

Tried & True

Not your normal product reviews...

Read actual accounts from the field on some of today's hottest new items!

BUG SEASON

With spring turkey and bear seasons just around the corner, here's a hot little item that could just stop the madness of dealing with blood-sucking bugs. DEET, as a repellent for mosquitoes, black flies and no-see-ums is still king, but the down side remains – oily lotions and sprays giving off odors not found in nature.

ThermaCELL® is a portable insect repelling device that produces a bug-free zone around where ever you set up. The unit is about the size of a turkey box call and uses a replaceable butane cartridge to heat (without open flame) a replaceable pad, which is impregnated with a chemical copy of a naturally occurring insecticide found in chrysanthemum flowers. Bugs evidently hate this because the ThermaCELL® provides up to 225 square feet of protection for 12 hours off of one charge (replaceable butane cartridge and scent mat). It is silent, safe, easy to carry, and will not alert game, like DEET. It also replaces hot, uncomfortable bug jackets. U.S. Army tested and EPA registered. It sounds like a gimmick, but it works!

SUGGESTED RETAIL

\$21.99 with one cartridge and three insect repellent mats.

Refills: \$5.99

www.thremacell.com



H.S. PRECISION PROHUNTER LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLE

By Mark Kayser

Initially, I'd chosen to use the H-S Precision ProHunter Lightweight rifle to save on weight while backpack hunting southwestern Alaska in search of moose. As the hunt unfolded, it became apparent that the short, nimble, lightweight rifle was providing an even more valuable service as an agile insurance policy against the unimaginable numbers of brown bears. If we weren't bumping into bears at camp, we bumped into them on the trail.

After spotting my moose nearly four miles in the distance, the little rifle's weight was extremely appreciated. To get to the bruiser my guide and I had to manipulate through nearly a mile of thick alders using brown bear trails for the path of least resistance. The short, light rifle was perfect in case I would have ever needed to swing into action from the blind charge of a brown.

My Lightweight, in .300 WSM, played the hand perfectly. Using Federal Vital-Shok ammunition loaded with 180-grain Barnes Triple Shock X-Bullets, the first shot smacked the bull in the sweet spot behind the shoulder. Even though the bull was fading, I followed up with two more shots for peace of mind.

Every rifle includes a custom trigger, action, barrel and composite stock designed and manufactured by the expert staff in the factory. H-S Precision guarantees a 1/2-inch group at 100 yards and all three of my shots reflected the rifle's custom precision. After tackling guard duty, moose duty, and withstanding the merciless Alaskan climate, I'd rate the H-S Lightweight as a top choice for hardcore wilderness hunts. Without a doubt, it'll be my future guardian.

H-S PROHUNTER LIGHTWEIGHT RIFLE STATISTICS

Weight: 5.5 pounds (rifle only).

Trigger: Custom trigger adjustable from 2 to 5 pounds.

Calibers: All short action calibers approved by SAAMI including the new Winchester Short Magnum calibers.

Action: Custom Pro-Series 2000 short action only, left hand available, detachable magazine.

Barrel: 10x cut rifling, fluted barrel available in 22-inch length.

Stock: Kevlar, graphite composite stock available in a variety of color options.

Barrel and action finish: Matte black with Teflon coating.

Suggested Retail: Pro-Series 2000 PHL Rifle \$2,450.00.

www.hsprecision.com

Pictured at Right: Mark Kayser admires the 62-inch bull he shot in southwest Alaska after wading through a series of brown bear encounters. The H-S Precision ProHunter Lightweight rifle had the punch to tip over the bull and the nimbleness to react to brown bears of the close encounter kind.

H-S Precision guarantees a 1/2-inch group at 100 yards. At 5.5 pounds, the short rifle was nimble enough to react to any brown bear charges in the dense jungle



of the alders. Teflon coating and a composite stock made the rifle weatherproof, a bonus in the wet environment of Alaska.

LEUPOLD'S BOONE AND CROCKETT BIG GAME RETICLE - A WINNER

By George A. Bettas

When you live and hunt in the western U.S. accurate and ethical long-range shooting skills become part of your arsenal or you go hungry. Searching for quality hunting equipment, which facilitates accurate long-range shooting is an ongoing mission. My search for such equipment led me to the Leupold line of variable scopes and their duplex reticle. Using this reticle in the 3.5x-10x40mm Leupold scopes I perfected a system for judging distance using the distance between the top of the bottom post. After successfully using this system for 25 years I was introduced to Leupold's new Ballistic Aiming System and their Boone and Crockett™ Big Game Reticle that takes into

account bullet trajectory and wind deflection at various distances. The new reticle, coupled with Leupold's optical excellence and lifetime warranty, makes this scope a winner.

Leupold provides a CD with excellent instructions for using this product, which appear a bit complex, but in fact, are very useful and I highly recommend you check them out before using the scope. The data and charts provided by Leupold will get you "on the paper" at the various distances with different calibers and load combinations. But, the key to using this scope for precision shooting at long range is to actually sight your rifle in at the various aiming points at known distances with scope set to the power setting you plan to shoot with. The reticle on this scope is on the rear focal plane so it remains a constant size as you change the power of the scope. Therefore, if you sight your rifle so the first hold point is zero at 300 yards using the small triangle and you increase or decrease the power of the scope your point of impact using this same hold point will change at 300 yards. This method can be used to calibrate the aiming point spacing to fit your ballistics at easy-to-remember ranges.

I prefer the 4.5x-14x Leupold for long-range shooting and sight my rifles with the power ring at 14x. I carry my rifle with the power ring on about 5x for close shots, but when a long-range shot presents itself I use 14x.

Another important reason to sight your rifle at known distances is that ballistic tables are close, but close does not count in ethical long range shooting. It is a must to actually shoot your rifle on the range to be sure of its trajectory. The windage feature on this scope is also useful and will help you with shots on windy days, but shooting at long range on windy days is tricky business. I prefer to get as close as possible and refrain from shooting at long range if the wind is an issue. If you intend to shoot accurately and ethically at long range you must know where your rifle is shooting and practice these shots regularly. The Boone and Crockett™ Big Game Reticle will help you significantly with long range shots, but in the end it is the hunter who is the biggest factor in ethical fair chase hunting... and long range shooting.

Suggested Retail:
VX-III models \$459.99 – \$689.99

www.leupold.com

