

## LONG GUNS

Thompson practices engagement from behind cover with Colt LE6940 with Pitbull mounted. Note CGL foregrip.

# VALDADA PITBULL TACTICAL SCOPE AND COLT CGL

» BY LEROY THOMPSON

**I'm a great believer that with M4 carbines, lighter is better.**

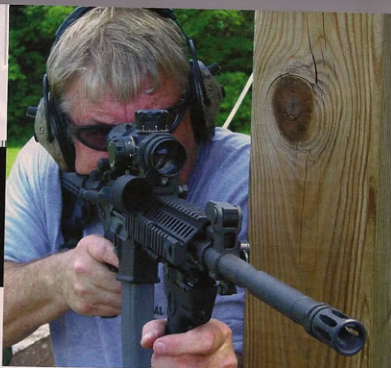
I want good optics and generally a light. I am neutral on vertical foregrips, particularly on semi-auto weapons, but do use them on some carbines. My bottom line, however, is that a carbine must remain handy to allow quick engagement. If I'm going to carry a heavy self-loading rifle, then I want it to be in 7.62mm NATO. As a re-

sult, I want to discuss two accessories for the M4 that enhance its capabilities substantially, while keeping weight and bulk down.

The first is Valdada's Pitbull Tactical Scope. The Pitbull is a 1-4X32mm that offers a lot of optic, but takes up minimal real estate on the top rail. As with all Valdada optics, the Pitbull uses fully

multicoated lenses, a photoengraved reticle and tough alloy housing with O-ring seals. As a result, the Pitbull is water- and fog-proof and offers excellent resolution and light-gathering capability. Typically, Valdada scopes are rated from -40 to +140 degrees F.

I am a great believer in illuminated reticles for tactical scopes, and I have



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▲ Pitbull allows BUIS on Colt carbine to be used effectively through the glass.

◀ Close-up of Pitbull's dials. Scope is very compact.

always found Valdada illuminated reticles of extremely high quality. I have shot tight groups at 300 yards on silhouette targets in moonlight using Valdada scopes with illuminated reticles. The circuitry seems to be assembled with good quality control, too, as I have never had one fail either when shoot-

ing or when turned on after months of only using the scope in daylight. By the way, the battery for the Pitbull's illuminated reticle is a CR2032.

The Pitbull's size is one of its great attractions. Overall length is only 7.28 inches. Weight is 23 ounces, but when mounted, the scope does not seem to

affect the carbine's balance. I tested it on a Colt LE6940, their monolithic rail carbine, which I use a lot. For most M4-type carbines, I like an optical sight that allows me to use it at close range or at longer ranges to 500 yards. I also like a field of view on an M4 optical sight that lets me scan a wide field area. At

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100 yards on 1X setting, the Pitbull offers a 144 feet field of view, and even on 4X the field of view is 38 feet.

The Pitbull uses the Valdada CQB-BDC reticle, which I find very good for both CQC and longer range shooting. This reticle incorporates a horseshoe and center dot that make target acquisition very quick to 100 yards. Stadia lines are incorporated for use at ranges from 300 to 800 yards.

The interior dimension of the horseshoe and the stadia lines may also be used for range finding. The reticle is designed for use with the SS109 (M855) 62-gr. load, but at distances to 300 yards, 55-gr. loads will shoot fairly close to point of aim. I did, however, zero the Pitbull for 62-gr. loads at 200 yards. With this zero, the dot is close to on at 50 yards as well.

I shot with the Pitbull at 25, 50, 100 and 200 yards. At 25 and 50, I shot it on 1X, and at 100 and 200 on 4X. I also did some shooting at 50 yards on 2X. In fact, once I became used to the Pitbull—I had already done quite a bit of shooting with the CQB-BDC reticle

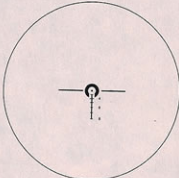
on another Valdada scope—I did some drills on a hostage/hostage taker target at 50 yards, in which I would bring the carbine up from a low ready and do a double tap to the terrorist target's head.

I found I could ring the head with the horseshoe and place the dot quickly. On paper at 200 yards, my best groups were running around three inches, which I feel is quite good. I also did a lot of shooting on 100-, 200- and 300-yard plates.

I also found that I could use my backup iron sights (BUIS) perfectly through the Pitbull's lenses. Although Valdada scopes are known for being reliable and tough, I always like to be able to use my BUIS immediately should a problem occur with an optical sight.

I like the Pitbull quite well. It is compact yet versatile—long or short range, day or night. It shows typical Valdada quality and incorporates a reticle I like. MSRP on the Pitbull is \$1,295, but quality isn't cheap and it is a really excellent scope. I have also found Valdada rings of high quality and very durable—once

Valdada-10R Pit-Bull CQB-BDC Reticle



Valdada CQB-BDC reticle diagram.

mounted, they stay through hundreds and hundreds of rounds fired.

### COLT DEFENSE CGL FOREGRIP LASER

I have been using the Colt Defense CGL Foregrip Laser on the Colt LE6940 along with the Pitbull. Designed to fit any Mil-Std-1913 rail, the CGL combines a vertical foregrip with a built-in LED navigating light and a laser-aiming device. The CGL is the result of a

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Two double taps on terrorist target at 50 yards with Pitbull set on 2X.

joint venture between Colt Defense and LaserMax.

Because the laser is positioned in line with the bore, it is easier to zero to hold point of aim. The navigation light is available in red, white or blue. This is not a bright illuminator, but a subdued light used for navigation through darkened areas without degrading night vision significantly or giving away the operator's posi-

tion past the immediate area.

A trigger switch on the grip allows the light or laser to be used in momentary-on mode or constant-on mode. A selector dial at the rear of the foregrip may be set on light, laser or off positions. Power is supplied by AA batteries that will last for 30 hours with the laser constantly on.

I have found the CGL an effective accessory that fits my criteria for M4 additions that provide a lot of function for less weight and bulk. The grip is quite ergonomic and very comfortable when shooting. With practice, the selector dial may easily be worked with the thumb of the hand on the foregrip.

As much as I like the CGL, however, I see a few problems. It has two features that are not cop- or soldier-proof. First, the panel at the bottom of the foregrip, which must be removed to change batteries, is not hinged and is held in place by a small screw which is not captive. I feel it

has a high likelihood of getting lost.

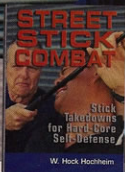
Second, the lever that locks the foregrip to the rail incorporates a locking button that must be pressed when operating it. Once this lever is locked, it is quite difficult to open without prying it with a knife, screwdriver, etc. One must remember to depress the lock while prying, or the locking system will be damaged. I think a lot of levers will get broken. MSRP for the CGL is \$399.99. **Q**

#### SOURCES:

Valdada Optics  
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