

Long Range Shooting -

There is a lot of interest in long range shooting - in response to that interest I've developed my Canyon model. Most guys are thinking 700-1000 yard range for "long range" shots. But even when you take a rifle that is designed for long range shooting - stock designed, rifle balanced, barrel contour - you are still faced with basically 2 choices on how to achieve the long range shots.

1st choice - Scope with multiple lines for distance and sometimes windage. Examples of this would be the Boone Crockett reticle from Leupold and the BR and BRX reticles from Swarovski. The advantages of using this type of scope is that it is quick and simple. The disadvantage is that the lines are set at a certain distance - say 250, 380, 425, 578... etc.

2nd choice - Dialing in. This involves actually adjusting the elevation and windage knobs on your scope. Examples of this would be a CDS target knob from Leupold and other target type knobs. The advantage of this - you can "dial in" to an exact yardage. The disadvantage of this is getting "lost" in the knob rotation. Some scope manufacturers offer a zero stop to address this situation. Importantly, in hunting situations - the target and range changes and the shooter forgets to change back the scope knob settings. A buck is ranged at 550 yards and you've changed your scope settings and before you take the shot, the buck gets on the move and is now at 300 yards - without changing your scope back, you will miss by shooting over that buck if your scope is still set for the 550 yard shot. This knob system works great for a set target and at a shooting range - but in hunting situations, these knobs are larger and can get bumped and knocked off zero.

Neither system replaces long range shooting practice. I had the chance to be a guest and tour the shooting facility at FTW Ranch in Barksdale, TX. They have 21 ranges with targets out to 1500 yards - set up for practicing both range shots and simulated hunting shots. The hunting shots are moving and include charging elephants! I also got to practice wind "doping" - much easier in theory than practice. I was taking a shot and figured a 4 moa wind - then took my shot. I hit the target - elevation perfect, but not where my wind calculation should have been. The lesson - the wind influenced at the target was not what the wind was doing where I stood. Practice and luck.

I've seen both scope systems work - it really comes down to the type of shooting you are doing, the type of hunting you plan, and which method you practice and become confident with.