



INSIGHT TECHNOLOGY

MINI RED DOT SIGHT

► BY ABNER MIRANDA

The first time I discussed using reflex optics on my rifle, a friend said, "Dude, that's an unfair advantage!"

I stared slack-jawed at him and replied, "You mean to tell me that you want a fair gunfight? There's no such thing!"

Don't get me wrong—I'm a firm believer in knowing how to work iron sights. Without the fundamentals of marksmanship, you are at the mercy of whichever optic you choose. Anyone who's done any amount of shooting knows that to get accurate hits, you must have proper sight alignment. That's hard enough to do on the static range and even harder to do when you're under fire and your heart is racing.

I already use Insight Technology's lights and know the company's reputation for quality. While searching their website, I ran across the Mini Red Dot Sight (MRDS) and requested a sample

for evaluation. Until that point, I'd tried everybody else's optics and had only found favor with the Aimpoint Micro T-1.

Insight Technology's MRDS is the newest acquisition into the DoD goody bag. The MRDS can give your top-heavy rifle a crew cut. With the Picatinny mount, it can clear your folded BUIS and is just tall enough to co-witness straight through should the need arise.

IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS

Along with other manufacturers, Insight Technology submitted products for testing to the DoD. After a fair amount of abuse during testing, the MRDS came out the victor. The MRDS was built to rugged military specs and designed with CQC in mind. This is why it's also an excellent optic for

LE use. It's lightweight, rugged and mounts to Picatinny and Weaver rails. It can also be piggy-backed onto ACOGs.

It's offered in a non-reflective black or tan finish with either a 3.5 MOA or 7.0 MOA dot size. Don't let those large, CQC-sized dots fool you. I've consistently hammered human-sized targets at 200 yards in the dark with one of these. The MRDS features an auto-adjusting dot intensity, but also offers the operator a manual dot intensity adjustment with four brightness settings to include an NVG compatible setting.

The MRDS is waterproof to 66 feet for two hours. It's been frozen in ice, drop tested, subjected to a 48-hour salt fog, tested to withstand vibration, submitted to extreme temperature shock and shot on a variety of firearms for tens of thousands of rounds. It has an operational temperature range of -40° to 120° F and passes the MIL-STD 810F environmental testing protocols.



You might think engaging man-sized targets at 200 yards would be difficult with a 3.5 MOA MRDS. But it proved relatively easy.



Insight Technology MRDS is extremely rugged. Single toggle pad at the rear is all that's needed to cycle optic through its four functions. This 3.5 MOA version has optional aluminum protective shield.

Transitioning from light to dark is effortless with self-adjusting MRDS. Dot adjusts without making user feel there is lag time between environments. MRDS excels at CQC, and shoot-house drills proved to be smoother than author's previous experiences with larger optics.

The MRDS is powered by a single 1632 battery that allows the unit to operate for one year in auto mode. The top-load battery compartment design means no loss of zero when changing batteries. It weighs just 0.85 ounces including battery.

CINDERBLOCK TEST

Upon initially receiving my MRDS, I decided to do some testing with it using an LWRCI 6.8mm PSD. That afternoon I was working with two guns, so the PSD was relegated to the end of the table while I worked with the first gun. I accidentally bumped the table and sent the PSD sliding over the side. I had just enough time to watch the very heavy and fully loaded PSD plow into the cinderblock I was using to square the table on the uneven ground. The PSD "cushioned" its fall with the MRDS. I remember thinking, "Death by concrete. This is gonna be ugly."

From the sound of the hit, I expected to see severe damage. I was surprised to find that not only was the PSD fine, but the MRDS was too. The MRDS had only the slightest little rub mark where it had ground across the cinderblock. To say I was impressed would be an understatement.

RAIN TEST

I ran an MRDS for the Tactical Rifle II and III courses at Tactical Defense Institute in Ohio. These fast-paced courses are high round and shot rain or shine. Guess what happened during Tac II? That's right, it rained—all weekend.

My MRDS got drenched repeatedly, and when the weapon was on its sling, the optic filled with water due to its slightly concave reticle. This proved to be inconsequential. As soon as I was given the command to engage, I would raise the weapon and the water just ran off the lens.

HOW DOES IT PERFORM?

With the MRDS, I'm able to get on target as fast as I can with other red-dot optics. I've been using this optic for the last 9,000 rounds on my .22-caliber training rifle, and have used it at two tactical rifle schools with no loss of zero while shooting 5.56mm.

It's an indisputable fact that red-dot optics are one of the reasons our troops are so deadly in combat. If you're squawking about not being able to hit your target, get an MRDS and hit the range—then we'll talk. ●

SOURCE

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