LEUPOLD D-EVO

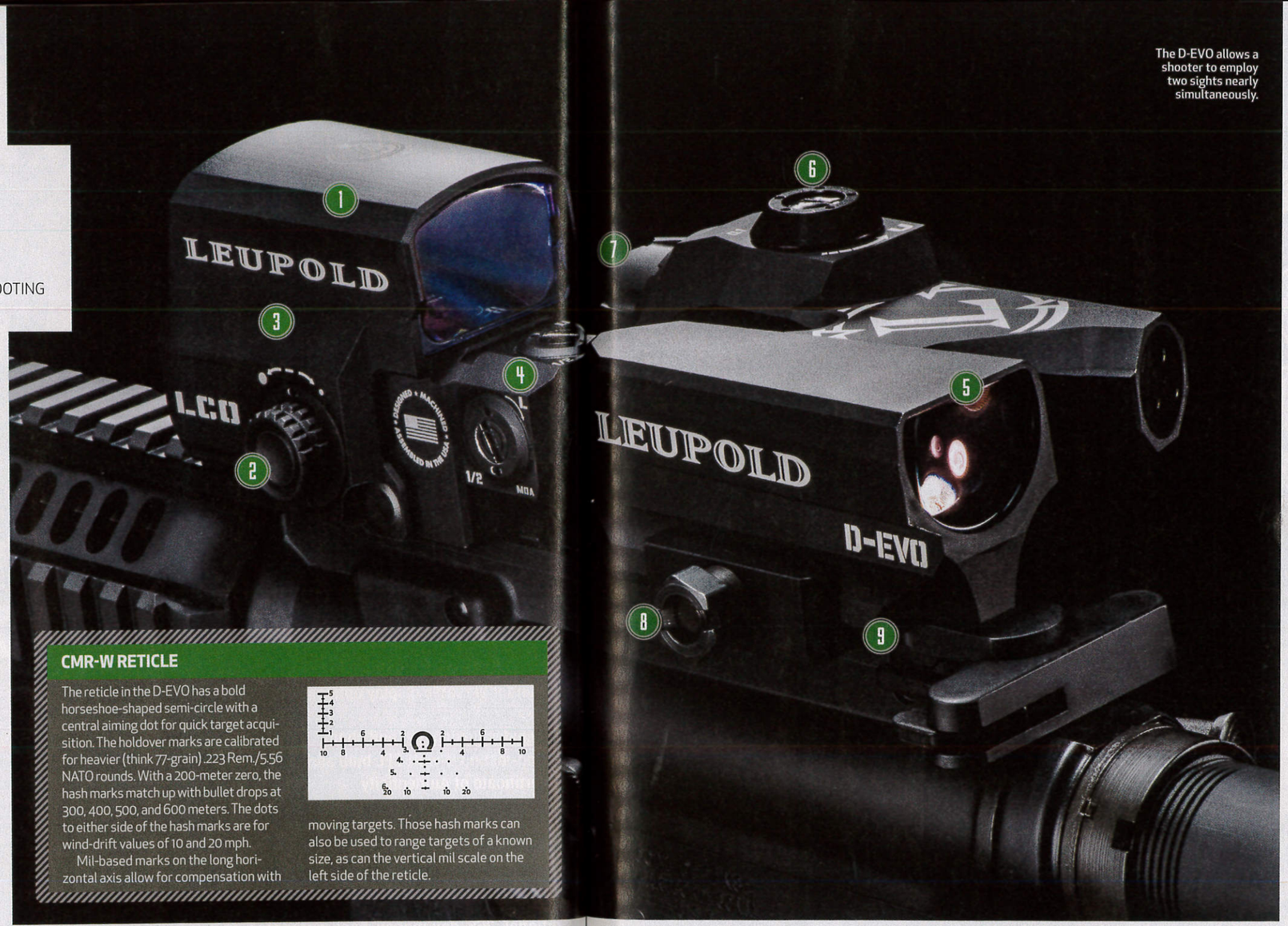
A NEW SOLUTION TO AN AGE-OLD SHOOTING PROBLEM **BY JOHN B. SNOW**

Speed versus precision. In dynamic shooting situations—whether you're hunting or in competition—you're going to have to trade one of these goals for the other. Often the decision is based on shot distance. Targets up close can be taken much faster than those that are football fields away. A puzzle for shooters has been how to cut the time it takes to transition between the two.

