

SECOND STRIKE

The Cobra Optics Javelin Gen 2 Nightvision Riflescope – rugged, lightweight and a top performer.



SCOPE TEST

They're specialised, they're expensive but when they're as good as this they're hard to resist.

Pete Wadeson tests the Javelin Gen 2 NV Riflescope from Cobra Optics...

In the time I've tested Nightvision units I've used the most basic to the highest grade commercially available in the UK. There's now a noticeable trend that Gen 1 is staying at the sub £500 mark while step up to Gen 1+ and you'll be looking at little if any change from a grand. Usually the next step is quite a jump, as you rise up to Gen 2 then you're looking at the thick end of a two grand wedge. If you've experienced

NV hunting you'll realise Gen 1 is only of use for close range air rifle hunting, getting more for your money in Gen 1+ does in most cases mean you can use the scope for more powerful rifle shooting disciplines. The Javelin Gen 2 NV Riflescope however is a contender for rimfire use and sensible centrefire applications – and of course the air rifle shooter who fancies spoiling himself. With that established - time now

to chuck a few spears, erm, I mean test the Javelin.

Sleek And Robust

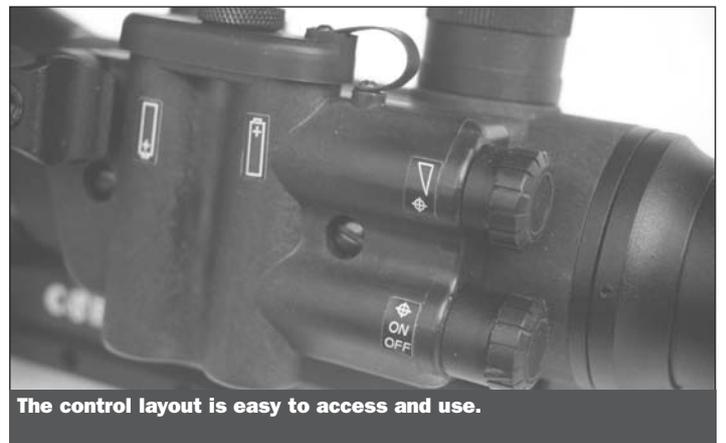
Those are two words not often associated together but that's exactly how the Javelin looks. Though quite a lengthy optic pushing the tape at 13.75" it's not overly heavy and there's no problem mounting it to air rifle, rimfire or fullbore as long as you

use the appropriate mount adaptors. These I've often talked of in the past, all B-Square models available from Deben Group Industries Ltd.

The scope's 100mm objective lens is a good size for light gathering yet being a nice compromise so as the scope needn't be mounted too high from the bore of the rifle. The eyepiece makes up the majority of the rearward section of the scope but



The powerful onboard IR torch – note the unit's focus dial on top of scope body



The control layout is easy to access and use.



this proves itself useful in the fact it helps with head alignment, positioning and allows your eye to come up easily into the rubber eyecup to obtain a full sight picture.

Power is from 2 X AA Alkaline batteries that sit neatly in the battery housing on the left of the unit just forward of the operating switches. These are easy grip twist operating knobs. Turning the lower knob clockwise switches the unit and 'lit' reticle on, then it has three more click settings which activate the 3 power settings of the onboard and variable 75mw IR. The similar design rotary switch positioned above is the rheostat that controls the brightness of the reticle. This reticle is unique in the fact that it features very thick side, upper and lower stadia with a mil-dot arrangement where the thin lines of the conventional cross hair would be. Only the very centre 'intersection' of the reticle lights up to appear as a small red cross aim point.

The unit has a 4X fixed magnification and focus of the target is achieved by operating a ribbed edge rotary dial positioned directly on the top of the scope body casing and the ribbed focusing ring at the eyepiece.

The unit has multi-coated lenses and the body casing is manufactured from high impact synthetic materials. This is fully weatherproof and lightweight, and due to clever internal design characteristics it can withstand recoil from larger calibre rifles. The casing is unusual as it isn't metal, but this is no cause for concern as it more than stood up to the beating I've given it during test.



