

FIRST LOOK! The .50-CALIBER 1911 Is Here

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GunGear

Scoped Out For Long-Range Rimfiring

While evaluating Kimber's Pro Varmint .22 (see "Proof House" report in the September issue), I was very impressed with the Pride-Fowler 3-9X Rapid Reticle scope I'd

ring is turned up. At 3X, the markings are small and don't get in the way of a quick, offhand shot. Range notations are easily read from about 5X up.

The reticle is designed to be



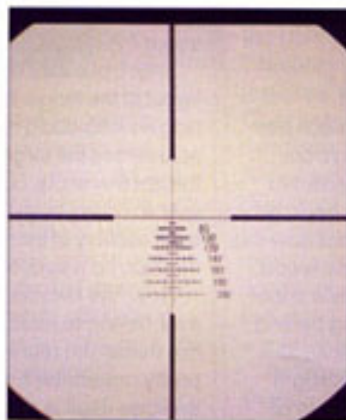
One click equals a quarter-inch at 100 yards with the Pride/Fowler 3-9x32mm Rapid Reticle scope. Target knobs can be loosened and positioned to reflect actual zero for field reference.

selected. John Pride and Mickey Fowler—both competitive shooters and hunters—have joined forces to create a line of scopes calibrated to specific loads.

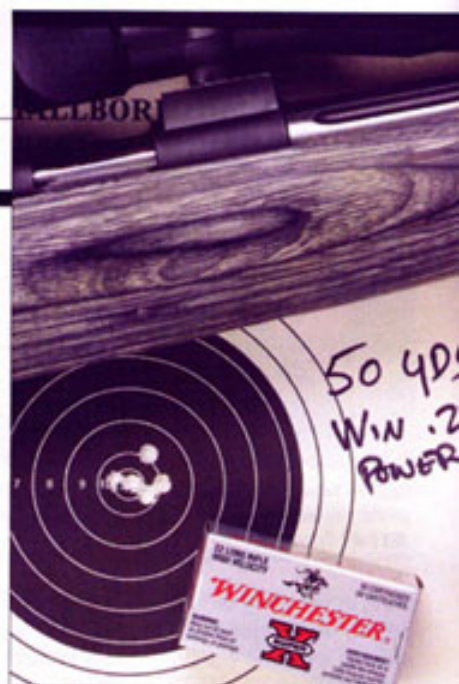
The model I used was calibrated for 40-grain, high-velocity .22 Long Rifle loads and has a reticle with range markings out to 200 yards. (It is also available calibrated for .22 Magnum and .17 HMR, along with a few popular center-fire calibers.)

I found the optics to be clear from edge to edge, the power ring adjusts smoothly, and the fast-focus ring is quick and easy to manipulate.

The reticle on this model is on the first plane, which means that the reticle magnifies as the power



This Rapid Reticle is calibrated for .22 LR's High-Velocity ammo. The reticle is on the first plane, meaning that it enlarges as the magnification is increased. At 3X, the reticle is small and out of the way for close-range shots.



On the money: The Pride-Fowler Rapid Reticle is designed to be zeroed at 50 yards.

zeroed at 50 yards, with range notations starting at 80 yards and marked in 10-yard increments. Even-numbered increments are labeled and have windage bars for a 10mph full-value crosswind. Odd-numbered increments feature a small crosswire. (For those who don't like first-plane reticles, a model with a constant second-plane reticle that does not change in size as the power ring is adjusted is also available.)

My first 100-yard group, using the 100-yard crosswire in conjunction with Winchester Power-Points, was high. The 80-yard wire shot low, and the 90-yard wire was dead-on. The difference between the group shot with the 100-yard wire and the 80-yard wire was 2½ inches—enough to miss a ground squirrel. Upon asking the rangemaster if the target was at a true 100 yards, she told me that it was closer to 95 (I think it might be closer to 90).

For long-range work with this scope, a laser rangefinder would be most helpful, as would a spirit level. Canting a rimfire just a hair—if you're shooting beyond 100 yards—can throw the bullet off quite a bit. And shooting a rimfire at 200 yards is akin to shooting a .308 at 1,000. But with a super-accurate .22, hits at 200 yards using this scope are very doable.

At a suggested retail price of \$239, the Pride/Fowler Rapid Reticle is an excellent buy. For details, contact Pride/Fowler Industries Inc., Dept. GA, Box 4301, San Dimas, CA 91773; (909) 599-0928; rapidreticle.com.

—Jeff John ■