Competitive shooters have a couple of ways to tackle this. One is to attach a lever to the magnification ring of their riflescope so they can toggle from low to high magnification. The other is to employ a second set of sights on the rifle that they can look through by tilting the stock or otherwise repositioning their head. These methods work, but both require extra motion on the part of the shooter.

Leupold has created a dual-sight system that requires only the barest movement of the shooter's eye to transition between a red-dot optic and a fixed-power 6x20mm scope. The idea behind it is simple, though the engineering is complex. With the rifle mounted, the shooter can see through both optics. The red-dot is in the top of the shooter's vision and the scope, called the D-EVO, is right below it. Both can be zeroed to the same point of impact, and by focusing on one instead of the other, the shooter can go from 1X to 6X faster than the blink of an eye.

I had a chance to use one of the prototypes, which have been developed in conjunction with units in our military's Joint Special Operations Command, and I found that the system is remarkable for its speed, accuracy, versatility, and bombproof construction. With just a bit of practice, I moved at lightning speed between targets arrayed within 25 feet of me to others at 100 yards and beyond. Shooting from supported positions, I used the holdover reticle in the in the D-EVO to easily hit targets out past 400 yards. The system does exactly what it is supposed to do. I can't wait to use it at my next 3-Gun match. The D-EVO costs $1,499 and the LCO, Leupold's red-dot optic, is $999.



The D-EVO allows a shooter to employ two sights nearly simultaneously.

CMR-W RETICLE

The reticle in the D-EVO has a bold horseshoe-shaped semi-circle with a central aiming dot for quick target acquisition. The holdover marks are calibrated for heavier (think 77-grain) .223 Rem./5.56 NATO rounds. With a 200-meter zero, the hash marks match up with bullet drops at 300, 400, 500, and 600 meters. The dots to either side of the hash marks are for wind-drift values of 10 and 20 mph.

Mil-based marks on the long horizontal axis allow for compensation with moving targets. Those hash marks can also be used to range targets of a known size, as can the vertical mil scale on the left side of the reticle.

LCO

[1] BEAT ON IT
The LCO, for Leupold Carbine Optic, is a red-dot sight encased in a machined aluminum body for protection. This is Leupold's first optic of this kind.

[2] SEE YOUR TARGET
This dial controls the red dot's 16 brightness level settings and incorporates a push on-off switch. A CR123 lithium battery provides up to five years of runtime.

[3] GET IT WET
Like the D-EVO, the LCO is waterproof and rated for dive depths of 66 feet.

[4] DIAL IT IN
A flat-blade screwdriver or cartridge rim can be used to move the ½ MOA windage and elevation adjustments. The unit has positive adjustments.

The aiming dot in the optic subtends at 1 MOA, allowing for good precision for a 1X optic.

D-EVO

[5] PICK YOUR IMAGE
The D-EVO, for Dual-Enhanced View Optic, rides just behind the red-dot sight. Its ocular lens has a flat top so that the image of the CMR-W reticle sits just beneath the image of the red dot in the other optic.

The D-EVO has an offset body that allows it to see around the red-dot sight.

[6] ZERO IT
Robust windage and elevation adjustments move the reticle in 0.1 mil increments.

[7] BEAT ON IT
A beveled aluminum ring protects the 20mm objective lens from damage.

[8] MOUNT IT
Both optics attach to a Picatinny rail with ½-inch nuts that can also be tightened with a large screwdriver.

[9] SAVE SPACE
The body of the D-EVO is compact, requiring just 3.2 inches of mounting surface on the rail.

PHOTOGRAPH BY **RAB CUMMINGS**

SAFETY PLUG TEST

These bright-orange plugs from Chamber-View (*chamber-view.com*) come in three models for shotguns, rifles, and handguns.

THE QUESTION:
Can the plug withstand the temperatures generated by a hot rifle chamber? Some empty-chamber indicators can melt, creating a hard-to-clean mess in the action.

THE TEST:
I put 120 rounds—four 30-round mags—through my PWS MK118 in the course of a couple of minutes while doing some rapid-fire target transition drills at my range. The rifle was blazing hot when I dumped the fourth mag. I accidentally burned my thumb on the gas block, confirming the rifle's volcanic disposition.

I popped the plug into the chamber, laid the rifle on the ground, and snapped the picture above.

THE RESULT:
I kept the plug in the chamber for 45 minutes. When I got back to my workshop, I pulled it out and everything was fine. The Chamber-View passed with full marks.

—John B. Snow