

# Take a Seat

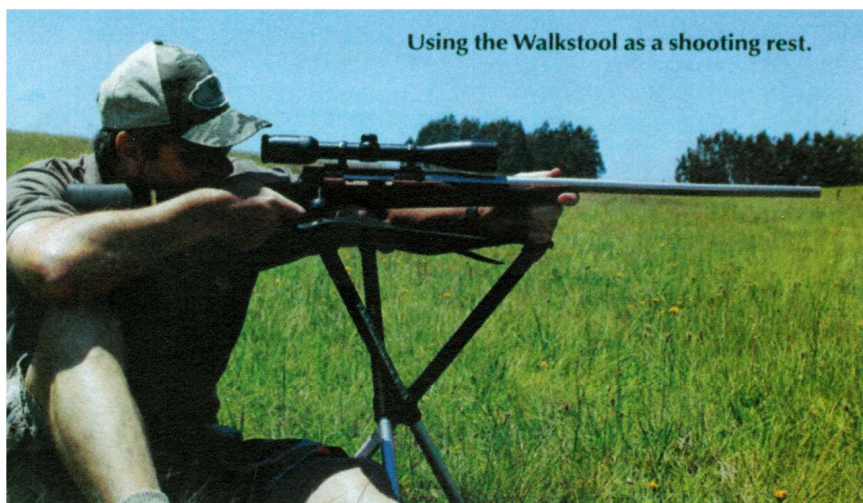
**M**odern hunters are spoiled for choice when it comes to shooting and hunting accessories. Ever-growing numbers of 'must have' products arrive on the market year after year including one I spotted on the range a few months ago – a handy three-legged stool, made of anodized aluminium and heavy-duty nylon mesh, with telescoping legs.

This 'Walkstool' as it is called was in use at a shooting competition. The owner told me that the stools, which come in different heights, are comfortable to sit on and make user-friendly field shooting rifle rests. Intrigued, I contacted the importers, Safari & Outdoor in Stellenbosch and they soon sent us three 'Comfort' models to try out.

The producers, Scandinavian Touch AB of Trangsund in Sweden, markets two ranges of their stool; the Comfort and the Basic: the heavy-duty 'Comfort' models are made in Sweden and come in four heights, 45, 55, 65 and 75cm. (Heights are given with legs extended.) Lighter, but still robust, the 'Basic' models are made in China and come in two heights.

Walkstools have two sitting positions; with the legs extended or without. To extend the legs pull each 'calf' all the way out of its 'thigh' – standard telescopic procedure – until it locks into position. The legs have large rubber feet to prevent them from sinking into sand, soft turf, etc. To close the legs down again, press each leg's release button (at the base of the frame) and push the leg all the way in. For normal use you extend the legs but if you need to be very close to the ground you can use your Walkstool with the legs closed – in which case the feet are so close together that it's like using a mono-pod – which is easy enough.

What sets these stools apart from ordinary 3-legged stools are their telescopic legs, robust construction, big, nylon mesh seats (40 to 60% bigger – the taller the stool the bigger the seat) and the fact that they are rated for heavy loads. The 45cm Comfort model is rated for 200kg, the 55cm for 225kg, and the 65 and 75cm models for 250kg each and they weigh, progressively 725g, 800g, 850g and



Using the Walkstool as a shooting rest.



Above: Walkstools come in four heights – I tested the 55cm, 65cm, and 75cm stools.

930g – light enough for belt-carry for which loops are provided. (The 'Basic' model is rated to carry 175kg.)

Such compact and lightweight stools are handy to have on many an occasion but, being a hunter, I was particularly interested in the Walkstool's potential as a field rest in open terrain where shots are mostly taken from the sitting or prone position. A lot of my hunting entails crawling over open plains or semi-open

Left: Walkstool can be used in different ways – with the 75cm stool, use the upper legs. Right: Using the stool as a rest upside down.





**The Walkstool folds up into a neat package that can hang conveniently from your belt.**

savannahs looking for plains species such as springbuck, blesbuck and gemsbuck.


