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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adept Armor Introduces Two New Rifle Plates, Rebuilding Its Lineup Around Mission Roles

Emperor is now the lightest Level IV plate in its class, delivering full-coverage RF3 protection at 4.55 pounds, while Archon Mark 2 brings Adept Armor's new Quatroid ceramic to the high-threat, performance-value center of the range at 5.2 pounds and \$588.



Denison, Texas (September 2026) – [Adept Armor](http://www.ade.pt), developer of next-generation armor materials and plates, has rebuilt its [rifle-armor lineup](#) around the way plates are actually chosen in the field: by balancing protection, weight, thickness, durability, equipment fit, and cost, rather than ranking every plate from good to better or best.

The revamped range is led by two new plates that attack the weight problem from opposite ends of the price range. [Emperor](#), the company's weight-focused flagship, delivers RF3-class (Level IV) protection in a 10-by-12-inch plate that weighs about 4.55 pounds and is 1.01 inches thick. It is the lightest 10-by-12-inch Level IV plate on the market. [Archon Mark 2](#) sits at the high-threat, performance-value center of the range: about 5.2 pounds, 1 inch thick, and priced at \$588.

Emperor is built for users for whom every pound of carried armor justifies premium materials and premium cost. Archon Mark 2 targets the far larger group seeking a strong balance of advanced rifle protection, low weight, thin profile, and acquisition cost.

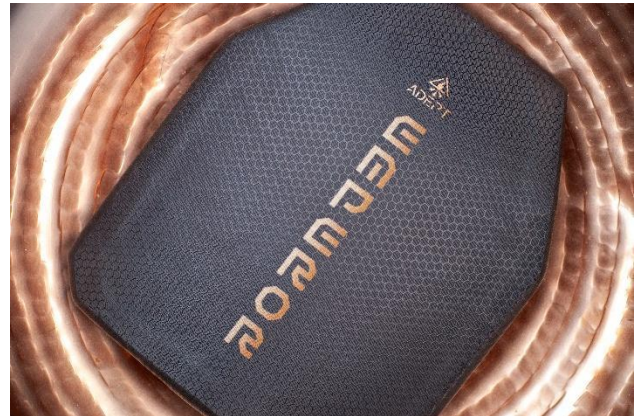
“Body armor is not a ladder where the last rung is automatically the right answer for everyone,” said Jake Ganor, Adept Armor founder and CEO. “A user who needs the lowest possible carried mass, a user optimizing cost and protection, and a user facing a different threat environment can rationally choose different plates.”

Emperor: RF3 Protection When Every Ounce Matters

Armor imposes a cost every minute it is worn, whether or not the wearer ever takes a hit. Emperor was developed for applications where reducing that continuous burden is itself an operational requirement.

A front-and-back pair of 10-by-12-inch Emperor plates runs roughly 9.1 pounds, placing RF3-class rifle protection in a weight range more commonly associated with lower-protection armor.

The plate uses Adept Armor’s titanium-modified boron-carbide ceramic system. Independent testing at Energetic Test Labs (ETL) in Phoenix recorded defeat of .30-06 M2 armor-piercing ammunition at 2,914 ft/s, with 22.83 mm of backface deformation, well below the 44 mm limit used by NIJ 0101.07. Emperor is priced at \$1,480 per plate and is in production and shipping now.



“You may never take a rifle hit, but you carry every ounce of armor for every minute you wear it,” Ganor said. “Emperor is for the cases where 10 or 20 ounces is not an abstract specification; it changes endurance, mobility, heat load, or how much other equipment the user can carry.”

Archon Mark 2: The High-Threat Sweet Spot

Archon Mark 2 takes a different approach. Rather than chase the lowest possible weight regardless of cost, it is engineered around the combination buyers actually live with: threat capability, mass, thickness, durability, and price. The second-generation plate weighs about 5.2 pounds in the 10-by-12-inch size, roughly half a pound lighter than the previous Archon, while holding a 1-inch profile. At \$588,

it sits well below four-figure ultralight armor while remaining remarkably light for its price and protective rating.

