

Good Glass for Long Range



Mike Beal testing the Burris Eliminator III.

You've got to see them clearly to hit them cleanly. There is no debating that good optics are necessary for good hunting. Great optics are necessary for long range hunting. The ever increasing exposure of the accomplishments of military snipers in the news, books and movies has prompted a surge of participation in long range target shooting.

That in turn has upped the interest in the ability to take game at longer ranges. Until recently most high end tactical scopes have been very expensive. Yes, cost is a factor, so I will join the long list of writers who advise, "Buy the best you can afford." That being repeated let us look at some recent offerings that are making these efforts more affordable.

Bushnell enters the long range hunting scope arena with the new Elite Long Range Hunting Scope or LRHS. This 3-12x 44mm configuration, the inaugural offering in the Elite Tactical Hunter product line, integrates the technology and functions of their Elite Tactical series in a scope designed specifically for the long range hunter.

The LRHS is the first hunting rifle-scope Bushnell has offered with a first

focal plane reticle. The new G2H milliradian-based reticle is designed to give hunters the ability to range targets at any magnification setting. The G2H reticle has .5 mil hash marks with eight mils of holdover and six mils of windage adjustment. In addition, the center of the reticle features a Vital Bracket that has a diameter of two Mil at any range, equivalent to 7.2" at 100 yards.

The forged aluminum one-piece 30mm tube is 13 inches long and weighs

26 ounces. The tactical-style turrets are calibrated in .1 mil clicks with 10 mils of adjustment per revolution. Simply put these smaller increments of adjustment make for a more precise zero.

The RevLimiter zero stop mechanism allows the hunter to "dial up" and then quickly return to the preset zero without the possibility of going past zero. In addition, the scope features a rubber-armored fast focus eyepiece and side parallax adjustment to retain a crisp, clear sight picture at any range.

Guaranteed 100 percent waterproof and fog proof their RainGuard HD water-resistant coating offers a permanent exterior barrier against the elements. When water hits these lenses it simply beads up and they will not fog. I've used scopes for years with RainGuard and it works. The Elite LRHS has a window sticker of \$1499.99.

Burris says their new The Eliminator III Laserscope in 4 by 16 by 50mm is the most advanced riflescope on the planet. It is designed to see, range and hit targets out to 1,200+ yards. Trajectory compensation is calculated for your favorite cartridge.

The X96 reticle is accurate at any magnification, and provides a simple method for calculating wind hold-off. You program the Eliminator with your specific ammunition data and it will automatically calculate exact bullet drop, giving you a simple illuminated point of aim. Plus,



The Bushnell LRHS Elite Scope.



The Bushnell G-Force DX Laser Rangefinder.

there is a built-in inclinometer that adjusts for difficult uphill and downhill shots.

Burris provides a comprehensive cartridge list that provides a drop number and ballistic coefficient for your specific cartridge.

Enter this information and your sight-in distance and the scope will calculate aiming points based on your cartridge. To range your target, place the crosshair on target and press either button on the objective bell to activate the laser rangefinder.

Here's the cool part. Instantly the Eliminator factors in the distance, the angle of the shot, and the ballistics of your cartridge or load, and presents a lighted dot for the perfect holdover. While wind compensation is not fully automated the reticle's digital display will show a 10 mph wind value for your specific cartridge at the indicated range to your target. This shows how many dots to hold for a 10 mph crosswind.

This acts as a guideline for selecting how many dots to hold into the wind based on your estimate. This is a big scope, but the integrated mounting system sits low.

I am not a long range target shooter so for testing I differed to my friend Mike Beal. Mike is a long range hole puncher, reloader and ballistic nut. The Eliminator was mounted on his customized ArmaLite AR-10.

His handload is a .308, 130 grain, Barnes Triple-Shock X-Bullet pushed by 47.2 grains of Varget powder to 2873 feet-per-second from the muzzle. After programming the Eliminator and with a 100-yard zero Mike achieved one inch groups at 100, 200 and 300 yards before running out of room.

The Burris Eliminator III Laser-Scope is a definite asset for confident and ethical shooting at longer distance. Prices found online range from \$1200 to \$1500. More information can be found at www.burrisoptics.com.

Accurate range estimation is a cornerstone of shooting well at longer distance. If you have a rifle scope combination you are comfortable with, then add a good range finder to your bag.

Bushnell's new G-Force DX laser range finder is built for speed using their second generation Extreme Speed Precision processor and enhanced Vivid Display Technology. Features include six power magnification and ranging capability out to 1,300 yards with 1/2-yard accuracy and 1/10 yard display precision from 5-125 yards and plus-or-minus one-yard accuracy beyond 125 yards.

The patented Angle Range Compensation accounts for both uphill and downhill terrain angles when calculating distance and provides true horizontal distance in bow mode and holdover in MOA, mils or inches in rifle mode.

Other features include four brightness levels, a machined metal housing covered in waterproof rubber armor and each lens is coated with RainGuard HD. Price is in the \$400 range and the G-Force DX laser may be viewed at www.bushnell.com.

Outstanding optics and rangefinders cannot do their job if you don't do yours. Take to the range to be sure of the performance of your chosen cartridge. For example, a .308 Winchester Power-Point Plus sighted 2-inches high at 100 yards will be dead on at 200 and 6.3 inches low at 300.

Read the manual and practice, practice, practice. **T&J**

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