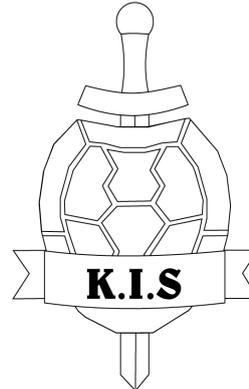


## **K.I.S - Review**

Nov. 2018



**K.I.S**  
**Tactical Defense &  
Weapon Handling UG**  
(haftungsbeschränkt)

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## **Crusader Plate Carrier CPC ROC**

from

### **Templars Gear**

We are very happy that companies value our experience and opinion.

Recently we talked to our cooperation partner "BEST-Protection" about plate carriers. Up to this time we had plate carriers from Lindnerhof in use and Chest Rigs from Tasmanian Tiger.

We are thankful to "BEST protection" for the suggestion to contact Templars Gear. We had a great opportunity to test their new Crusader Plate Carrier CPC ROC. Since we already were already impressed with the Templars Gear Tactical Belt PT2, we were pleased that Templars Gear agreed and provided us with plate carriers and various pouches. SK4 Stand Alone panels were provided by "BEST protection".

#### **Structure and description of the Crusader CPC ROC:**

On the day of that package had arrived, I did not have much time. The plate carriers have been delivered in their four individual parts. Although I only wanted to take a look in the box, I was suppressed and pleased that the plate carrier was put together in just a few moments. I was already thrilled. The assembly of my Linderhof plate carrier has taken some time due to the complicated quick release system, requiring to open and close Velcro panels.

The Crusader CPC ROC has a completely different quick release system compared to the Lindnerhof.

The Crusader CPC ROC has four quick-release buckles that allow for quick loading and unloading. The four quick-release connectors (ROC) connect the shoulder straps and the side panels to the front of the plate carrier. The side panels are connected with Velcro at

the back of the plate carrier and allowed an individual adjustment of the size, which gave us comfort.

The shoulder straps consist of two elements. One element is firmly connected to the front part and the other element to the rear part of the disc carrier. Both elements are connected by Velcro and allow here also a quick and individual adjustment. In addition; shoulder pads are attached to the shoulder straps, which are not as thick as other pads on other disc carriers. The shoulder pads are effective to prevent the two parts of the shoulder straps from accidentally opening and also provide more comfort.

I was pleased at the time saved in not having to use Velcro closures. I found that there is a more consistent seal and the plate carrier keeps its form. This is not always the case with plate carriers that have only velcro as a closure. Therefore, the snap closures of the Crusader have a high place in my sight. The longevity is excellent by the use of the quick-release buckles. With product that use Velcro there is always the question of longevity with consistent opening and closing.

The plates are inserted at the front, as well as from behind in the plate carrier and held securely by a Velcro.

The first impression was great. The material is very light and seemed very robust from the first impression. The Crusader CPC ROC is made of very light and extremely tear-resistant Mil-Spec Cordura 560 DEM laminate. Overall, the plate carrier is kept "slim" and is very comfortable to wear.

#### **Extra protection:**

The side panels are each an elastic "skeleton" cummerbund. This can be extended with additional side pockets for ballistic protection plates (sk4), which can be mounted on the inside. This makes it possible to equip the side parts with pouches outside and to use a ballistic protection inside. The additional pockets for the ballistic inserts are sold separately.

#### **Customisations:**

On the front and back of the Crusader CPC ROC has Laser Cut Molle. There are two concealed plug-in closures and Velcro, happy for the ability to customise using detachable front panels. At the back two zippers are incorporated to use a back panel.

In conjunction with the existing cable guides, which are located on the right and left of the plate carrier, a Camelbag can be used through a Back Panel or directly on the Crusader. We did not use the cable guides for the cable laying and carried our cables in the shoulder pads and under the Lasercut Molle on the back.

The use of a back panel provides the opportunity to tailor the equipment to different usage scenarios. Afterwards you only need to attach the required panel to the plate carrier. Therefore, you do not have to change the pouches on the plate carrier yourself.

#### **Extras;**

Rear, the Crusader CPC ROC has a salvage grip, which serves to rescue injured.

At the front of the chest there is a Velcro surface to attached patches. It would be desirable to have another Velcro surface on the back for similar purposes.

On the front panel 2 loops are attached on each side. Here you could possibly attach carabiners. Whether the loops are designed for this, we can not say. Other loops and eyes are not incorporated in the plate carrier.

A carrying bag and the side pockets for additional protective plates described above are not included. The additional side pockets can be purchased separately. A matching carrying case for the plate carrier, possibly in conjunction with a combat belt and a possible helmet would be desirable.

### **Ordering;**

The Crusader comes in different colors, we have it available in Ranger Green. To find the desirable colours available can be found at our cooperation partner "BEST protection". If the Crusader is in stock at "BEST protection", you can hold it in your hands about 2 to 3 days after ordering and payment. If it is not in stock, then the delivery takes about 3 weeks.

The Crusader CPC ROC was presented to K.I.S coaches.

