

Rule the Night

The creatures of the night have a distinct advantage over mere humans in the area of night vision. We have compensated for our night blindness beginning with the discovery of fire to the present day marvels of million plus candlepower floodlights and sophisticated night vision devices.

The most economical and most simple way to beat the night is to have a buddy handle the big flood light while hunting. And while the really good night vision scopes are cost prohibitive there is more than one way to hunt and see a varmint at night.

First, when night hunting the prey needs to be first located and Bushnell has the right tools for that purpose with their lineup of Equinox Digital NightVision monoculars. My test version was the 4 power by 40mm. It delivered excellent image clarity and illumination and a field of view of ten yards and 100 yards, which is superb for picking out moving targets even with zero ambient light.



Find them with Bushnell's Equinox Digital NightVision.

The Equinox series is a big step forward in digital and Generation 1 night vision. The two digital models poke through the night very efficiently, offering the option of a traditional green view for dusk and dawn while some ambient light is available and white imaging for use in almost-dark to completely dark conditions.

Where increased depth perception is critical the Equinox delivers with fully multi-coated optics, a bright liquid crys-

tal display and an on demand infrared illuminator. The life of the 2 CR123 batteries is over six hours. A video output port allows connection to video or computer equipment for recording all the action. The works are contained in a rugged, water-resistant housing featuring integrated accessory rails. The Bushnell Equinox Digital NightVision models and the full line of night vision products may be viewed at www.bushnell.com.

Once the desired night stalker has been selected they need to be attached to the firearm. Accessory rails make it a breeze to attach any number of lights. Rails are commonly found on AR style rifles, but there are more options.

XS Sight Systems offers rails for the Ruger Gunsite, Marlin and Winchester lever action rifles and more. A simple addition from Brownells is their selection of scope accessory rails that allow the light of choice to be mounted on top of an existing scope. There are mounting brackets available for any number of good flashlights for the budget conscious and beyond. No company offers more illumination choices than SureFire.

SureFire are the pioneers of compact, high-intensity weapon lights and flashlights. Based on need one of their many flashlights can be chosen and then a visit to www.brownells.com will provide all the mounting hardware choices we could want.

Step up to their X-series of LED handgun/long gun weapons lights and there are solid accessory that can do double duty. In SureFire's Rifle Weapons Light section there are a wide range of choices, prices and accesso-



The innovative ND-3 from Laser Genetics.

ries from mounting hardware to remote switches. The top of the ladder has their Vertical Foregrip Weaponlights. These make for a very stable grip platform for AR type rifles and house either an incandescent or LED main light with up to 700 lumens of scorching brightness, plus dual LED navigation lights in either white, red, blue or infrared. They have both momentary and constant on switches and integral thumb screw or swing-lever clamps. The selection may be viewed and ordered at www.surefire.com.

One of the most versatile night hunting devices available is billed by the company as "The Ultimate Night Vision Solution" from Laser Genetics. The ND-3 Long Distance Laser Designator looks like a flashlight, but it is so much more.

The ND-3 uses patented technology to create true night vision and turns a scoped rifle into a varmint nightmare. They have combined a powerful, green laser diode and a precision optical col-



SureFire Vertical Foregrip Weaponlight.



The Hoginator 17 motion activated night light.

limator. The ND pairs with the scope and allows a bright beam of green laser light to be sent downrange to fully illuminate targets up to 250 yards. Rotating the collimator ring to minimum creates a bright micro beam of green laser light visible up to 3 miles and rotating the same collimator to a wider setting it

can be used as a light source for trudging or tracking.

Animal eyes are intensely illuminated by green laser light and clearly visible at extended distances when viewed through optics. This green light is more visible to the human eye in daylight than red lasers and this gives another benefit for daytime hunting.

For best results when hunting, pair the ND-3 with a high quality variable power scope having a 40mm or larger objective lens for better light transmission. The included mounting system for 1" tubes provides full adjustment for windage and elevation for scope alignment and it is very easy to set up and sight in. Just clamp it level on your scope, turn it on, sight on a target at the distance desired and adjust the ND to your crosshairs. Additional mounts for binocular, spotting scopes and weaver rails are included along with a momentary pressure switch and a CR123A battery.

The ND is machined from high end aluminum with a black matte anodized finish. It is o-ring sealed against dust and water, nitrogen charged for anti-fogging and the optical lenses are fully multi-

coated. The whole rig fits in a sturdy, sectioned, padded, zipper closing travel case. Visit www.lasergenetics.com.

Wild hog hunters now have an inexpensive practical tool with which to tackle those usually nocturnal critters. The Hoginator 17 is a motion activated, portable night hunting light. The waterproof light/motion sensor head sits atop a sturdy plastic stake that sticks easily into the ground with the attached foot peg. I put my test model inside a feeder area next to a tree so it was protected from projectiles launched from the stand. The sensor detects motion from out to 30 feet and within 180 degree arc. The light only comes on at night and when motion is detected.

When activated the light comes on for 30 seconds or stays on as long as motion is detected and illuminates 300 square feet. The Hoginator 17 uses 3 D-Cell batteries which should last about a year. With no switches, chargers or wiring to deal with the whole set up is super simple. This light is dandy for night hunting hogs and varmints that raid feeders and fun for night viewing deer. The Hoginator 17 is a bargain at \$ 69.95 from www.hoginator17.com. ★★