

V-TAC mount gets scope high enough for use with fixed front sight but still allows good cheek weld. Note also how compact the Valdada 1.5-8X is.



# VALDADA IOR 1.5-8X TACTICAL RIFLE SCOPE

» BY LEROY THOMPSON

**R**egular readers of this column will have noticed that over the last few months I've tested a couple of scopes that were designed to meet the SOCOM bid spec for an optic that allows an operator to use it for CQC then immediately transition to the counter-sniper mode. Different makers of military/LE optics have offered scopes that are designed to perform this mission.

Although these optics may have initially been designed to meet a military need, I also see them as especially viable for security teams operating in higher threat areas and for some law enforcement agencies. As a result, I will continue to look at optics that can perform this mission.

The scope I will cover in this column



Stag Arms Tactical Carbine with Valdada IOR 1.5-8X26mm Tactical Rifle Scope mounted on V-TAC mount.

stretches the parameters of the CQC to counter-sniper scope a bit, but I think it stretches them in a good way. Looking at it from the point of view of a security team, most scopes of this general type

allow team members to easily engage attackers at CQC ranges, but should they encounter shooters out to 300 meters or more, they can also counter that threat far more effectively than with a



red dot type of optic. The Valdada 1.5-8X26mm Tactical Rifle Scope, on the other hand, offers very effective counter-sniper engagement to at least 500 meters, yet it can be quickly adjusted to the 1.5X setting for CQC. I see its value for teams that operate in more open areas (e.g., Afghanistan) and face the threat of longer range shooters more often than they face the threat of close range attack, yet close engagement always remains a threat.

I've used Valdada scopes for many years and have been quite impressed with their durability. They are water and fog proof and stand up well to a lot of vehicle carry while retaining their zero. They also have an illuminated reticle that is very easy to see in low light. I've engaged plates at 300 yards in moonlight using one of my Valdada scopes and found acquisition almost as fast as in daylight.

The reticle on this Valdada scope enhances its versatility for use at varying ranges. The CQB-BDC reticle employs a horseshoe with a center dot, plus a



Five-shot group fired at 200 meters using Valdada 1.5-8X, Stag Arms Tactical Carbine, and military surplus SS109 ammo.

post with stadia lines marked for 400, 600, and 800 meters. Additional stadia lines, which are not marked but easily determinable, allow engagement at 300, 500, and 700 meters. The stadia lines also allow range determination, since each is about equal to an enemy's shoulder width (21 inches) at the given

range. Horizontal lines on each side of the horseshoe draw the eye to the centered dot. The horseshoe and dot system works extremely well and is very fast from CQC ranges out to 200 meters. For 300 to 800 meters, the stadia lines may be used or the elevation may be adjusted if there is time. By the

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way, the reticle is designed for 62-grain SS109 ammo.

What I did, and what I would suggest, is zeroing the Valdada at 200 meters, so the dot is on at that range. By doing a little shooting, one can determine where rounds will impact between ten meters and 200 meters on man-sized targets, but I found that point of impact for 25 meters was close enough that I could center my target in the horseshoe, splash the red dot on, and engage center of mass—and even the head—pretty well, though a forehead hold would be necessary at 25 meters for an eye/nose triangle shot. Remember that at very close range, the height difference between the scope and the barrel comes into play and the carbine may be shooting a couple inches too low, requiring the red dot to be placed higher than where you want the bullet to impact. It really only gets complicated at very close range, and if one shoots with the scope a bit, he will get it. I knew the point of impact at 25 meters, so I tried head shots on one of the hostage/tango targets I use and put

**Valdada 1.5-8X allows shooter to maximize his M4 carbine without sacrificing handiness.**



two in the head about 1.5 inches below where I was aiming but still in the tango's head.

Should CQC use be anticipated, the Valdada may be kept set on 1.5X to allow the widest field of view. Otherwise, I would probably run with it set on 3X or 4X, which would give me the option of engaging targets at most ranges immediately. I could still quickly change to a lower or higher magnification if the tactical situation warranted it. I'm still exploring the possibilities with this

scope, but one reason I'm so enthusiastic about it is that it does seem to offer great tactical versatility.

I don't really like hanging heavy optics on M4 carbines, so one of my criteria is always that the scope be compact and relatively light. Considering the Valdada is a 1.5-8X with illuminated reticle, the fact that it is only 9.5 inches overall and 22 ounces is impressive. I chose to mount the 1.5-8X26mm Valdada on my Stag Arms Tactical Carbine, which has a standard M16/M4 front sight and a

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flip-up rear. As a result, I chose to use Valdada's V-TAC mount, which gets the scope high enough that the front sight isn't a problem, but still allows a good cheek weld for effective shooting.

The CQB-BDC reticle takes a bit of getting used to, but once I had adjusted to it, I became a fan. I really had little doubt that it would be effective at close range and found it very fast on pepper poppers and plates between 15 and 50 meters. On 8X setting at 100 meters, the red dot is 1.5 MOA, which I thought might make precise shooting at longer ranges harder than with a crosshair. It does, but only slightly. I fired a five-shot 2.5-inch group at 200 meters with military surplus SS109 ammo using the red dot, so I really can't complain.

Dial adjustments are in 1/4 MOA increments, and unlike many scopes I test, the clicks really do move point of impact 1/4 MOA. When zeroing at 200 meters, I was about two inches right and three inches high. Four clicks of windage and six of elevation put the point of impact virtually on. The system of returning the dials to zero leaves a bit to be desired, since two hex screws atop each dial have to be loosened, then the dial returned to zero before retightening them. I found it virtually impossible to hold the dial in place while loosening the screws, which meant that zero would change slightly. As a result, after first attempting to return the dials to zero, I had to fire another three rounds and then reset them. This adds a bit of annoyance when first zeroing the scope, but based on my other scopes by this maker, once zeroed, the Valdada should hold zero well.

I see the Valdada IOR 1.5-8X26mm Tactical Rifle Scope as filling the niche for operators who frequently make longer shots yet must retain the capability for CQC. This scope should allow the owner of an M4/M16/AR-15 the versatility to use his rifle for whatever task he chooses. ☉

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