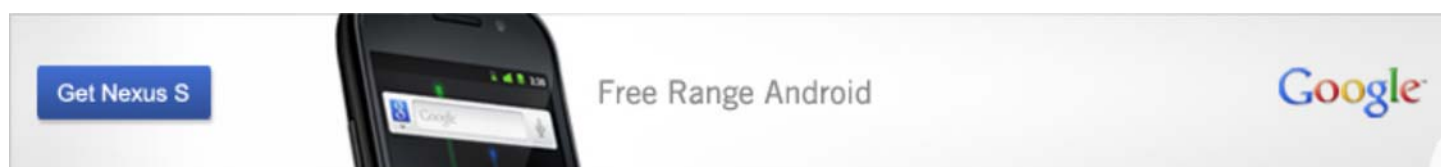


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An advertisement banner for the Google Nexus S. On the left is a blue button with the text "Get Nexus S". In the center is a photograph of the Nexus S smartphone. To the right of the phone, the text "Free Range Android" is displayed. On the far right is the Google logo.[Advertise on NYTimes.com](#)**Gadgetwise****Getting Smart About Personal Technology**

March 22, 2011, 6:11 pm

A Militarily Tough iPhone Case — Sort Of

By [ROY FURCHGOTT](#)

You have to be one serious klutz to need the [Ballistic](#) HC iPhone case. This chunky Humvee of a case encloses the iPhone in a hard shell that includes a clear screen cover, which is then wrapped in a silicon bumper, which is then inserted into a hard holster.



The HC case from Ballistic wraps an iPhone in an hard case, a silicon bumper, and a hard holster.

The manufacturer said the case is tested to military specifications. That is an ambiguous claim. There are military specifications for dozens of aspects of a product, from susceptibility to solar radiation to damage from gunfire vibration, with specific test procedures for each. So a consumer product that claims to be “Mil-Spec”

need only have passed one test—say, resistance to fungus.

Ballistic said that is not the case with its case. It said the HC (for Hard Core) was drop-tested from at least four feet, as well as tested against vibration, temperatures from 160 degrees Fahrenheit to minus 60, and humidity.

Of course, that only certifies that the \$50 case itself can survive those extremes. The company said it did try the case with a phone enclosed and that the phone survived unscathed.

The case seems solid, the fit and finish is good and the clear screen protector doesn't interfere with operation of the phone. But I'm not brave enough to confirm the tests with my own phone, nor quite clumsy enough to find out unintentionally.

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