

Stepping into tactical: Weatherby's PA 459

By Lindsey Bertomen

Lindsey Bertomen is a police firearms instructor and a military small arms instructor.

I also tested the Konus Sight Pro Atomic Red/Green dot sight, a compact optic with great flexibility and Spec-Ops LoneStar Rig, a single point tactical sling. Not only did this combination work well together, the shotgun and the hardware cost less than many tactical shotguns alone.

On my first trip to the range, I accurately emptied the magazine with high recoil rounds. The Sight Pro Atomic projected a daylight visible red or green 4 MOA dot on the target. Originally, my plan was to use a laser bore sight to do a coarse adjustment on the Sight Pro Atomic, and then fine tune it with slugs. I mounted it and found it was easy to co-witness it (view the same point of aim with the fixed sights). The Sight Pro Atomic and the supplied ghost ring sight complemented each other.

The Sight Pro Atomic has windage and elevation adjustments with sealed caps. I liked the fact that I could switch it on with the thumb of my support hand, and could look almost into the sun and pick up the dot in a hurry on the fly.

The Sight Pro Atomic sight is small enough to be mounted on some pistols, but it is perfect for tactical long gun work. I would improve one thing, however; I generally like bikini scope covers because they are quiet and easy to get into action. The Sight Pro Atomic is tiny and needs just a little edge on both ends to keep it on. I would make the tube a centimeter longer and add flip-up caps.

A dot optic has to do one thing well: One should be able to track a target with both eyes open and raise the optic into the visual plane for a quick shot - the Sight Pro Atomic excelled at this. The dot was crisp with no visual distortion in the sighting plane. Simple and efficient.

The sight's mirrored front is fine for patrol, but I would use an anti-reflective cover for deliberate deployment. There is a definite halo when one turns the dot intensity up for the ambient conditions, but this is typical with almost every product of this type I have tested. With 5 adjustments for each color, the features of the Sight Pro Atomic belie the reasonable price.

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