Setting Up a Twin Post Scope for Running Boar

A practical guide by John Kynoch, with help and encouragement from John Rossiter

Introduction

Most of us have struggled, at least to some extent, with setting up a twin post scope for Running Boar. I have been encouraged to set down my experience and views on the matter.

Stage One: Aligning Bore and Sight

There are two distinct stages. The first, unless you are very lucky in having an integral dovetail and a scope that has not previously been moved all over the place, is the most difficult one. It is to get the bore in line with the sight with the posts fairly close together and near to the middle of the sight picture. It is not necessary to have the posts extremely close together and it is advantageous not to have either of the posts up against a stop if there is one, so that you can move both in the same direction if a small adjustment is later required.

Understanding the Turrets and Posts

Ultimately we want the bullet strike to fall between the tops of them, or an inch above, but before that there are a few things to go through and understand even before you mount the scope. Which turrets controls which posts? Usually the left and top turret control the left post, but not in all models. Check and remember which post controls which movement. Your eyes can play tricks. Are you moving the left post up, or the right post down? Or are you moving the left post left or the right post right? Your eyes will be expecting to see what you think you are doing, but you might not actually be doing what you wanted. Learn what each turret controls and think before moving.

Is there a stop to limit the inward movement of the posts? It is very important to watch for the fact that you can sometimes cause the post you are moving to push the other one away, and thus it is no longer at the turret setting it was. I think that in some you can move one to cross behind the other which of course means that both cannot be perfectly in focus. It is a great advantage if you can get this zero with the posts approximately in the centre of the view. Unless you are lucky as mentioned above, this can be extremely difficult if you do not have windage adjustment in at least one mount. Elevation can be achieved by a short shim(s) of tin under one of the mounts. Be careful to keep this to about one sixth of the circumference to avoid squeezing the ‘scope. Trying to pack, even oversized rings, with shims to adjust windage is soul destroying trust me, I have had to do it!

Making Adjustments: Which Way to Move

With any adjustment you have to think “which way do I need to move it?” The basic rule is “put the reticle on the shot hole”, i.e. if the shot was to the left you have to move the reticle to the left to cover it, thus bringing the line of the scope into the line of the bore.

With adjustable mounts you then have to grapple with “which way does turning the screw in or out move the shot”! The adjustment screws usually impinge on a fixed bollard in the mount and it can at first be counter intuitive, at least to me, which way to move it. Screwing a screw in on the left side of a front mount, pulls the movable part with the ‘scope out to the left and thus throws the shot to the right. i.e. in the direction of the screw’s movement.

With 3.7” between bollards and a complete turn of the screw moving the scope circa .035”, as in one of my rifles, it would move the shot about a metre at 100 metres. So slowly does it. If making significant swings of the scope one would be advised to slacken slightly the other mount to avoid bending something.

Everything obviously depends on, and is reversed, according to whether it is the left or the right side of the front or the rear mount you are working on. One could write it all down but I find it easier to think of the line of the barrel and then move the ‘scope in the direction of where the shot was relative to the aiming mark. It is not supposed to be easy!

Setting Your Static Zero

When you have got a static zero I think it makes life easier to have all four turrets on Zero. But also that when you move posts out, numbers on both sides are increasing. There will be a way of moving the numbers on the turret without moving itself, but to achieve the second feature I have removed and reversed the numbered collar. May not be possible or necessary on all types.

The turrets on twin posts are quite large in comparison to some other scopes and do not have protective caps. It is a good idea to carry your Boar Rifle in a hard case as sliding it in and out of a soft case can sometimes move a turret and you don’t want the hassle of it being out just as you go to shoot. Another good reason to have your turret settings set on easy to recognise numbers, so you can see at a glance.

Setting the Posts for Slow and Fast Runs

Now that is done and you have a static zero. All you have to do is to set the posts to allow for your choice of aim and the lead required.

The easiest way is to start using standard target velocity ammunition and using the Leading Post in the nine ring sized area between the tusk and the tip of the nose for Slow Runs and the Trailing Post in the same place for Fast Runs. Some may find that you need the posts a little further apart for Fast, but using the same setting but the different post will serve all but a few very well.

Using the BSRC Orange Zero Target

The design and dimensions of the BSRC Orange Zero targets are very helpful in this respect. Holding the rifle still in one of our HME Zero cradles with the posts centrally disposed about the vertical axis and at the height of the horizontal axis, observe very carefully where the posts are on the grid. Keeping one of them still, move the other out to the end of the horizontal bar at the side of the central diamond. Next, keeping the newly placed post where you have just put it, move the other one out to the end of bar on the other side. Real care required. Check that the bullet still lands between the posts for peace of mind.

This setting is 7 – 7 for me but of course it depends where your 0 – 0 is. For me it has the outside top corners of my quite wide posts just touching the bottom points of the small diamonds. Use your zero-zero setting to check if the scope it still 'on' if you need reassuring.

The Figures and the Physics

For those, like me, that like the figures and facts to account for the things we observe, taking the average of published figures of MV of 330m/sec and V50m of 303m/sec as being 316m/sec, the bullet's time of flight is 0.158 seconds. If the target is crossing at the regulation Slow run speed of 2m/sec the lead required is 31.6 cm. The distance from the nose-tusk gap to the centre of the bull is 45 cm. The position described above have the posts subtending 29mm at 50m. Hence the actual lead is 45 - (29/2) equals 30.5cm – quite close! But for further refinement, the act of swinging the rifle imparts a lateral movement to the bullet which I calculate as 0.9cm for a perfect swing at target speed. In 10m RT this movement is a very significant part of the lead required. In Running Deer it is insignificant.

We hope this helps.

John Kynoch, with help and encouragement from John Rossiter – March 2022
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