



In open country, lacking trees or other natural rifle rests, the Primos Gen 3 Trigger Stick enables confident long-distance shots.

Primos Jim Shockey Gen 3 Trigger Stick

by Don Caswell

Over the years I have had many missed opportunities for a shot at targets when hunting in scattered forest or grasslands. Without any trees or other terrain to rest my rifle on, I have been unwilling to take risky, unsupported long shots. With deer, I never minded much and figured I would find some more over in the next gully. But with wild dogs, it is a different story. Wild dogs present far fewer shot openings. It takes a lot of effort, some skill and a dash of luck to even see wild dogs, so every chance to shoot is treasured.

I have had good success from using the longer-legged bipods fixed to the rifle fore-end, but for more than half of any year, the grass is too deep even for those in the wet, far northern tropics where I hunt. Often, a standing shot is the only option. Shooting sticks were the obvious answer, but I could

not find any that offered the degree of convenience and functionality I was looking for. I even made a set of shooting sticks, but the ease and practicality were lacking.

I regularly searched the internet looking for inspiration and finally saw a couple of YouTube videos that caught my attention. Primos had recently released the improved third generation of its Jim Shockey Trigger Stick. This device comes in monopod, bipod and tripod formats, with long and short legged versions. Nioa is the importer of Primos gear and provided *Australian Hunter* with the opportunity to review this product.

I removed the Primos Jim Shockey Gen 3 long-legged Trigger Stick from its packing for assessment. It was of the tripod format and weighed 1.405kg, measuring 41" (104cm) long fully retracted. The ergonomic pistol grip and trigger mechanism worked a treat, better than I had expected. A one-handed

squeeze let the legs lengthen smoothly under their own weight. Likewise, a gentle push downwards and the legs retracted effortlessly. The effective shooting height ranges from 24" (60cm) to 62" (157cm).

This trigger stick features legs that can be splayed out to 45 degrees with a simple twist of the leg-locking bezel. This provides a lower and much more stable platform for sitting shots. The other great attribute of the Gen 3 shooting stick is how fast and easy it is to adapt to uneven terrain. Simply squeeze the trigger and push the pistol grip yoke to where you want it – the three legs individually lengthen, or shorten, as required to provide a rock-solid tripod, even on the roughest slope.

Above the pistol grip and trigger, there is a wide yoke to hold the fore-end of a rifle. It has a ridged, rubber texture that grasps the stock nicely, without slipping. The yoke base

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rotates smoothly, providing 360 degrees panning for the rifle – or camera. The rifle yoke is readily detachable at the press of a button and a camera plate can be snapped into its place. This allows the tripod to be used for cameras, video, spotting scopes and the like. That is a particularly appealing feature for me as it means I can now leave my camera tripod at home. A minor issue I encountered in attaching my camera was the need to insert a small washer to ensure that

the holding screw held the camera tightly on the plate, but that was a quick and simple fix.

The Primos Jim Shockey Gen 3 Trigger Stick is rated to carry about 16kg. Primos do stress that the trigger stick should not be used as a walking stick. The firm also advises a little care and attention after each field outing. The legs are close fitting telescopic, and a build-up of mud or grit could cause

problems in the fine tolerance, moving fit.

Primos provides a one-year warranty for defects in materials and workmanship. The Australian retail price is from around \$220. For the hunting applications I use it in, the Primos Jim Shockey Gen 3 Trigger Stick, with its ergonomic design and smooth functionality, is the pick of the litter and reasonably priced to boot. ■