The principal change is inside the plate. Archon Mark 2 swaps the previous ceramic architecture for Quatroid™, Adept Armor’s new low-density quaternary armor ceramic, developed to capture the weight efficiency of premium armor ceramics at a far more practical cost.



That makes Archon Mark 2 the plate Adept Armor expects to fit the broadest group of users seeking advanced rifle protection: light enough to ease the burden of a full armor load, thin enough to integrate cleanly with modern carriers, and priced for far wider adoption than an ultralight flagship.

“Emperor answers the question, ‘How light can we make serious armor-piercing rifle protection?’ Archon answers the question, ‘What should I actually buy for the strongest overall balance?’” Ganor said. “Those are different engineering problems, and they should produce different products.”

One Lineup, Clear Roles

Emperor and Archon Mark 2 sit within a broader rifle-armor range organized around distinct protection problems rather than overlapping catalog positions:

- [Thunder](#) – the lightweight RF2 option and practical default when the mission does not demand a heavier threat envelope.
- **Mantis Mark 2** – a ceramic-free, enhanced-threat architecture built on a fundamentally different approach to rifle and high-velocity fragmentation protection.
- [Emperor](#) – the lightest Level IV plate in its class, for users who place exceptional value on cutting carried mass.
- [Archon Mark 2](#) – the 5.2-pound, \$588 plate at the high-threat center of the range.
- [Colossus](#) – the maximum-duty endpoint for rifle threats beyond the reach of conventional RF3 armor.

BULLETFOAM	THUNDER	MANTIS	EMPEROR	ARCHON	COLOSSUS
					
▪ 0.54 lb per panel ▪ 13 mm / 0.51 ▪ IIIA-class handgun, standalone; 17-gr FSP V50 1,385 ft/s ▪ Trauma pad · standalone insert · maritime · staging · bag · vehicle	▪ 3.50 lb ▪ 1.1 ▪ RF2 / Level III+ ▪ The practical default lightweight rifle plate	▪ 5.2 lb ▪ 1.44 ▪ RF2+ enhanced-threat; M855A1 capable ▪ Ceramic-free hard-use specialist	▪ 4.55 lb ▪ 1.01 ▪ Level IV / RF3; 22.83 mm M2 AP BFD ▪ Ultralight flagship built for minimum carried mass	▪ ~5.2 lb ▪ ~1 ▪ Level IV+ / RF3+ ▪ The modern military-threat workhorse	▪ 6.55 lb ▪ 1.18 ▪ Level IV++ / beyond RF3 ▪ Maximum-duty apex for the heaviest rifle threats

Engineering Around the User, Not the Catalog

The updated lineup reflects Adept Armor’s broader materials approach. Rather than force one strike-face technology across every protection level, the company uses materially different architectures where they deliver a measurable advantage, from advanced ceramics to titanium and UHMWPE-based systems.

“Most of this industry starts with a plate specification and works backward from whatever materials are readily available,” Ganor said. “We would rather start a generation earlier, at the material, and build the plate that best fits the actual job.”

That materials-led approach extends beyond rifle armor. Adept Armor is developing BulletFoam™ as a flexible ballistic component platform for integration into padding, packs, carriers, and other protective equipment, with selected direct applications and OEM programs under development. BulletFoam will be covered in a separate announcement.



Detailed technical announcements covering Quatroid and Mantis Mark 2 will also follow separately. Current specifications, availability, and product comparisons are published at ade.pt.

For more information on Adept Armor, visit [its website](https://ade.pt) or follow along on [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#).

About Adept Armor:

Adept Armor develops advanced personal protection systems through Adept Technologies Corp. in Denison, Texas, and Maribor, Slovenia. Its work spans rifle armor, helmets, ballistic ceramics, UHMWPE composites, titanium armor systems, and other protective materials for professional, civilian, and OEM applications.

Adept Armor also partners with other companies seeking to integrate advanced lightweight materials into armor systems and collaborates with research laboratories investigating ballistic impact and related phenomena. For more information, visit www.ade.pt or contact Adept Armor directly.

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