

# Otter BOX

## 1000 & 1600

**MANUFACTURER:**  
**ORIGIN:**  
**COST:**  
**WEIGHT**  
**EXT DIMENSIONS:**  
**INT DIMENSIONS:**

**Otter Box**  
USA  
\$11.50 (1000)      \$29.95 (1600/magnet)  
130g / .29 lbs (1000)      400g / .88 lbs (1600)  
4.837 x 3.682 x 1.652" (exc magnet)  
4.003 x 2.488 x 1.293"  
Magnet Adds 3/8" to depth of case

Having previously looked at the Otter Box 3500 and 6010 we were impressed with the quality as well their range of sizes which offered excellent intermediate choices to their closest rival Peli-which is more widely known in the emergency services community. OtterBox offers some very specialist cases particularly for specific PDA, IPOD and GPS units. But it was the seemingly odd addition to their diminutive 1000 case of a magnetic mount that caught our attention for this review. The smallest case in their range is the updated Model 1000, indeed this is the smallest case we have found in any range! There has been a slight increase in size and design from last year's 1000 model which was a little thinner and a few grams lighter by virtue of not having the wider 'webbing' eye you can see next to the lanyard eye. The slight increase in dimensions can be seen in the comparative picture (below-right) which also shows the smallest Peli-microcase (top). The addition of a magnet and foam changes the 1000 to a 1600.

### CONSTRUCTION:

Available in 7 colours (Clear, Yellow, Blue, Black) and Clear lid with a coloured base (Yellow, Blue, Black) the 1000/1600 is a tough resin case reinforced with a sturdy lattice across all surfaces. This is much more substantial than the earlier 1000 model and is another reason for the increased bulk of the newest version. The Latch is a full 1/4" wider than before and has a lockable eye (for a small padlock) on one side. Where once there was just a lanyard eye there is now a belt loop as well as a separate lanyard eye. The lanyard itself is about 16" long and terminated with a removable plastic tab. The rather ungainly looking 1600 (MagMount) version has a powerful 3" diameter magnet housed in a stainless steel 'cup' bolted through the bottom section of the case. This is covered by a thin foam pad which reduces the internal volume to the same as the previous (smaller) 1000 model.

### IN ACTION

The Otter Box 1000 now houses our lightweight digi-camera, a Casio Exilim 7.2 mp and it will easily accommodate a whole host of modern digital cameras. Otter themselves recommend storing keys, mobile phone, small PDA etc but with micro-technology marching on there will be more and more previously oversized items that will fit this smallest of waterproof cases. The new design is a little bulkier than last years model (even without the magnet!) but there is no doubt that the improvements are tangible - the latch is easier to open and close, the belt loop/webbing eye makes it easier to stow and transport and the ability to lock the case is a good option although we've never felt the need since the case is so small it would be easy for a thief to steal the whole thing! The standard case is indeed waterproof but what about a case that has a large bolt drilled through it? Well, it's watertight in the face of heavy rain but most certainly is NOT submersible. However, if you disassemble the magnet and add a small blob of silicon sealant to both sides of the bolt before retightening you'll be able to submerge to at least 12" for an hour (our test depth & time). Which brings us to the bolt itself.....it's a dome-head bolt that sits proud of the bottom of the case. This is OK when you've got the foam pad in place but if, like us, you need to remove that in order to gain sufficient space to get your precious item in then the bolt is a problem. Remember, without the foam pad you have no shock absorbency so the bolt will crack your PDA or camera



screen and dent your Ipod (if you're too frugal to buy Otter's dedicated Ipod housing!) and we think a counter-sunk flat head would have been preferable. This may cause a weakening of the case material since a cone of plastic is removed but because of the small size of case it would be negligible. So what about that huge magnet....what's the point? The point is, it will stick to any metal surface like a

limpet mine and you will never again be at a loss for somewhere to put it when not in use - that's providing you're in a metal vehicle or on a metal boat! Ours remained firmly clamped to the roof of a response vehicle at 60 miles an hour (since it had a camera inside we didn't push it further!). This magnet really is quite powerful and you'll need to remove it by pulling at one edge because you'll struggle to pull it at right angles to the magnet. This is one of those things that you will find many uses for the longer you own it. The magnet is easily removed and you can seal it yourself though it's a shame Otter don't provide a dedicated sealing option. The 1000 case is a brilliant little storage option when you require something watertight and shockproof. Add the magnet and you triple its weight and lose complete water resistance but it becomes versatile in a different way - expect to see the ship painters with their Otter-encased phones close at hand and a fire-truck at an incident bristling with the crews precious items as they disappear into the smoke! Excellent value.

Contact Otter via [www.otterbox.com](http://www.otterbox.com)