

Understanding Soft Body Armor Plates & Inserts

Keywords: soft armor carrier, soft armor inserts, armor vest

The threat realities of the world are changing so drastically that security, police and army personnel now need latest body armor to protect them at any point in time.

Considerable development has taken place in the last 20 years in body armor technology and products like armor vest, soft armor carrier or soft armor inserts. From super-light soft body armor to plates and inserts, the technology of developing body armor is also progressing very fast keeping pace with the threat landscape.

The body armor, irrespective of armor vest, plates or soft armor inserts that you need, depends on the level of danger you may face, and your armor kit should be tailored to fit your purpose and mission.

Guessing that most of you who are reading this don't own any body armor and seriously considering to upgrade your self-defense preparation, here are some essentials that'll give you a fair understanding of body armor and plates.

Soft Body Armor

Lightweight and flexible, this armor is made up of synthetic materials like Spectra Shield made by Honeywell, Dyneema, Twaron, and Kevlar made by DuPont. Most of the cops wear this under their uniform.

This type of armor is tested and rated by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ). NIJ categorized armor of this kind as per the type of bullets they give protection against.

Level I-.22 LR / Level IIA-9mm to .40 S&W/ Level II- 9mm to .357 Magnum/Level IIIA- .357 SIG to .44 Magnum/ Level III- 7.62mm rifle rounds/Level IV-Armor-piercing .30-06.

Note that, these armor vests will give protection against pistol and shotgun bullets but not the rifle rounds.

Soft Body Armor Plates

Soft body armor plates are used to give protection against rifle threats. Typically these are designed to supplement soft armor (with a few exceptions where these act as standalones. Grey Ghost Gear company makes Level IV stand-alone plates).

Much like the soft armor, plates are also rated based on the rounds they can resist. Level III gives protection against rifle rounds, and Level IV withstands armor-piercing rifle rounds.

Different materials are used in making the plates, the most common being the ceramic and polyethylene and then wrapped in proprietary coverings. The inner component defeats the bullet, and the backing material keeps it inside the plate.

Carriers

The soft armor and plates must be worn in carriers, and most soft armor companies provide a polyester or cotton carrier with Velcro straps.

Soft armor carriers fall into two categories: The *full carriers* (which can carry both soft and plate carriers) and the *plate carriers*.

Points To Remember

- Carriers by themselves offer no protection at all; therefore keep your armor in the carrier.
- Carrier and armor need proper care. Follow the manufacturer's instructions to keep them in decent shape.
- Armors mostly have a life of 5 years based on wear and tear, general use and weather condition.
- Replace the armor if it has received a shot. Because, the impact weakens that spot and could fail if hit in the same place for the second time.
- Armors are bulletproof, not knife proof. In case if you need protection against a knife attack, you need to go for stab-resistant armor.

To conclude, educate yourself thoroughly on your real needs and dress exactly to meet those needs never taking any shortcut or compromising on wearing your armor.

Meta Title: All You Need To Know About Body Armor [37]

Meta Description: Super light armor vest, soft armor carrier, soft armor inserts make life of armor wearers easy. Understanding the essentials will help you research & buy the right one [167]