

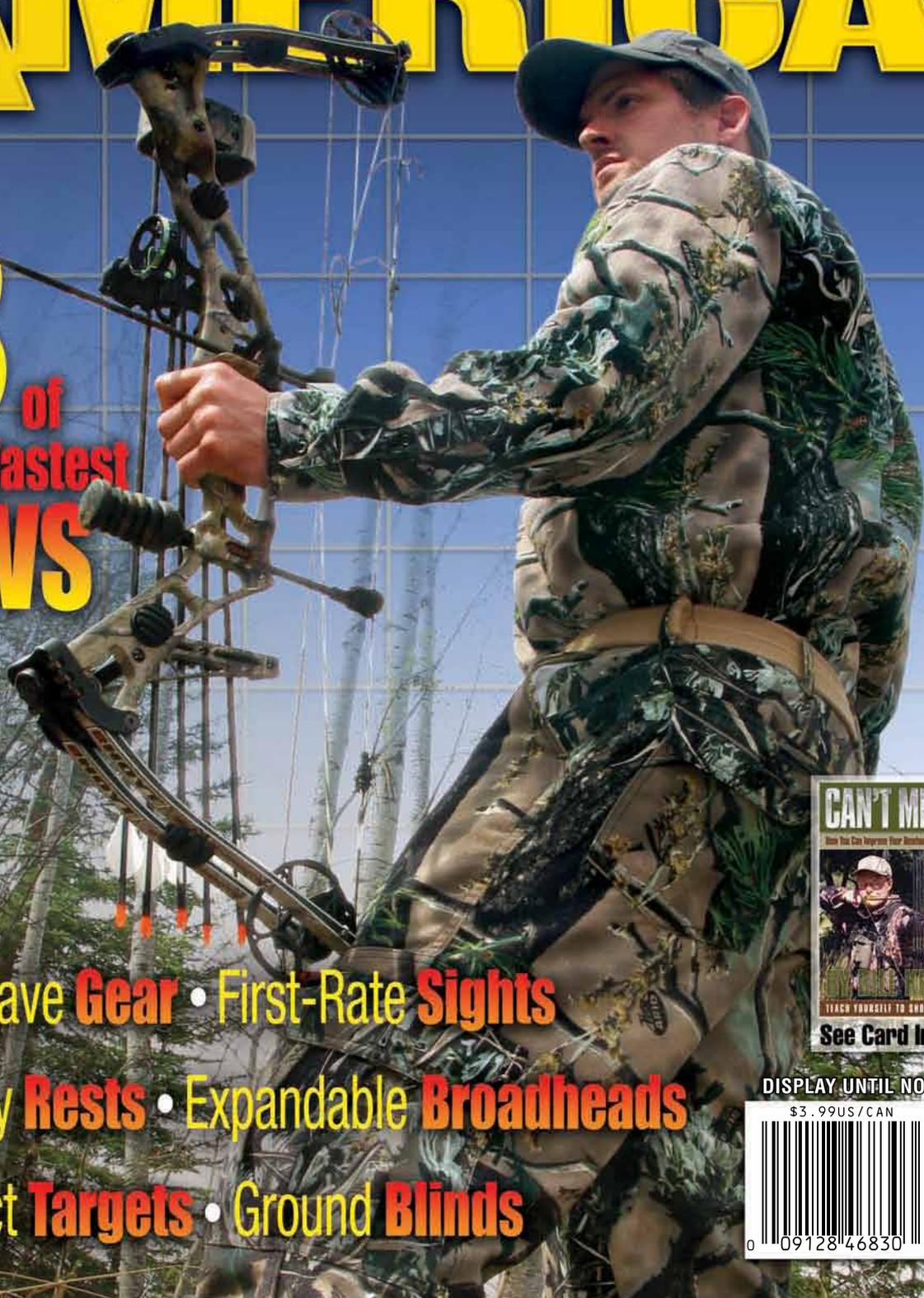
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How Can You Tell a First-Rate

Hunting Sight

from a Mediocre Sight?

