

ELCAN SPECTER DR

AUGUST 12, 2006

As many of you know this is Elcan's new entry into a switchable 1x – 4x via a throw lever. The first thing I noticed was the weight of the unit as I took it out of the box. It comes in at 1.3lbs! This is one HUNK of metal!! The unit comes standard with dual ARMS levers that fit fine with the Larue 12.0" rail on my Noveske, but was incredibly tight on my LMT as I could not close the levers to their full position.

Some specs on the unit are as follows,

FOV – 1x at 26deg and 4x at 6.5deg

MOA Click Adj. - ½ MOA

Weight - 1.3lbs

Aiming Dot – 6 MOA (1x)/1.5 MOA (4x)

Reticle Pattern – Compensated Crosshair based on the M855 and M4

Illumination - LED

Operating Temp - -40 to +150 degF

Water Proof – 2 hours @ 66ft.

Ruggedness – MIL SRD-810F (This thing is built like a tank!!!)

Battery Life – DL 1/3 N (3000hrs Avg.)

Eye Relief - 2.76"

The unit came standard with a Duracell 1/3N and I installed the battery that is located inside of the illuminated switch compartment via a knurled tethered battery cover. Speaking of this rotating illuminating switch, the ELCAN folks did their homework with this feature and many others. The knob itself is large enough to turn adjust easily with gloves on. I had no issue while wearing my nomex gloves to adjust the settings.

I mounted the unit on my Noveske upper with a Larue 12.0" rail via dual integral ARMS throw levers. I had no problems attaching the unit to the Larue, but when I tried to attach the unit to the LMT, I could not depress both levers to the full inside position. Gonna have to check into this issue.

I then looked through the unit at 1x and was of course simply amazed at the clarity and brightness of ELCAN's famed glass! I then flipped magnification flip lever to go to 4x and WHOA! (I had to do this again to REALLY experience what I thought I just saw!)

I've heard all the hub-bub on this switchable 4x and 1x prism lens feature and I was a bit skeptical at first, but I am simply amazed at what they accomplished. A few special features to note;

-The transition from 1x – 4x is amazingly fast due to the smoothness of the lever.

-It will be very difficult for this lever to get broken in the field due to its position under the unit with the grip stem just poking out the side of the unit. They struck a great balance between durability and ergonomics, as I was also able to manipulate the switch with gloves on. Some might find this lever a bit too recessed, but with practice I think it will not be an issue.

-One of the best features of this magnification switch lever is a silent mode built into the unit. When going quickly from 1x – 4x with a flick of one's index finger an audible click can be heard as the lever comes to its stops. One can also ease the switch into position with NO noise whatsoever! VERY nice ELCAN! Once again the ELCAN folks REALLY did their homework on this lever for real world field use in these regards.

The next thing I looked at was the reticle. Similar to the ACOG line of stadia markings, the ELCAN uses a cross hair with the 3, 6 and 9 o'clock post that are thick with the 12 o'clock post thin of course. The reticle is calibrated (I have not done a shooting report as yet) with the M855 ball ammo, with an M4 weapon. There are 4 ballistic lines under the main cross hair when using the 4x magnification, which provides drop increments of 100m per line. The 400 and 600meter drop lines are labeled. At each range, the width of the drop line represents a 19" wide target. The reticle itself also has 5 red LED illumination settings, two of which are NV compatible. The brightness level of the 1st illumination setting was visible to the naked eye so I was skeptical of a blooming effect. (More on the night vision testing below) The other settings allowed full view of the reticle including every line with a clear and impressive view at night.

The illuminated red dot was looked at next at 1x (6MOA) and 4x (1.5MOA). I have to tell you this is the most welcomed feature to me is to have a red dot super imposed over the center cross hair for CQB. I now have the best of three worlds in one optic for CQB (with both eyes open I might add), plus medium and long-range work based on the reticle selections I have available. The dot was clear and impressive at 1x and 4x with 5 illumination settings, two of which are NV compatible. The brightest setting was bright enough to see in severe sunny conditions with bright backgrounds with no visual issues to speak of.

The unit also has somewhat of a small set of iron ghost site atop the unit for emergency use in rain, adverse weather conditions, or just when a baddie pops up very close range. Interesting both sights are removable with small Phillips screws. I think in a previous posts here on the ARFCOM, I saw that SOCOM folks were mounting doc ops atop the units as well.

Conclusions:

Sorry for the long-winded post! I know I have probably missed a few topics but I hope I have scratched the surface a bit on this optic. Here are my pros and cons.

Pros,

- I feel this is the BEST day optic I have ever used PERIOD! We now have one optic sight that can perform CQB, medium and long-range applications with a flick of a lever that moves a highly precise ground lens/prism that is revolutionary in my book of things.
- The optics is superb with typical ELCAN glass that is incredibly bright and clean edge-to-edge.
- Ergonomically designed for field use with tethered battery cap, protected magnification lever location, silent lever movement, locking elevation adjustments, long battery duration (at 3000 hours) and all functions easily while manipulating with gloves. (Except for the locking mechanism which requires a sharp pointed object)
- Mil-Spec for ruggedness to say the least, built like a tank!

Con's

- Some may not like the weight at 1.3lbs!
- ARMS throw lever issue on some rails? Does not close completely on my LMT, but does on my Larue and SIR system.
- Night Vision operations. This comes as a somewhat disappointment to me as it's quite evident that this sight was built around day operations and night fighting capabilities was an afterthought as was with the ACOG NSN. Moving the scope way up on the rail to make room for a NV device and the appropriate eye relief is cumbersome and not very efficient. The night vision reticle setting for the dot is only realistic at one setting and will probably be washed out with the introduction of a med or high power illuminator such as "Da-Torch" or a PEQ-2A. The 2nd setting is also too bright and blooms the NVD. The illuminated reticle is too bright at any setting for use with an NVD. My recommendations are if your mission requires an optic for day AND true night ops is to stick with an EO Tech or Aimpoint. The EO or AP can use a 3x magnifier for day use and the PVS can utilize it's own 3x mil-spec magnifier for night use if needed with no light loss or location change of the EO.
- Price? At \$1449.00 retail, hard for some to swallow? I guess price is relative when I routinely spend a \$1,000+ for good glass. US Optics, Night Force, Swarovski and some Leupy's come to mind in a hurry.



Full FOV for me with my nose just behind charging handle, most comfortable shooting platform for me.



Just about a full FOV with some edge fuzzies, but able to use BUIS through the glass if need be.



View of the elevation locking mechanism and adj. ring along with battery housing and reticle illumination switch. Note magnification switch lever just above rear throw lever as well



Prism (corrected, actually more of a Lens) at 1x



Prism at transition to 4x



Prism at full 4x



Day 1x (Chimney at approx 75 yards)



4x



More day pics showing the illuminated dot at 1x and 4x.





Night Vision Applications





