

**So here is a neat discovery for tactical gear.**

**Problem:**

**I was posed with the problem of individualizing different modules for different operations in a way that they would take up the least amount of space, be easily deployed, be durable and waterproof.**

**Solution one:**

**I've been using Ziplock® type bags for years and they're great for sorting my gear out into different modules. Unfortunately, Ziplock® type storage bags tend to fall apart with abuse. They're just not designed for to the punishment I dish out. The other problem was that I really have to take care and squeeze all the air I could out of these bags, otherwise they just take up lots of dead space. Is there a better way?**

**Solution two:**

**So, my wife got one of those FoodSaver® Appliances. She got the VAC 550 model down at our local Costco. I saw her packaging food and figured this would work great with my Tactical Medic Stuff. Much to my surprise, it worked even better than I had anticipated and they don't fall apart. I've put together all sorts of modular kits that stay sterile or clean and are ready for use whenever I need them.**

**I have IV Start Kits, Surgical Trays, Suture trays, etc.**

**My narcotics and other controlled substances can go into a sealed bag that is dated and it is clearly tamperproof. I don't need to buy a fancy box or fancy tamper tags for this application either.**

**I spoke to Tilia, the manufacturer of the FoodSaver® Vacuum Sealers and they sent us a few of these units to put through the wringer to see how they work on Tactical Medical gear. See the test below.**

**If you have one at home, try it on your gear and give us some feedback on how you think it works vs. what you're doing now.**

**Post your experience on the message board.**

**Dan-O**

## Vacuum Packager Product Test

### FoodSaver® Professional II (Pictured right)



The FoodSaver® vacuums have been working great for the SWATDoctor team.

We've been using them in a variety of ways.

- To keep equipment dry
- Pack spare BDU's and other clothes to keep them uncontaminated, fresh and clean
- Seal our narcotics so they're tamper proof
- IV start kits
- Surgical Trays
- Treatment modules
- Personal first aid kits
- We're thinking of new ways to use the units all the time
- The sealed bags really hold up to extremes of heat and cold as well

We really like the features of the Professional II because you can control the seal temperature and how much air gets sucked out when you're sealing the bag. This is good for when you are making surgical trays and IV start kits. We had some problems with breakage of the IV catheters with the original Vac 500. No problems with this control feature.

### **Durability**

The units are just plain durable. Dan hunts and fishes as well, so he's been using it to package meat and fish. He has put his through a beating and it still seals Tactical equipment without any problems. We transport them in our vehicles and seal equipment all over the place. The units are not just kept in our kitchens. None of them have been submitted to a drop test (deliberately or accidentally), and we don't advise doing it to your unit. For general use, however, they have held up fine.

### **Conclusion**

The bottom line is we're all very happy with the Professional II and highly recommend it. It's worth the price. Our wives like them too. The only real problems we have had with these units are figuring out where our wives have hidden them from us. Vacuum packaging tactical medical gear is really the way to go. I'll never go back to Ziplock® bags!

Sorry Ziplock®.

**We're preparing an article for publication and we'll give you the upcoming reference when we get the official publication date.**