

Here's a couple of Centra rears. Centra has had a big reputation for years, and is Bill Wyld's favorite rear sight. Sinclair International got the import deal many were waiting on so the sights are easy to buy. One has a Picatinny mount ready to clamp on a rail and the other fits a standard base (Redfield-pattern). Centra is a good rear sight. Both of these ranked perfection in my indicator tests. There's plenty enough wind and elevation run and it's available in 1/2, 1/4, or (so I have heard, but not yet seen) 1/8 moa click stops. The super-fine stops are a help to reduced-course shooters. Centra also sells it so the windage runs clockwise or counterclockwise so Service Rifle shooters have one less thing to remember when they are shooting a Match Rifle. That's good for some. Just kidding. There are three mounting holes for fore/aft adjustment. Centra is a compact and well made sight bristling with cool differences compared to the Grasso clones we've gotten used to seeing. One of the standout features is its angled scales. Most are on the top or side of the sight and hard to see. The Centra has them angled so they're right in front of your eyes. You'll find out when you order, but one won't be much over three hundred dollars.

What matters in a rear sight is that it moves when you click the knobs, and that that movement is what it is supposed to be. Elementary, but not as common as we'd hope for. The killer is dead clicks. That means you put one on, don't get it, and then put another one on in the same direction and get them both, or maybe just the first one you thought you had. Hope that was clear enough. See, when we shoot we don't normally run several clicks at a time, it's ones and twos, back and forth, as the string progresses and we're making shot-to-shot changes to stay centered. This is the movement issue in most rear sights.

Putting a dial indicator on one and running it all the way across its wind range, or even running it five or ten clicks at a time shows that virtually any sight that costs more than two hundred dollars will be fit for competition.

It's probably better, then, to have the final click stop points be set or regulated by detent stops in the adjustment knobs rather than by using finer and finer threads. The detent stops can be very precisely controlled. That's what we get with some of the better rear sights.

Options in some rear sights include rotation direc-

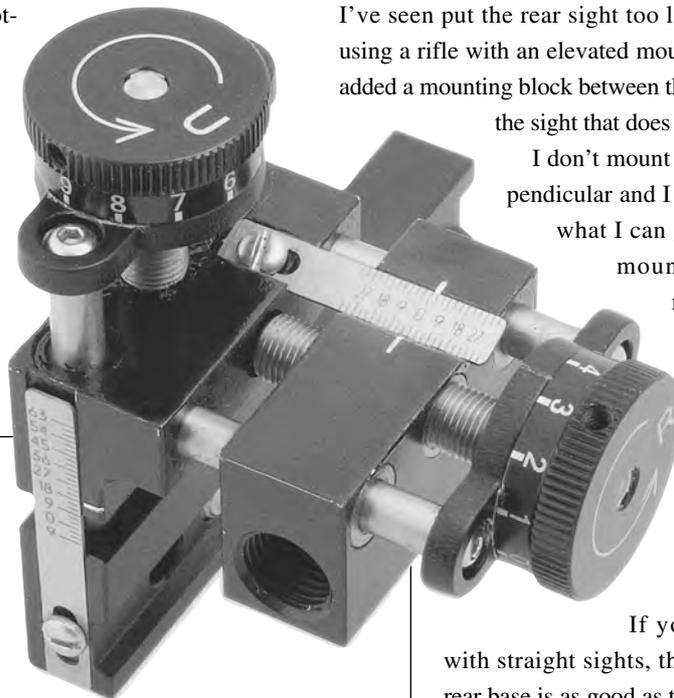
tion for the wind knob. Service Rifles turn clockwise (to get right wind) and Match Rifle sights traditionally turn counterclockwise. Service Rifle shooters, therefore, may want a rear sight that turns in the direction they may have reflexively ingrained. It doesn't bother me because I am always shooting back and forth between the two rifles, but it's one less thing for some.

There's no question that an across-the-course shooter should have a 1/4 moa click value. Why the 1/2 moa options in many sights? Because it's a standard, worldwide, for Palma® when it's a coached international event.

Putting the sight on the rifle requires a base. As shown and

The T2K is one of the newer premium rear sights and it's good, and it's different. As with most things he gets his hands on, David Tubb added significant features.

Since it should be, and David did when he designed it, compared to a Warner, the T2K has larger knobs, four mounting holes instead of three and 60 minutes wind range. Elevation is a total of 65 minutes, and that's a fair span. The scales are angled 20-degrees and that's just smart. Having the wind scale tilted up and the elevation scale facing toward you makes them easier to see. The scale plates are titanium and the marks are clear enough not to need paint fill. No corrosion. It sells for about four-fifty. Different plates and scales can be purchased after the fact and will change the click stops to suit different needs. They're available in 1/2, 1/4, and something in between for those using sight extension tubes. That set is built around a 40-inch sight-to-sight distance and will bring click stops back to closer to 1/4 moa, although, depending on the length of the extension, still may not be exact. Better is better.



said, some sights have the Picatinny mount built right on. These are the easiest for installation on a flat-top upper receiver. I don't like them, but don't discourage anyone from getting one. The reason I don't like built-in mounts is because I want more flexibility than they allow.

A Picatinny mount is going to result in a fixed-mounting-height, perpendicular rear sight that may or may not be sitting where we want it. Some built-ins I've seen put the rear sight too low, unless you're using a rifle with an elevated mounting rail, or have added a mounting block between the receiver rail and the sight that does the same thing.

I don't mount my rear sight perpendicular and I like it higher than what I can get in the built-in mounts. The built-in mounts, however, do save a few dollars. A good rear sight base adds a minimum of fifty dollars to the price of a sight.

If you want to shoot with straight sights, then just about any rear base is as good as the next, to a point, of course.

There's really not much more to it than this. Get a base built by one of "our" suppliers and mount it securely. If you want, glue the rear sight to the base, but not the base to the rifle. The weaker link is sight-to-base mounting. There is usually a lot of surface area and clamping force on the Picatinny attachment points. I don't think glue is really necessary with the low recoil we have in .223, but if you don't glue it then check it routinely. I would suggest gluing for a large-chassis rifle. There's a lot of impact transmitted through that gun, and a lot of it comes on the bolt closing, not opening. The "two-way" recoil tends to