

Anything Called Tactical

Another trend today is the sale of anything called "tactical." Military semi automatic rifles in the hands of advertisement-gobbling civilians often have super-high magnifications on their scopes up to and even including a ridiculous 40 power scope with an absurd 75mm objective lens weighing in at several pounds.

Real military snipers use top quality fixed 10X scopes most often. These have mildot reticles, that in the hands of a practiced individual or team of two, often with calculators, and knowing the approximate size of their target, can estimate distance and hold-over or elevation clicks. Almost all mildot calculations must be made with scopes at their highest power. Fixed power scopes eliminate miscalculations by having a scope set at less than its highest power.

The "mil" in mildot does not mean *military*. It means *milliradian*, a unit of measurement, and is about 3.6" at 100 yards.

Stateside law enforcement agencies most often use variable scopes of the highest quality, and mildot type reticles are not often used. They clutter the field of view, and the longest shots almost ever taken are across a street, well under 100 yards. Range estimation with a reticle is never required.

Mildot reticles in most people's scopes are nothing but a gimmick and an added expense. They will never use them the way they were designed, which is fine. You can still use them in the field to more accurately estimate hold-over at distances, especially for prairie dogs or plinking, or just because you want it. The reticles in a mildot do *subtend* (cover) more of your target than necessary, though. But buy what *you* like for any reason. You don't have to buy or not buy something because of someone else's opinion, or use it as designed.