



# Pro-Tactical gun-care gear

This range of cleaning equipment is complete and it's good, especially the Australian-made PCB bore cleaner



**TESTING** gun-care products is usually not that easy, not because it's hard to clean firearms but because most of the products are not all that different from their competitors. I sort of dreaded going into this review because I knew it'd take time to complete but I didn't know if I'd find out anything worth saying. Then I saw the PCB-soaked patches coming out of my old Mauser's barrel.

They were so blue and filthy I got really, really excited.

The rifle was well used when I bought it, supremely accurate with the right handload but unimpressive with all the factory ammo I've tried. I looked inside with my bore scope and saw black-as-black lands with glittering golden grooves. The bore was caked with carbon and copper buildups. I've since tried all sorts of solvents and cleaners with only minor improvement.

But with Pro-Tactical PCB I saw dramatic and quick improvement. Within an hour,

using a bronze brush as well as patches, the PCB bore cleaner had stripped all the copper out except a handful of stubborn deposits. The black of burnt carbon was retreating down the barrel, too. Taking the plunge, I soaked the bore overnight and was rewarded with the bluest patch I've ever seen in my life, plus a noticeably cleaner barrel.

I'm going to keep working at it and I'm confident it'll be all shiny chrome again pretty soon.

In other words, this PCB

cleaner stands out above others and I am impressed. And it's made in Australia. At \$19 for a 125mL bottle it's competitively priced — in fact, it's good value in terms of the effect you get for the dollar.

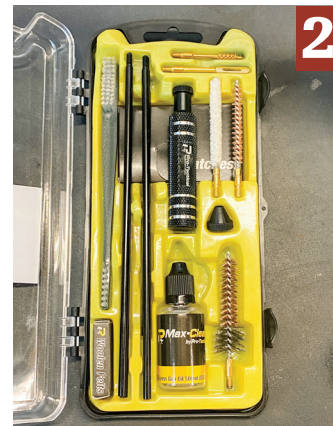
PCB is a cleaner, not an oil or rust treatment. After using it, you should run a metho-soaked patch through to clean out the last of the PCB and then apply some gun oil. PCB left no stains on my stocks or anything, and nor did it do

any apparently harm when I left it in that barrel overnight.

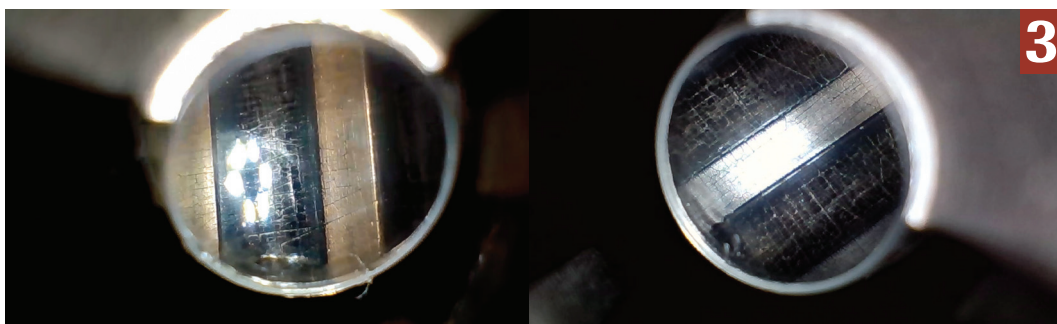
I used it in other barrels — barrels that are inherently clean — and the PCB stripped more fouling out of some than I'd like to admit. I've seen enough to convince myself to switch to PCB.

PCB is the headline act in Pro-Tactical's gun-care range but some of the other items deserve comment.

Pro-Tactical's Max-Clean Super Vice has weight to it







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— 3.7kg — which is a good thing as it stays in place on your bench. I’ve used lighter gun vices and don’t like the way you have to hang on to them when you’re pushing a tight patch through a barrel.

Several weeks of dripping solvent and oils onto the polymer surfaces hasn’t scarred it.

It’s a \$159 gun vice and it’s the thing that completes a proper workbench setup because it makes all your firearm maintenance tasks that much easier. Just drop the firearm in, swing the adjustable vice closed to hold the gun in place and you’ve got a stable, practical platform to work on.

There are several storage bins to hold everything from oil bottles to scope-ring screws as you’re working, and a special notched edge to sit your cleaning rod in where it’s handy but not in the way. All the surfaces that make contact with your gun are softer rubber that won’t leave marks.

Of course, Pro-Tactical’s

Super Vice is not unique but it follows a tried and prove pattern that’s hard to beat. With the weight built into this version, it’s a good one.

The \$59 Max-Clean Ultimate Bore Guide is useful. Not only does it help guide your cleaning rod straight down the bore without rubbing on the sides of the breech or bore entrance, it has a useful design that allows you to put solvent or oil on a patch with the rod already in place to start its run. This prevents drips onto the stock or into the action and magazine well.

Hence it keeps everything cleaner and, if you are using a solvent that can cause damage, you’re less likely to do any harm to anything.

Pro-Tactical sent a roll of bore-cleaning cloth as well as a 1000 pack of .22-6mm patches. The latter works out at 3.9 cents per patch and they’re strong, absorbent and not prone to leaving lint behind, so I’ve embraced them.

The roll is marked with red stripes at .30-calibre intervals (about every 5cm) for convenience and you learn to adjust for other bore sizes. This cloth is very strong and lint-free, making it stand out from some similar rolls, though it’s hard to tear and prefers to be cut by scissors. It’s about 9m long and costs \$19.


The \$69 Max-Clean 17-piece cleaning kit is another item that follows a familiar design but it includes one very good thing that many don’t: a chamber-cleaning brush. A dirty chamber causes all sorts of issues, from rust to stuck cases. Shooters without a chamber brush can never give their rifles a proper clean.

This kit also has a good alloy handle for the multi-piece rod that allows the rod to rotate independently, a nice touch.

The Pro-Tactical range also includes various rod attachments, a bore rope with inbuilt brush and a one-piece steel rod. All of it is good

quality at competitive pricing.

Pro-Tactical also distributes Parker Hale’s range of cleaning gear but that’s a review for another day.

I highly recommend the PCB bore cleaner, the Super Vice is worth having on your bench and the rest of the Pro-Tactical gun-care gear comes out of this test very well. 

*For more details check at your local gun shop or visit [protactical.com.au](http://protactical.com.au).*

## ON THIS SPREAD

**1** Essential item: the chamber brush attached to a short length of rod

**2** Max-Clean 17-piece cleaning kit is complete and good quality

**3** PCB before and after, with copper completely removed. The carbon is also coming out

**4** PCB draws out masses of copper, revealed as the blue stain on the patch