There are about six gazillion bowhunting sights available today, so let's be honest. It would be unrealistic to expect that every one of those sights is at the very top of the design-and-quality ladder.

Yet, when you lay down your hard-earned dollars—you know, the ones you haven't spent on gas—you expect to receive good value. And that's just as true for a mid-priced sight as it is for a top-of-the-line wonder sight.

In fact, all first-rate bowhunting sights, almost regardless of price, feature five very specific attributes. The presence or lack of those attributes is what vaults a hunting sight into the first-rate club or leaves it standing at the front door.

To begin with, a first-rate hunting sight must be relatively light in weight. We've all handled those over-engineered monstrosities sporting more metal and screws than the space shuttle. They weighed a ton. I don't like them and I bet you don't either.

Too much weight in a sight can throw an otherwise good hunting bow off kilter. A too-heavy sight, arrow rest and loaded bowquiver have been known to tip a bow toward the dirt. The solution is simple. Truly savvy sight manufacturers trim as much extraneous weight from their hunting sights as possible.

In the same vein, great hunting sights are relatively compact. There is just no good reason for bulk

or undue mass in a hunting sight. Everything should be trim, rounded and as efficient as possible. Undue bulk only adds unwanted weight and ensures that the sight is bound to catch on something. Overly bulky sights with ungainly protrusions can also cause interference with loaded bowquivers, which is an unforgiveable sin. First-rate hunting sights are wonderfully trim and compact.

Beyond weight and size, first-rate hunting sights are easy to adjust. Right after appraising a sight's dimensions, test its adjustability. What sorts of tools are needed, if any, to make adjustments? Are the locking screws big enough to avoid stripping? When you loosen a locking screw, do important parts want to fall on the floor? Are adjustment movements smooth and precise? Are easy-to-see tuning marks provided?

One way to quickly test a serious hunting sight is to attempt to make a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch windage adjustment and then a $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch elevation adjustment, while carefully noting how convenient and how precise those adjustments are.

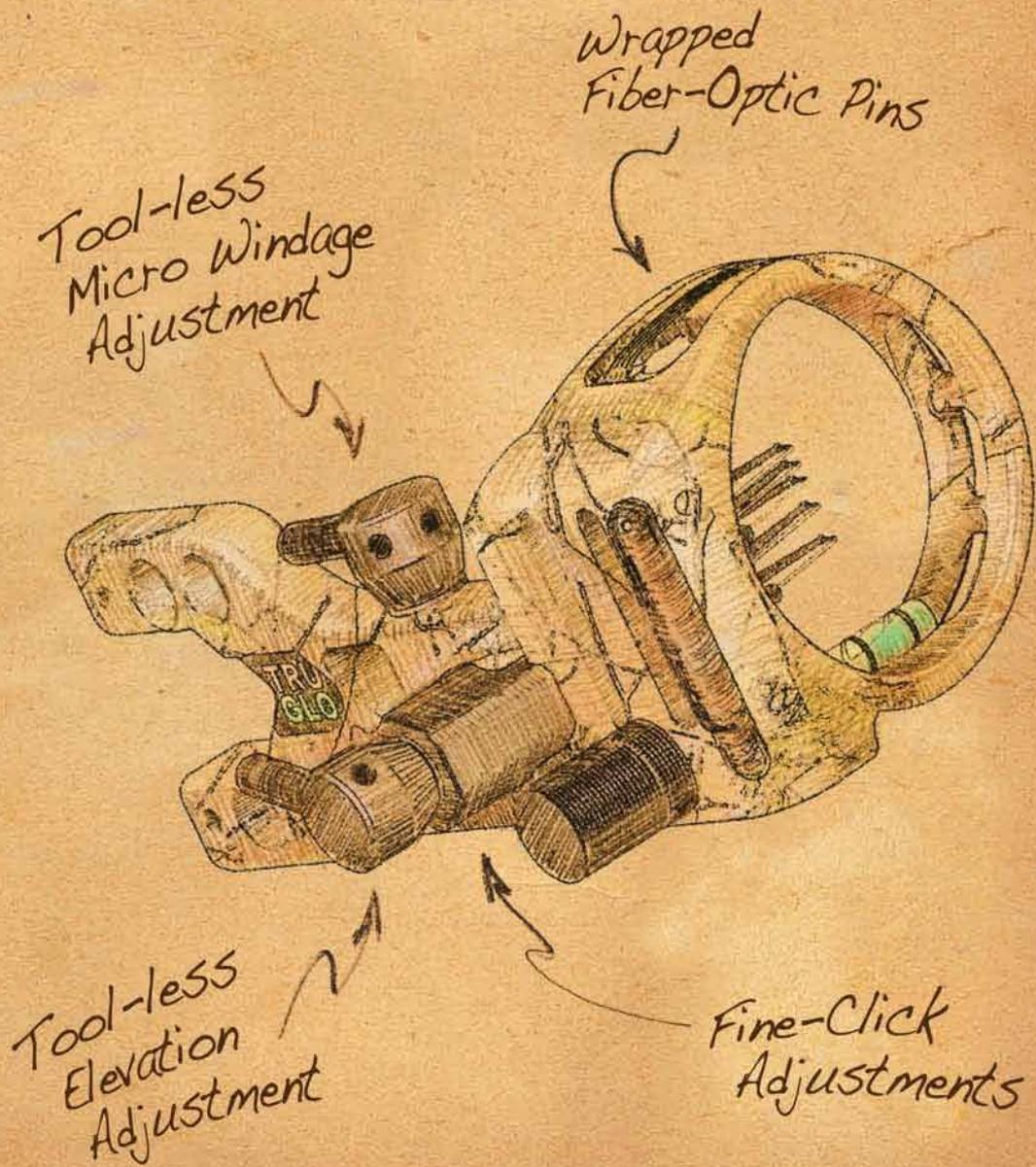
It's said that you can't shoot what you can't see. In bowhunting with a sight, it's also true that you can't