The proofs in the pudding. The Cobra Optics Javelin – potent and deadly out to 80yds with a .22 rimfire if your shooting ability is up to it

In Use

The test bed for the Javelin was my Anschutz 1417 .22LR Carbine and once set in appropriate two piece mounts to 'bridge' the breech port and allow sufficient bolt clearance, I set the zero. The adjuster turrets are protected by cover caps, spinning these off reveals two finger adjustable dials with a 2" MOA of adjustment. This may seem quite 'coarse' as we're used to 2" on ordinary scopes, but in use it does allow you to set zero precisely enough for kill-zone accuracy. Incidentally, though the majority of NV Riflescopes don't have a calibration figure stated for MOA adjustment, you'll find this is pretty much an industry standard – so no worries, the company are at least being honest!

The Javelin obviously uses a good grade intensifier tube as the sight picture is bright, clear with hardly any grain effect. The onboard IR's power settings really do help brighten the viewed images, and the IR beam can be altered by turning the front housing of the onboard illuminator to change from a tight beam to flood. Spotting rabbits at

100+yds wasn't a problem and targeting to take sensible shots is achievable out to 80yds. In my opinion the Javelin's also more than capable for fox shooting if used on a suitable calibre rifle and I'd say it will detect foxes at 200+yds depending on conditions and you'll be able to fully identify to target and shoot safely out to 150yds.

Conclusions

As the years pass and the NV units keep coming in for review I'm pleased to say that almost without exception these devices are getting better in build characteristics, quality and performance. The Javelin is a fine example of a Gen 2 NV Riflescope and the capabilities

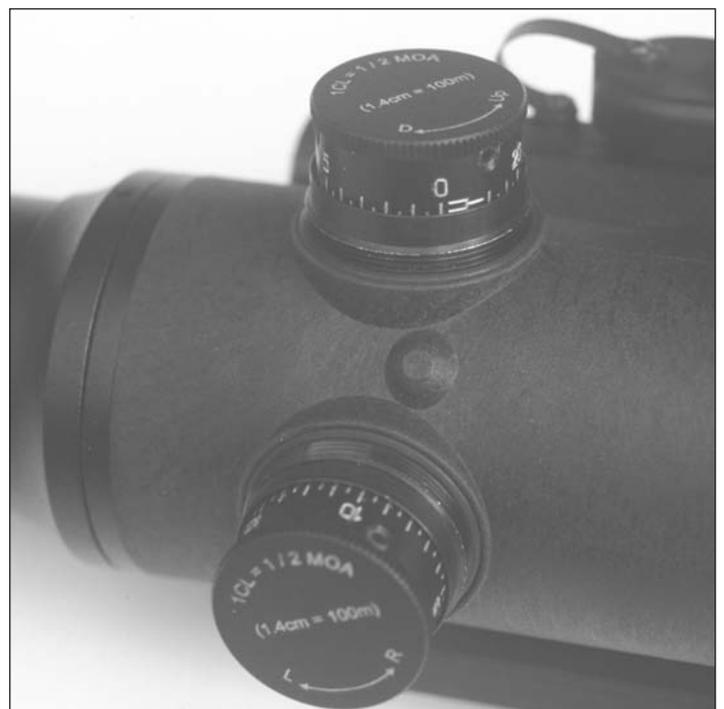
this grade of equipment is capable of. The price of £2299 I first thought a tad steep – but since shooting and successfully using this in many hunting situations I feel that the price is valid considering the exceptional quality, function and level of performance you're getting. It comes in a plush Cordura carry case with a no quibble 1-year full exchange guarantee. The Cobra Optics Javelin Gen 2 Nightvision Riflescope is one of the better quality units of its ilk and one you can definitely buy with confidence.

For more information on the Cobra Optics Javelin™ Gen 2 Nightvision Riflescope, contact: Thomas Jacks Ltd on tel: 01789 264100.

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The long eyepiece and rubber eyecup showing ocular adjuster



Elevation and windage adjustment is by covered finger adjustable turrets