

Dragon SkinTM - FAQ's

Isn't Dragon Skin Susceptible to heat that effects the placement of the tiles?

In 2006 Dragon Skin made by Pinnacle Armor in Fresno, California, manufactured 30 units for First Article Testing (FAT), and unfortunately the management of Pinnacle failed to observe the environmental conditioning protocol, and the tiles moved because of heat and were no longer in the places where you expect the armor to work.

The solution was a 20 minute decision to use a higher temp adhesive for coating the aramid fabric and sealing the armor in a liquid proof cover to prevent water or other petroleum distillates from compromising the flexible rifle defeating armor. Since that time Pinnacle passed in a second go around in their bid to sell Dragon Skin to the big army in 2008. However, again Pinnacle was unsuccessful because they failed to make the item modular and scalable, but the ballistic issues that were cited in 2006 are ancient history.

Ok, so why should I buy Dragon Skin over a hard plate?

Simply put, we don't make Dragon Skin in a plate format because of it's cost. Each individual discus tile is encased, and to make the armor better than last decade we are using the best anti-ballistic textiles and components money can buy. So, it is lighter than the last decade, but still costly, and thus Dragon Skin excels as a means to address gapless coverage of the torso, not just a 10 x 12 plate coverage as you can buy many plates that are lighter and more affordable that will defeat the rounds required, they just don't cover much of the torso.

So SAS makes Hexar, whats the difference between Dragon and Hexar?

That's a great question, Dragon Skin was the owners first foray into flexible rifle armor, and when he came back to the industry to start up Stealth Armor he wanted to do something different. Hexar was the new IP, and was introduced to the market in 2014 and a patent was issued on that technology. It's a technology that aligns butt to butt tiles in a certain ratio adhered to a rebounding substrate and high strength textiles backing the tiles. Dragon Skin is a technology where round discus tiles thicker in the middle than the edge, are then they are laid out in overlapping tile arrays and secondary rows then overlap the last preceding row, this is commonly referred to as an imbricated pattern.

Both technologies work and both have advantages over the other. For example Dragon Skin will produce better BFT (Blunt Force Trauma) protection because most of the time the bullet strikes the 2 and 3 overlapping tile areas, and even when it hits a single layer area it's still pretty good.

Hexar is still lighter and thinner than Dragon Skin and cost/performance evaluation favors Hexar.

Dragon Skin can address Level 4 and 4+ better than Hexar, although Hexar can address those threats, the weight and thickness advantage Hexar has in threat level 3 diminishes in threat level 4.

Is there anything better for threat level 4 or 4+ than Dragon Skin?

No, when it comes to these big boy rounds like the M993, the Lapua .308 AP D492, and the 7.62 x 54 B-32, so long as the issues of tile adhesion and temperature threshold of the adhesive is addressed, and it's designed to be modular & scalable, nothing currently is better. **Dragon Skin in Level 4+ is the king of all body armor**, and it's made right by Stealth Armor Systems and the inventor who started it all back in 1994!