shoot if you can't see your sight pins. First-rate hunting sights have highly visible sight pins. The advent of fiber optics have helped this attribute immensely, but not all fiber-optic strands are created equal. The best

The best hunting sights feature five specific attributes, although some of those attributes are more important than others.

— Tracey Reginek —

TruGlo
Tru-Site
Xtreme



Hunting Sights



Fuse Lucky 7



TruGlo Tru-Site Xtreme



Cobra DRM



Sure-Loc Lethal Weapon 1



Trophy Ridge Matrix GS



Copper John Dead Nuts 2 Hunter Pro

fiber-optic strands are bright and sharp. Cut-rate fiber optic is dull, brittle and tends toward a haloed pin picture.

Carefully inspect the fiber optics in any sight. Compare the pins in the sights you like to the pins in similarly priced sights. View them side-by-side in a dim corner. You may be amazed by the differences.

Light mass weight, a compact nature, easy tuning and highly visible pins are all crucial, but maybe even more important is a general toughness that will keep your hunting sight going strong through the usual bumps and knocks that are so routine to bowhunting. In truth, the best hunting sights are rock tough. They can take it. They don't bend or break. Blows glance off. You don't have to imagine the worst when lowering your bow down from your treestand with a rope. You can set the bow down on the sight and rest assured it will still direct your shot to the precise spot you want. One manufacturer tests his hunting sights by jumping on them. You can't do that in a dealer's shop, although you might wish you could. A first-rate hunting sight must be tough above all else.

Given the plethora of bowhunting sights offered today, we've narrowed the field down for this review. Here is something less than a gazillion sights for you to consider. These are great hunting sights. Measure them yourself against the five essential criteria.

Great Hunting Sights

The **Fuse Lucky 7** has it all. It's a solidly built sight that offers an excellent micro-adjustment system and mega-bright wrapped fiber-optic pins. Each pin is lit by over 5 feet of ultra-bright fiber-optic cable. Fuse-signature Shock-Rod

Technology consisting of strategically placed outboard rubber bumpers actually helps squelch bow vibration.

