a smaller, third pocket.

The sporrán is constructed of a lightweight nylon. The entire back panel appears to be made of closed-cell foam. As well as providing padding for the main compartment, the stiffness of the foam helps the sporrán maintain its shape.



On the back of the sporrán is a belt loop, which will accommodate belts up to 1 1/2". However, the sporrán was shipped with a 3" length of nylon webbing that has plastic D rings sewn into each end. This slips through the belt loop and provides a means to attach a strap or chain for a more traditional style wear.



My first impressions are that this is a nicely designed sporran for daily use. The size of the main compartment gives a convenient place to carry any bulky items you might need, such as guide books, a flashlight or energy bars, while the padding of the compartment makes it ideal for carrying a camera, GPS, glasses, etc. The second pocket expands to provide storage for a wallet, and cell phone. The front zippered pocket is ideal for change, keys, or other small, easily lost items.

I would like to see a little thicker nylon used in construction. I have concerns that keys or other "hard" items will cause excessive wear with daily use. Additionally, I would have liked to see double or bar stitching at the seams and wear points.

But in this I am nitpicking. As constructed, the SWK Nylon sporran will make a fine daypack or camera bag, with no further modifications.

In the website pictures and video, the sporran is shown in use as a holster. As a law enforcement officer, I am required to remain armed when off duty. I must admit, that it is the apparent usefulness as a holster which drew me to this sporran.

I contacted Jerry Vecoli of Stillwater Kilts. In an email, he told me, "I am not a gun-carrier, but I thought using one as a prop would dramatically demonstrate the easy access compared to a traditional sporran." He went on to say, "...one of my requirements was that it fit a medium-frame automatic, and have the main compartment zipper extend far down each side to facilitate easy access. It is not a "gun sporran" per se, it is simply a sporran well-suited for carrying one."

I decided to put that to the test.

I placed an unloaded Glock 22 in the sporran. Unfortunately, the gun is just a little too large for the compartment. However, there is ample room for the smaller, Glock 27.

The first problem is that there is nothing in the compartment to keep a pistol from "rattling around." Fortunately, there are commercial fanny-pack holsters that have all ready solved that problem. Those holsters use lightweight, Velcro holsters to keep the pistol secure.

With this in mind, I took the sporran to a tailor who specialized in pack repair. I had a Velcro pad sewn against the back panel of the sporran.



One this was accomplished; I used a Velcro holster I had from Blawkhawk Industries. However, one could just use the holster out of an existing fanny pack holster, and save the money.



For the sporrán strap, I had the same tailor fashion an adjustable nylon strap, with swivel hooks on each end – much like traditional sporrán straps.

Finally, I ran a zipper pull string through the hole of one of the zipper tabs. By wearing both pulls to the right side of the pack, I can use my left hand to grab the tab of the zipper, pull it across and down on my left.

I noticed that the pistol added quite a bit of weight to the sporrán, causing a fair amount of “flop.” As I’m used to fanny packs that hold the holster tighter against the body, this was a bit disconcerting. Also, I realized that with a pistol in a muzzle-down position, it caused the sporrán to tilt to one side. I experimented with re-angling the pistol holster within, to more of a 45° angle. This helped some, but did not completely fix the problem. It might be helpful to have the exterior D rings mounted directly to the sporrán, as oppose to on a sliding strap.

For the draw, I was able to open the holster reasonably efficiently. However, as the sporrán does not sit tight against the lower abdomen, I found it necessary to continue to pull the zipper downward – after it was open – in order to further stabilize the sporrán for the draw.



While this technique works, I anticipate it taking its toll on the zipper – and eventually breaking the zipper.

I wore the sporrán/holster for several hours on a recent hike. It remained in place, but the “tilt” became more and more obvious as I moved around. After several hours, I found the strap had “bunched up” around the D rings, allowing the rings to rotate out.

In conclusion, I believe that (with minor modifications) the SWK ballistic Sporrán will work as non-obtrusive, concealment holster for the individual who (for whatever reason) feels the need to be armed. However, as the platform is inherently unsteady, and the draw would be exceptionally slow, I cannot recommend it for practical carry.

Nevertheless, Jerry at Stillwater Kilts is to be commended on this product. While it is unlikely I will use it to carry a weapon, it is still an extremely functional sporran, and remains ideal for cameras, GPS or other items that require a little extra security in transport!