

Compound Bow Rifle Sight

The advent of new 1/4 inch hunting peeps from Jim Fletcher Archery and Specialty Archery, L.L.C. this year is a reminder that hunters want it all. They want a rear sighting aid to help them maintain a consistent anchor point and to tighten their groups. At the same time, they don't want the restriction in viewing that smaller peeps necessarily entail, particularly the way they tend to darken the sight picture in low-light conditions.

An alternative approach to peeps is embodied by sights that build in a rear alignment aid like the model Melvin Deien invented and markets under the Compound Bow Rifle Sight brand name. Deien was 50 years old when he started working on the product. He'd already drilled out peep sights to brighten the sight picture, and he'd tried shooting with a kissers button instead of a peep. His first rifle sight was a crude affair fashioned from sheet metal with a flattened and filed thumb screw forming the V notch. Still, it helped him improve accuracy and eliminated the problems he had had shooting under low light conditions. Deien told ArrowTrade he continued to tinker with the product for nearly a decade, finally applying for a patent in 1999.

If you've only heard of this product in the last year, there's a reason for that. As Deien was getting ready to market it in 1999, he suffered a heart attack. A year later, the handicapped adult son he and his wife care for suffered a serious fall. The spinal cord injury meant he could no longer walk. Well-meaning folks said Deien and his wife could not provide the

24-hour care he'd need to stay at home, but they've proven them wrong. A couple years later life had settled into enough of a routine that Deien felt he could give the small business a second chance. A single ad in a bow magazine generated some sales, and it wasn't long after that that the first testimonials came in from satisfied users. They gave Deien the confidence to set up a schedule of sport shows and consumer advertising that this year includes Petersen's Bowhunting and Bowhunt America, as well as Inside Archery and ArrowTrade on the business side.

As sold today, the Compound Bow Rifle Sight "Peep Sight Eliminator" comes in two versions. The original has twin slots at front that you mount the existing sight to, and a single vertical slot at the rear that holds the square post for the rear sight. That post slides through

the slot to provide horizontal adjustment, and within the slot to give you vertical adjustment. Mounting one of these on a bow adds 3 ounces to the mass weight.

The 6 ounce Universal model we experimented with offers more leeway in how far from the riser you set the existing pin sight and the rear sight. Provided the shooter is steady enough to benefit from it, you can offer them a sighting plane up to 17 inches in length. While a hunter will probably choose a setting where the bow still slips within a case, a 3-D shooter may want it set all the way forward, removing the Rifle Sight and attached pin sight from the bow each time they need to case it. The recessed, chamfered mounting holes should bring it back to zero without any need of adjustments.

The 6-1/4 length of the Universal models gave Deien room to design in three sets of riser mounting holes, and five sets of sight mounting holes. Additionally, the T-Bar that holds the rear sight slides within the main bracket and is anchored in place by twin set screws. That gives you the option, for instance, of precisely locating the rear bar between the cables and string of a Mathews model that utilizes the Roller Guard, to give you the maximum rear positioning possible. On bows with conventional cable guards, instructions suggest a setting 1 inch in front of the cables, to prevent any contact and resultant noise at the shot.

Both Standard and Universal models utilize Truglo fiber optics flanking a V-notch rear sight, and provide a sight picture like the one at left when you combine them with a front

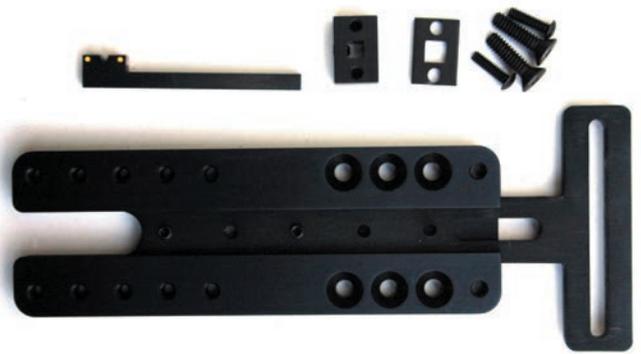


Part of the appeal of the Compound Bow Rifle Sight is that it allows your customer to continue using their favorite pin sight. Here the accuracy-enhancing peep sight substitute is paired with a Tru-Site Extreme Micro-Adjust sight from Truglo on the author's left-hand bow.

pin sight like this Truglo model. Like a small-aperture peep, the Rifle Sight requires the shooter to hold the bow in the same manner in order to be able to see the pins. Even a slight torquing of the grip will cause the rear sight to move off to the side and "hide" the pin you're trying to use.

If your customer has good form and is shooting a peep sight now, setting them up with a Rifle Sight is fairly straightforward. You can mount their existing sight on top of or below the bracket, whichever

On this Universal model, front and rear aim points can be adjusted in or out. The T-shaped bar holds the V-notch rear sight and slide adjusts within the main mounting bar. There are three sets of chamfered holes for mounting to the riser, five more for attaching the sight body.



gives the best view through the pin guard and the best centering of the pins in that sight picture. To check if

the rear sight is properly adjusted, have then come to full draw and then open their eyes to see if the V notch falls in line with their pins. Then remove the peep. And be aware that this rear sight addition has the effect of magnifying pin gaps. They'll need to reset their pins gaps, or at least learn that what was a 20-30-40 setting is now perhaps a 20-40-60.

Melvin Deien supplied ArrowTrade not only with a sight, but a booklet of testimonials. I'll quote from Doug Nelson of Breese, Illinois. "At 30 yards I'm knocking off my arrow nocks and constantly shooting holes in my fletching. I decided to move back to 45 and 50 yards and I'm holding a softball-size pattern but I know I'll get better. I'm very impressed with the consistent accuracy and the tight groups I shoot with your sight. Thanks for introducing your sight to me."

If you'd like to introduce some customers to this product, reach Melvin Deien at (618) 526-4427 or email him at deien@sbcglobal.net

Tim Dehn



Clamshell packaging and bright yellow backer cards hold the Compound Bow Rifle Sight and optional pin light.

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