TruGlo's Tru-Site Xtreme is a wonderfully compact hunting sight, and especially so given all of its many features. It offers tool-less micro windage and elevation adjustments, ultra-bright wrapped fiber-optic pins (TruGlo was the very first to incorporate fiber optics in archery sights), a circular pin guard with glow-in-the-dark alignment ring, an adjustable level, clear tuning marks and much more.

The new **Cobra DRM** is an innovative sight with a distinctive look. It features a unique dual-rail, micro-adjustment system that doesn't require tools. Its orange glo-ring provides instant peep-sight alignment, and its all-metal Coil Pins protect those bright fiber-optic pins. This is a particularly lightweight sight weighing only 6.7 ounces.

The **Sure-Loc Lethal Weapon 1** series of sights are named for their deadly accurate micro-adjustments. All models offer 3-axis leveling capability, and the pins may be individually adjusted or adjusted as a group. The lightweight, durable isogrid pin guard offers superb pin protection, and new fiber optics are longer, stronger and brighter.

With its revolutionary Vertical Inline Pin Technology, the **Trophy Ridge Matrix GS** is a very impressive hunting sight. That unique pin configuration provides a clear view of any target. Over 7 inches of fiber optic powers each pin. The true-turn knobs and durable Micro-Tech levers with cam locks provide wonderfully convenient tool-less adjustment. The dual harmonic dampers are fixed into the sight's mounting bracket.

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Top Gun Nighthawk



Spot-Hogg Hogg-It

Hunting Sights

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The **Copper John Dead Nuts 2 Hunter Pro** is a tough and rugged, almost bomb-proof hunting sight. Its special Speed Gap pins can be quickly adjusted for very close pin settings for the fastest bows, while Copper John's fiber optics are among the brightest and most durable available today. The

micro-adjustability of each pin, coupled with the bright orange aperture ring might very well put this sight on your short list.

Lightweight, easy-to-adjust and rugged, the **Top Gun Nighthawk** stands out in any hunting-sight crowd. The chamber that houses the

Continued on page 50

Learn More About Each Sight

To learn more about first-rate hunting sights, see your dealer or contact these leading manufacturers.

Apex Gear	apex-gear.com	(972) 437-9181
Axion Archery	axionarchery.com	(330) 343-0900
Black Gold	blackgoldsights.com	(406) 388-9060
Cobra Manufacturing	cobraarchery.com	(800) 352-6272
Compound Bow Rifle Sight	peepeliminator.com	(618) 526-4427
Copper John Corporation	copperjohn.com	(315) 258-9269
Extreme Archery Products	extremearchery.com	(606) 928-9447
Extreme Outdoor Products	extremeop.com	(601) 833-5395
Fuse Archery	fusearchery.com	(801) 363-2990
G5 Outdoors	g5outdoors.com	(866) 456-8836
HHA Sports	hhasports.com	(800) 548-7812
Hind Sight	hindsightco.com	(734) 878-2842
Impact Archery	impactarchery.com	(770) 521-9173
Sims Vibration Laboratory	limbsaver.com	(877) 257-2761
Spot-Hogg	spot-hogg.com	(888) 302-7768
Summit	summitstands.com	(256) 353-0634
Sure-Loc Archery Products	sureloc.com	(812) 689-9926
Top Gun Archery	pse-archery.com	(520) 884-9065
Toxonics Manufacturing	toxonics.com	(573) 436-5130
Trophy Ridge	trophyridge.com	(800) 694-9494
TruGlo	truglo.com	(972) 774-0300