Now, I always carry some sort of rest and often find them a bit of a schlep to carry and use (I rarely use bipods that attach to the rifle). With its sturdy Velcro fastener, the Walkstool folds into a neat package which, after a little practice, will ride comfortably on your belt while you walk or stalk. (The 55cm model for instance measures 35cm when closed.) And getting the stool into action is as quick as, and sometimes quicker than, using a standard tripod.

As the better-than-a-thousand-words photos show, there are various ways in which to use the Walkstool as a field rest. Most people will be able to shoot over the

seat of the 45 and 55cm models when sitting on their bums, but the 65 and 75cm models are too high for that – use the upper legs themselves instead of the seat (see photo). When using the seat, do not try to rest the rifle in its centre, because that's how to collapse or 'fold up' the stool – shoot off one corner of the seat only, or, support at least two corners of the seat as shown.

The Walkstool can also be used in the upside down position. With the lower models you may have to extend the legs but with the 75cm model that's seldom necessary.

I have tried the Walkstools on the shooting range and in the veld and I'm sold on them and have already bought the 55cm model for myself. For my purposes, I find this model very comfortable both to sit on and as a shooting rest. However, the more I use the 75cm stool the more I like it and I might just get that one too.

At R650 (45 and 55cm models), R700 (65cm model) and R800 (75cm model) the 'Comfort' Walkstools are pricy but consider what you get – a durable, high-quality stool and a handy field shooting rest. For more information on these lightweight Swedish Walkstools contact Safari & Outdoor on 086-111-4330. 

# SAVUTI

Oos Rand

Handelaars in vuurwapens en ammunisie

Winchester, No. 7, 28gr R750.00 Per Kas  
Shot Gun GB No. 7 R650.00 Per Kas  
.22 HV R350 Per 500

Jag Gewere  
Hand Wapens  
Wind Gewere  
Messe  
Afstand Meter  
Verkykers  
Jan Allerman  
Flitsligte  
Ammunisie  
Herlaai Toerusting  
Skoonmaak Toerusting  
Punte, Doppe  
Kruit & Slagdoppies  
Kamovleer drag  
Skoene

- Tel: 011-744-2539
- 546 Voortrekker Road Brakpan
- info@savutiarms.co.za
- www.savutiarms.co.za





### SHIRT

- 100% Polyester quick-dry breathable fabric
- Extendable long sleeves for extra sun protection
- Wider collar allows for extra sun protection
- 2 x front pockets with mesh detail
- Reverse vents with mesh detail

from **R440<sup>00</sup>** incl

### SHORTS

- Elasticated waist with draw-string and belt loop detail
- 2 x Side pockets
- 2 x utility pockets with mesh detail for quick water release
- Back pockets with zip detail for extra valuables

from **R320<sup>00</sup>** incl



### LEGIONNAIRES CAP

- Peak cap with removable neck veil
- Lightweight protection from the sun
- Easily detachable

from **R140<sup>00</sup>** incl



### ¾ SHORTS

- Elasticated waist with draw-string and belt loop detail
- 2 x Side pockets
- 2 x utility pockets with mesh detail for quick water release
- Back pockets with zip detail for extra valuables

from **R350<sup>00</sup>** incl

Both shorts and shirt are available from Small to 5XL.

Introducing Sniper Africa Fishing Gear with the latest advancements in fabric technology and added features for overall comfort and protection from Summer's elements, come rain or shine. With the holidays almost over and the new year rush about to begin, make any excuse to spend some time out on the water. And get rid of those torn T-shirts and old gym pants, because a serious fisherman deserves serious fishing gear. You deserve it.

**Sniper4LIFE Members get a 10% Discount on all Sniper Africa Fishing Gear at Participating Stockists**

93 Central Road, 1st Floor, Fordsburg, Johannesburg

• Tel: +27 11 834 1289 • Fax: +27 86 628 1361 • Email: sol@sniper africa.com • www.sniper africa.com