

## Objective:

To achieve a relatively quick picture acquisition and accuracy while retaining the true reliability of a Kalashnikov rotating-bolt system.

## Discussion:

There have been an endless amount of arguments that a standard (AKM) Avtomat Kalashnikova Modernizirovanniy cannot be relied on for its accuracy for distances past 100 meters. From never ending forum threads, magazine editorials, and individual reviews conducted by famous "experts" or even local gun shop commandos - the issue of AKM's pin-point accuracy was never resolved. Partially, that is due to the weapon's issue of the traditional iron sights. For those who had proper training and used them for years, traditional rear leaf battle sights never presented an issue. On the contrary; those who have been trained on a different platform of picture acquisition have resented or even rejected the use of this rifle.

Tech-Sights, LLC have proposed to set a different standard among many different manufacturers who have attempted to provide an aftermarket set of sights for the Russian weapon. For the record, the AKM was never designed as a target rifle, but as a reliable weapon that could be easily controlled in the fully-automatic mode by an individual without any previous training or experience with firearms.

When first receiving the package from Tech-Sights, LLC (904 Deer Run Drive, Hartsville, SC 29550; phone (843)-332-8222, website: [www.tech-sights.com](http://www.tech-sights.com)) the idea behind the design was to replace the traditional recoil spring with a provided rear guide rod, which is permanently attached to sight and fits into the "T" slot of the rear trunion. The front guide rod is utilized from the existing recoil spring assembly, as well the front collar and the spring itself, and placed back in the gun. Tech-Sights will also provide the dust cover, which will decrease the sight's lateral motion as well as stabilize its position. The rear leaf of the AKM's traditional sight is removed to gain clearance between the newly installed sight and the front post. The sight also utilizes a small screw that lets the user adjust the sight's position in the rear "T" slot in the trunion, decreasing the product's motion.

I was a bit confused regarding the company's attempt to stabilize the sight to the rear trunion. After installation on a traditional Yugo M-70 RPK, I noticed a very slight lateral motion by the sight and doubted its reproducibility. All my doubts flew out the chimney after I fully understood the idea behind the invention.

The sight comes with 2 different rear apertures. (1) Has a single aperture with both elevation and windage adjustment (5/8 inch@100 yards) and (2) Has a dual aperture that once zeroed to 100 yards, can be flipped to the next aperture which is set to be on @200 WRT the first aperture. No other elevation adjustment is available, just windage. The fine tuning can be easily done by using Tech-Sight's AK47/SKS sight adjusting tool for front post adjustment. The lateral adjustment can be done by pressing the release button (use FMJ bullet or a small object, such as a knife or a Allen wrench) and rotate traditional clock-wise wheel on the right side of the sight.

At the range I first set up a 12 inch target at 50 yards and fired 4 shots off the weapon's bi-pod. I was not so interested in how far off the center my rounds were impacting, but rather their grouping. Using WOLF MC 124 gr. HP commercial ammunition I was able to achieve a spread of 1.9.cm (just under an inch) after adjusting the sight. I then proceeded to the 100 yard mark,

and fired 3 shots. I was a bit low and to the left, and once again, making necessary adjustments I was able to achieve 5.7 cm (roughly 2.2 inches) spread at 100 yards.

The sight does exhibit both lateral and ant-to-post motion, but it comes back to the exact spot after every shot is fired. On the Yugoslavian M-70 RPK I noticed the greatest amount of motion (which was still within fraction of a millimeter) but after examining the close grouping of my shots I understood that it didn't really matter. The sight was slowly proving the theory behind it. Next I tried the sight on a Russian Vepr chambered in 7.62 x 39. After switching the spring (it was a bit too thick, so I substituted a Bulgarian one) and securing the sight, I noticed almost zero movement of the sight's ant-to post as well as lateral motion. I set up a target @ 100 yards, and after making proper adjustments, I was able to achieve 5.5 cm (2.2 inch) spread while firing in prone position using a sling.

I then flipped the rear aperture sighted in for 200 yards and obtained a 2.89 inch group while keeping the same position. My shots were roughly 2.5 inches high, but I solely blame than on the position of my left hand and the fact that VEPR has a longer barrel (20.5 vs. 16.1 inches) allowing more distance for the bullet to travel before exiting the barrel, thus resulting a small increase in the muzzle velocity.

The next test subject was an Interarms Polish Tantal chambered in 5.45x39. This time, firing prone without a sling, I could not get into a real comfortable position as well as establishing a cheek weld (Tantals use a side-folding wire stock). My result was about 9.5 cm (3.7 inches) using WOLF MC FMJ Ammunition @ 100 yards. To be completely non-biased, I personally prefer the traditional AKM rear leaf battle sight to the rear peep sight simply because of the wire stock and the position of my cheek with respect to it. However, this is personal preference and can be varied from individual to individual.

The next subject was another VEPR, chambered in .308 Winchester. Ammunition using 150 Gr Nossler Ballistic Tip and TAC powder. Firing in prone position and using a military sling, I was able to achieve 2.6 inch (6.8 cm) @ 100 yards. This time not using the dual aperture, but rather the



elevation adjustable aperture and making proper adjustment, I was able to achieve 3.4 inch (8.6 cm) spread @ 200 yards. Noticed better results with a 7.62 x 39 WOLF ammo spread, which I completely blame on the shooter (perhaps the recoil).

Last subject was a Bulgarian 5.45 x 39 clone built on a Firing Line milled receiver. Sight had no problem going into the rear trunion as well as into the dust cover slot. Firing in prone position and not being able to utilize a sling, I was able to achieve 3.1 inch (7.5cm) spread @ 100 yards using Russian 7N6 FMJ Military Surplus ammunition. Moving to 200 yards, my spread opened up to 7.2 inches (17.8 cm), which is still far more accurate than most people hear when talking about the AK's ability to keep a decent group.

#### Conclusion:

The sight itself proved to be a complete success by observing the results in grouping of rounds fired into the target sets @ 100 + 200 yards. By moving the location of the rear sight closer to the shooter's eye, it increased the distance between the rear aperture and the front post, increasing the potential of the rifle accuracy in the right arms.

I personally do not prefer this sight at very close range (5-30 yards) due to the nature of the peep sight, and prefer the traditional Kalashnikov leaf sight. But again, that is a personal preference that can be varied between individuals. For the longer distances, I prefer Tech-Sight's rear aperture sight as it allows clearer and faster picture acquisition, as well as increased potential accuracy. There were a few minor issues with the fittings of the various types of recoil springs, but were easily overcome by using provided forward guide rods. Overall I recommend giving these sights a chance if the individual is not happy using traditional AK sights.

Anton

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