Extreme
RT900



Sims LimbSaver Elite Prism



Toxonics
SolidLock



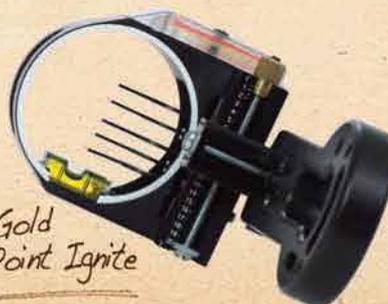
Apex
Nitrus



G5
Optix XR



Axion
Trax 4



Black Gold
FlashPoint Ignite

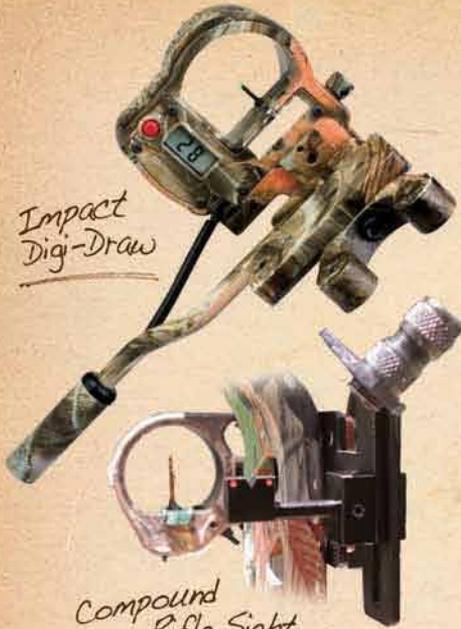


HHA
Brushfire 400

Hunting Sights

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Impact Digi-Draw



Compound Bow Rifle Sight Peep Eliminator

wrapped fiber optics is mounted adjacent to the sight pins and utilizes a unique shock-absorbing mounting system that eliminates noise. Three- and five-pin models are available. Each provides for near-zero pin gap. A Glo Ring allows for instant and accurate peep-sight alignment.

The **Spot-Hogg Hogg-It Hunter** is one of the most durable hunting sights ever offered by the archery industry, and one of the most feature-packed. It has individual micro-adjustable pins and second- and third-axis leveling so your shots are dead on. A vertical aiming wire creates faster alignment of your sight picture. Add in the white alignment ring for centering the pin guard in your peep sight and a unique no-clamp, gang-adjustment system and you have a top-of-the-line hunting sight that's hard to beat.

Extreme Archery's RT900 is machined from solid aluminum, making it both strong and lightweight. Each of its four pins are lit by over 2 feet of light-grabbing fiber optic that is secured and protected by the sight's mounting bracket. The RT900 is especially easy to adjust and is compact.

The **Sims LimbSaver Elite Prism** is a revolutionary new hunting sight that utilizes a prism lens located on top of the sight to gather light and direct it onto the ends of the fiber-optic cables. Those cables lead directly to the pins and provide a whole new level of pin brightness. The Elite Prism also provides micro-adjustability and a more accurate single-plane pin configuration. Sims NAVCOM material is incorporated at specific points to further reduce overall bow vibration.

EXTREME

900-19BK W/.019 Pins
900-29BK W/.029 Pins

750-19AP W/.019 Pin
750-29AP W/.029 Pin

1000-29LT W/.029 Pins
1000-19LT W/.019 Pins
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QuikSpin

X-SF/QS
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The **Toxonics SolidLock** enhances sight durability by incorporating an innovative new adjustment-locking mechanism made of steel. Most sights simply use softer aluminum. Toxonics now uses much tougher steel. The SolidLock also features rugged and precise Metal Optic pins, each equipped with 9 inches of light-grabbing fiber optic that is neatly wrapped and housed next to the sight frame.

Brilliantly trim and compact, the **Apex Nitrus** is available in a number of four- and six-pin versions. Each is equipped with extra-long wrapped fiber optics for mega-bright pins. The Nitrus also offers micro-click adjustability, a glow-in-the-dark peep-alignment ring and precise adjustment marks. A violet LED light is included with all models.

The **G5 Optix XR** is unique in that it features three fixed pins that can be preset for the distances you like and also a fourth hybrid floating pin that you can dial in for a longer shot. That floating pin is constantly under tension so there's no noise or vibration. A large adjustment knob makes moving that fourth pin a quick and easy matter. Because the Optix XR is mostly made of magnesium, it's especially lightweight.

Lightweight and compact, the **Axion's Trax 4** sports a simple design that is incredibly rugged. Each of the four Simplex pins has a foot of wrapped fiber for added brightness. The Trax 4 offers positive dovetail windage and elevation adjustments. A circular pin guard makes for quick target acquisition.

