

68Caliber.com

## REVIEWS

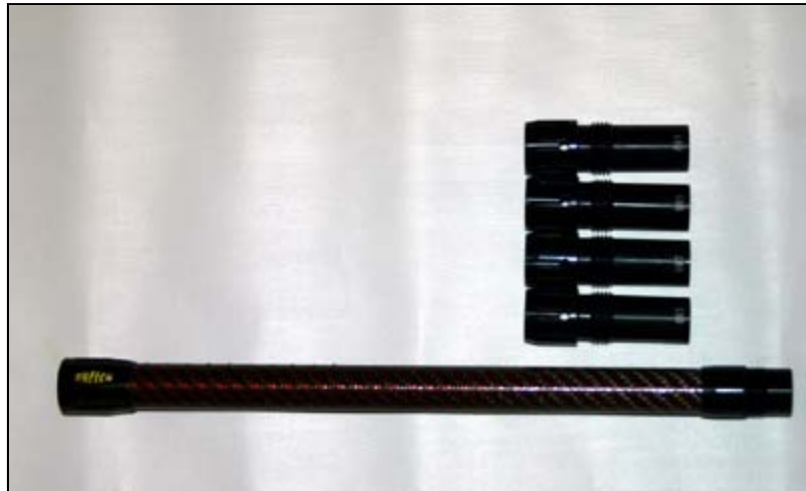
### The St!ffi Sw!tch kit

By Dale Ford

Jan 31, 2006, 20:49

SITE, Inc. is a relative newcomer to the paintball world, but their line of barrels has been well received by players. The St!ffi barrels boast of extreme light weight at 74 grams and superior accuracy, and for those who like the look of Carbon Fiber, great looks too.

SITE sent along a Sw!tch kit for review, in their newest color offerings, Mamba Blue and Mamba Red. The kit features short control bores that screw onto the tips to make a complete barrel. The kit



The St!ffi Switch Kit

comes in a carrying case so the tips and bores don't get damaged by bouncing around in your gear bag. The bores themselves are 3 inches long, which we felt were overly short, so much so that we thought the accuracy of the barrel would suffer for it.

The tip makes up the rest of the length of the barrel. It has aluminum sleeves over both ends of the carbon fiber tubing, with one end threaded to attach the tip to the bore, and the other sleeve forming a barrel brake over the end of the tip to protect the carbon fiber from damage during rough play. Once a bore was attached to the tip, the weight difference between it and a regular aluminum barrel was shocking. The St!ffi is an extremely light barrel!

During field testing, the St!ffi was used on an Angel G7 and a heavily modified Angel IR3. X.O. Industries Vein, Velocity, and Spectrum were shot through the barrel with exceptional results. The G7 in particular was very accurate with the St!ffi barrel, and the test crew commented on how there was a noticeable difference in the weight of the marker setup with the addition of the St!ffi barrel on the front of the marker. As would be expected, the high end Vein gave the best results, but the St!ffi really shined in its ability to make the mid- and lower-grade paints we used in this review shoot like higher end paint. With the IR3, the issue of barrel climb at high rates of fire was made worse by the light weight of the St!ffi, but with the lower pressure G7, there was little noticeable difference in barrel climb, due to the very low felt recoil of the G7.

The carbon fiber construction of the St!ffi barrel offers several advantages. First and foremost is the very light weight. For those looking to shave off every extra gram of weight, the St!ffi is THE barrel to



Test Crew Member Cory putting the Sw!tch through its paces  
match.

use. It also offers a zero co-efficient of thermal expansion, which means that the dimensions of the barrel don't change with varying temperatures. With fully metal barrels, the temperature can have an impact on the internal dimensions of the bore, because metals expand in the heat, and contract in the cold. That's why if your two-piece barrel is jammed together, you run cold water over it to make the metal contract and allow you to un-thread the two pieces. This expansion and contraction can also impact the actual bore size of the barrel to a small degree, which can have implications for your paint to barrel

With all these advantages there are also some disadvantages as well. When using a St!ffi barrel, you can't use a battle swab or straight shot squeegee to clear a barrel break. SITE only recommends using rubber or silicone squeegees to clean the barrel. This is to ensure that the inside of the tip doesn't get damaged. The St!ffi Switch Kit is also expensive, due to the high cost of Carbon Fiber and Kevlar. The MSRP for a St!ffi Switch kit, which includes a tip, 4 control bores, and the carrying case is \$209. If you want colors, which are currently limited to red or blue, the price goes to \$220.

All in all, the St!ffi Switch Kit is an expensive but very impressive piece of engineering brought to bear on the paintball industry. For those who shaving every gram of weight from their marker setup is important, the St!ffi Switch kit is an important part of the equation. As an added bonus, the perceived accuracy of this system is very impressive. For more information, check out [www.sitemfg.com](http://www.sitemfg.com)

© Copyright 1999 - 2006, 68Caliber.Com