



The rearsight is the point of rotation for the rifle sights. It houses the iris and filters, but above all it is responsible for adjusting the point of impact. Vertical and horizontal corrections enable the line of sight to be aligned with the barrel of the rifle. Accuracy to within a fraction of a millimetre is essential, because over 300, 100, 50 and most of all at 10 metres, every tenth of a point counts. The real measure of quality of a rearsight is therefore its precision, or better said the reliability with which it makes the expected offsets in response to each of the dials on the adjustment screws. Equally important is the 'distance' which is moved with each dial. It needs to be fine enough to be able to still react to a 10,7.

A rearsight reveals its mechanical quality as soon as you come to fasten it to the dovetail on the action, but above all, when you click it. Clean and positive rearsight adjustment screws convey trustworthiness and the expectation of long life. Where rearsights were once large and clumsy, nowadays the top manufacturers are designing them to be as flat and compact as possible.

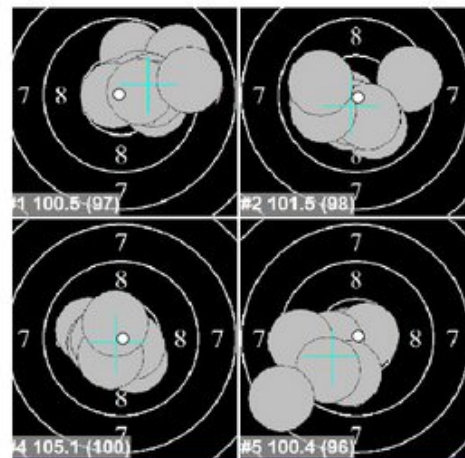


This helps the shooter get a better view of the target. In the standing position, this helps you to control your body sway. When shooting smallbore in wind and weather, your field of vision and perception of the wind flags is more free. **MEC** and **centra** offer the most compact rearsights available, as well as all the sensible accessories such as iris/filter units, sight raisers or types of foresight. It is no surprise that many of the most spectacular results in recent years were achieved with these precision instruments, such as the world record in women's 3x20 or the men's air rifle World and European championship titles. As so often in shooting, it's the little things which make the difference between winning and losing...



You direct your shots to the centre of the target with the sights. For changing wind and light, the rearsight should be as compact as possible, so that you get a free view of the flags.

A wide field of vision is also better for standing shooting, because you are more aware of your body sway and can learn to control it better.



Functionality and precision are of little use, unless they are employed correctly. As a coach, after analysing the shot groups from a competition, you will often see that the groups were not optimally centred. As shown in the example below, both beginners and expert shooters lose a lot of points because of poor sight adjustment. The distribution below could easily have produced 6 more, if the sights had been properly 'clicked'...

In order to get to grips with this problem, you need to get used to plotting your groups for every training and competition score, and assessing them. For this you need either a printout or you can use your own plotting chart (see pages 5&6). Then you mark the centre point of the shot group for each ten-shot series, just as has been done by means of the blue cross-hair on the 4 group diagrams above. At the same time, you ask yourself how many points you might have saved yourself, had the centre point been perfectly oriented.



This analysis should be a part of every control competition, and most especially the analysis of a championship! There is little point in perfecting your position, trigger control and aiming, if you neglect the adjustment of your shot groups on the target.

It's a safe bet that you have always lost at least a couple of points (or many tenths) in every competition up to now...