Black Gold's FlashPoint Ignite is new. It's also micro-adjustable and ruggedly constructed. What sets this sight apart is its innovative SkyCoil PhotoChromatic system. That system gathers light and channels just the right amount to the fiber optics. In low light, the SkyCoil shell turns a clear white, which allows maximum light penetration. In bright light, the shell turns purple to dampen the pins just a bit.

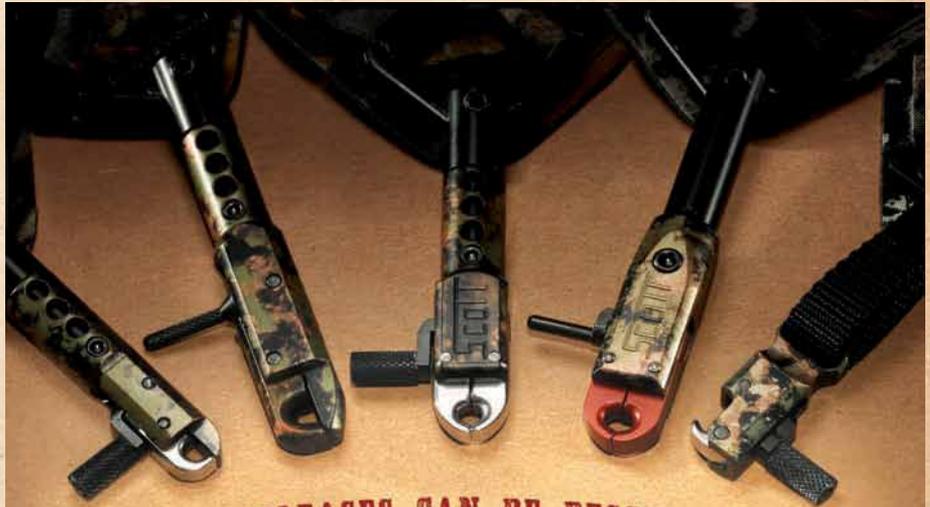
HHA's Brushfire 400 is a lightweight, sturdy hunting sight. It weighs just 5 ounces. Wrapped fiber optics are captured within individual pin spools. Those unique spools deliver maximum fiber protection and brightness. The Brushfire's yellow sight ring provides quick target acquisition and

precise peep-sight alignment.

The **Impact Digi-Draw** is a fascinating single-pin bowhunting sight that adjusts easily and features a digital readout to let you keep track of your adjustments. This system works so well that you can

make adjustments and read the results while you're at full draw. All you do is simply twist the knob at your fingertips. This is one smart sight.

The **Summit Hot Dot F.O.X.** (Fiber Optic Xtreme) is the newest member of



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Hunting Sights



Summit's Hot Dot line of premium sights. Unlike previous Hot Dots, the Hot Dot F.O.X. is legal in all states because it contains no electronics. It comes standard with six easily adjustable pins mounted in the housing above the aperture. Each pin is outfitted with super-bright fiber optic. The extended mounting bracket allows for increased accuracy and a full field of view.

Isn't it amazing that we can fly to the moon, but we can't seem to develop a peep sight that is 100-percent reliable? Three companies have, however, innovated sights systems that eliminate troublesome peep sights, and they deserve mention here.

The **Peep Eliminator** from **Compound Bow Rifle Alignment Sight** works like a rear rifle sight while it completely eliminates the need for a peep sight. All you do is line up the

fiber-optic rear sight with virtually any front sight and make the shot. The Peep Eliminator is just the ticket in low-light conditions.

Another way to get away from the pain of a peep sight is the **Hind Sight CrossFire**. The CrossFire is a complete sighting system. The front sight features three TruGlo Pro-Wrap fiber-optic pins. The rear aperture sports glow-in-the-dark crosshairs. Line up the back with the front and shoot.

Extreme Outdoor Products' Eliminator Pro is a rugged sight that combines a fiber-optic rear sight with a bright fiber-optic front sight. The front end of the Eliminator Pro is available with either horizontal pins or a vertical-pin package. The vertical-pin packages are offered in either three-, four- or five-dot configurations. The entire Eliminator Pro weighs just 7 ounces. 🏹

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