



GERMAN GLASS

HEAVILY ENGINEERED FOR HARD USE, THE GPOTAC 1-8x24i SCOPE HAS ARRIVED

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It's difficult to judge an optic from the outside. Better to test them out, right? From the outside, the GPOTAC 1-8x24i rifle scope from German Precision Optics (GPO) looked like a good fit for an AR: matte black and gnarly turrets. Of course, there are literally a mountain of other riflescopes that look like the GPOTAC. So what is it about this scope that sets it apart from the others?

The GPOTAC 1-8x24i has features I've come to expect in a rifle scope designed for the AR platform. It's compact, lightweight and offers plenty of magnification as well as turrets that are easy to read and manipulate. But more features really excited me. Inside I found a first-focal-plane (FFP) reticle. I've crossed over to the dark side and embraced such reticles. The ability to estimate range with an FFP reticle at any magnification setting makes it invaluable, in my opinion. I also like the large 34mm-diameter tube, which makes the reticle pop and gives the user a nice field of view with both eyes open when aiming. Then there are the other details,

including the 104 inches of adjustment range the larger tube provides, the illuminated reticle with a dummy switch, and the clarity and contrast.

GPO is a relative newcomer to the optics market, but the company is managed by some optics veterans. Mike Jensen has years of experience with rifle glass, and what he and his partners have done is take German-engineered designs and cost-effectively build them in Asia. Not that GPO riflescopes are inexpensive bargains. As with almost any premium glass, you pay for what you get.

A SHARPER IMAGE

There are a few things that push the GPOTAC 1-8x24i scope over the top. The resolution, contrast and color did it for me.

Resolution relates to the sharpness of the image. I was able to read the newspaper at 50 yards using the GPOTAC. Everything was sharp; the letters weren't fuzzy at all. I also use the old U.S. Air Force resolution chart, first adopted in 1951. This chart uses a series of three parallel line patterns of different sizes, from



← The GPOTAC 1-8x24i has large lockable target turrets, a 34mm main tube and GPO's iControl technology so the reticle can be adjusted to eight different brightness levels.



large, headline-sized type to fine, bottom-of-the-page footnote-like type. Using an inferior scope, the smaller three parallel line patterns look like a black rectangle. The GPOTAC made the lines pop.

The next thing I look at is contrast. The more contrast, the better the shooter's ability to pick up a target among its surroundings. It helps resolve fine details, like black bullet holes in a black bullseye. Contrast is a factor of light transmission and the coating on the lenses. Here GPO uses a proprietary GPObright coating process that maximizes light transmission so the image looks bright when viewed through the scope. Inferior scopes make the image look muddy and unclear, as if you were looking through dirty glasses.

TESTING PLATFORM

I played around with the GPOTAC at dawn and dusk on both overcast and sunny days before I ever mounted it to a rifle. I even dropped it on plywood from about waist high. Why? Because things go sideways fast, and I have no need for an AR scope that needs to be babied. Thankfully, the scope survived without a scratch.

For a test platform, I used a Sig MCX Virtus rifle in 300 Blackout. I knew that if there were any accuracy issues, they wouldn't come from the MCX. This is a solid AR-style platform. I used a UTG Accu-Sync mount designed for Picatinny rails. This one-piece mount looks massive but is strategically lightened with machining cuts. Three Torx screws locked the mount to the Sig. The UTG mount placed the GPOTAC at the proper height so when I shouldered the rifle I could view the Horseshoe illuminated (HSi) reticle comfortably without canting my head.