### **Crusader Fast Release and lock**

**vs**

### **Lindhof's Single Use Quick Release:**

Since we were looking for an alternative to Velcro, as mentioned earlier, the quick release buckles at the first sightings caught our attention.

First of all, we would like to mention that we are of course aware that other manufacturers are also using more and more quick-release fasteners. The Templars Gear quick release buckles are, in our opinion, well thought out. Opening with one hand is very easy, even with wet gloves! Closing the closure with one hand is possible, but requires some practice to develop the muscle memory. The closures make a very robust impression.

### **What is the difference to the quick release?**

In the case of the quick release system, the individual elements, ie the side parts, the shoulder straps and the rear plate, are frequently held together in the rear part of the plate carrier by a plastic wire which is threaded through loops of the individual parts.

To release you pull this wire out of the system. Following that, individual parts no longer hold together and you can quickly "free" yourself from the plate carrier, thus quickly ejecting the plate carrier.

This can be vital to provide medical care to a wounded soldier more quickly. In addition, you do not need to pull the separated items over the head of the wounded, which is advantageous for neck or head injuries.

### ***"Unsafe zone.."***

These benefits are only given if the injured person is cared for in a safe zone. However, in an unsafe zone, it is often necessary to open the plate carrier only briefly to close the plate carrier again after the treatment of the injuries. This is not possible with the Lindhof quick release.

The new quick release of the Crusader CPC ROC combines both. First, you can quickly remove the plate carrier through the closures. To removal in an unsafe zone; you can

open the plate carrier briefly and quickly close again. In addition, only the front can be removed and nothing has to be pulled over the head of an injured person.

In practice:

The theory, but now we wanted to test the "parts" times. So we have everything "equipped" and we noticed something immediately that could be improved.

If equipment is attached at the bottom, as with us by using a front panel with 30 AR 15 magazine, then you can not use the upper Molle. Some of us, like myself, have additional pouches on the Linderhof plate carrier above the bottom mounted magazines in use (I wear there, for example, two handgun magazines). When we attached top gun magazines to the Crusader CPC ROC, we were unable to use the underlying AR 15 magazines. Now in the Linderhof plate carrier we have used curved plates and thought that the bulge allows the use of the lower AR 15 magazines. So we have consulted with "BEST protection" and got vaulted plates sent. Unfortunately this did not lead to the desired success. The arched panels were difficult to insert into the Crusader CPC ROC and the top row could not really be used even with the arched panels. At the upper Molle we could attach only limited amount of Pouches; we find this a pity because the use is a little bit lost. This could be an area for future improvement.

Now some will say that you can just put the necessary pouches in front of the magazines, so use a double row. That is basically correct. However, it depends again on the respective "order".

From our own experience and from comrades who serve in crisis areas, we know that as much equipment as possible has to be taken, as you can only use what you have.

A "double row" is often used there (nevertheless, the upper seat is given away). Units here at home in the Federal Republic of Germany, who are preparing to penetrate buses, trains or airplanes, try as little as possible to "apply". Here a double row would lead to a disability and one often gets stuck in a confined space.

Space is taken up by the quick fasteners. You lose right and left of the front panel a good 2 to 3 rows of Molle through the attached quick-release buckles. This allows you to get a little less gear at hand transport. Consequently one could try to use the existing upper Molle also. At least for the users who want that.

### **“But now for our training...”**

The Crusader CPC ROC is a great performer. What we find very good is that it always sits firmly on the body and yet does not restrict the wearer. Of course you will always remember a plate carrier, often the plates are too immobile and heavy, but there are also differences in plate carriers.

We demanded that the plate carrier in our tests for about 8 weeks, the usual. Shooting, mountains, carrying in the vehicle, Medic deposits, etc. The Crusader CPC ROC has gone through everything that was expected from Templar's Gear.

Even with prolonged lying or sitting (for example, in the vehicle) pushes nothing and keep the locks.

The Crusader CPC ROC scored high on the Medic deposits and preparation with quick release buckles.

Applying the Crusader takes about the same time as applying other plate carriers. We prefer the consistency in fitting with the Crusader CPC ROC quick release buckles in comparison to the plate carriers that use Velcro.. It has also been confirmed that the closures are robust. They did not give in or suffer damage.

The recovery handle on the back holds what he promises. Pulling a 80kg comrade was no problem for the handle, nothing was cracked or damaged. Even the pouches have held, the Lasercut Molle is not in or out.

With the Lasercut Molle you can use every common Molle equipment. Dirt could easily be cleaned with damp cloths. The material did not matter and the colors are not faded by it.

And if some of you are wondering if you are sweating with the "thing", we have to say, **"Yes, if you work properly, you will sweat."** This is the case with all plate carriers, at least no one is aware of that.

Conclusion:

The Crusader CPC ROC is an excellent plate carrier with a pointed quick release. It provides a realistic service to any team or individual using this equipment.

We at K.I.S Tac can only highly recommend. If a solution is found for the upper Molle series, that would be great. Also, the attachment of Velcro on the back panel would be beneficial.

In our opinion, the Crusader CPC ROC does not need to hide from comparison with other plate makers from reputable manufacturers.

K.I.S Tac Team.