

CZ 550 458 Lott, Trijicon and the Apex Predator Base Mount

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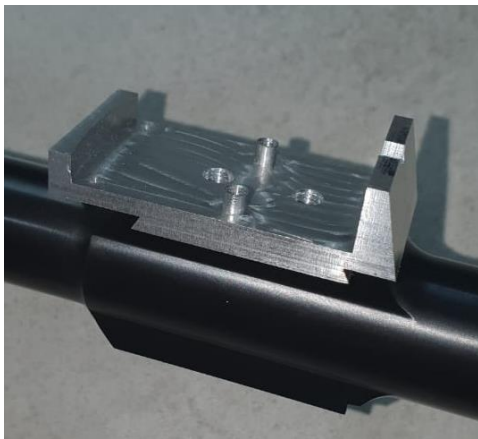
It is a mouth full, but it took time to get it all together, I longed for a 458 Lott and finally got hold of one with a straight stock not the Bavarian style stock. Secondly, I was opting to mount a Trijicon RMR to use for quick target acquisition. With the time it took the police to finally finalise their paperwork and hand me over my gun license for the rifle the Trijicon SRO (Specialized Reflex Optic) came to the market.

<https://www.trijicon.com/products/subcategory/trijicon-sro>

The SRO caught my eye with a bigger field of view of the larger frame the clear dot could be picked up easily and aligned in a split second of a time so to speak. So I had the two main components the rifle and the sight but there were no commercial bases made for them the way I wanted it to be mounted as low as possible to use with the straight stock.

Meet MRS Techniques a South Africa company founded by a family to supply civilian and non-civilian clients with goods not easily parts and accessories available for firearms. <https://www.mrst.co.za/>

They came up with the idea instead of building a base munt to sit on top of the normal slots provided by the action used for scope bases to remove the actual V folding sights and slide in a base for the Trijicon SRO.



The test base was cut from Aluminium and an old Trijicon RMR was inserted to test the footprint.

With the test Base we could see that the RMR could go nowhere with a ramp at the back and front recoil would not be able to move the reflex sight. The base inserts from the side and is fasten down with grub screws. We also decided to do a backup and cut in a V same height as the original if something would fail on the reflex sight you can remove it and use the rifle with normal open sight in case of emergency. With the alumium base showing us what we needed to know MRS Techniques went ahead and cut the next base from steel. With steel we could drop the thickness of the base a bit and lower the mount even more.



The Steel base which doesn't look as clumsy as the aluminium test base

The base is built with the footprint for Trijicon and Holosun for the moment but can be build to accept all other reflex sight brands like Leopold, Vortex and Aimpoint.

So what makes it different to mounting the sight forward and not on the action?

Well, in first place its lower to the barrel and almost on the same level as the open sight bead. My Trijicon SRO shows the dot just above the front bead. That allows the shooter with no need to compensate as he would with a telescopic sight to aim just a bit higher at close targets closer than 20 meters. That is also a big help when it comes to charging dangerous game no need for hold over but just aim and shoot when the dot and target area is aligned.

The other big plus point on mounting the reflex sight out further down the barrel is Target and dot acquisition its there immediately! No need to look and find the dot its like using open sights once the rifle is shouldered the sight picture is clear and right there with using both eyes open. I am not going to elaborate on the pros of shooting both eyes open. I am also not going to elaborate on the non parallax issue with reflex sights either but basically if the dot is on target that is where the gun will shoot even if your rifle is not shouldered properly.



Note the dot just above the bead post, the camera cannot pick up the clear 1 MOA dot making it look extra large. The larger lens on the Trijicon give you a far wider field of view and target acquisition.

In practise on the range and in the field while hunting I was more than impressed even if I had to get use to shoot with both eyes open. I must also note that when target shooting and shooting to shoot as precise as I can I still close my one eye to concentrate. I suppose that's muscle memory just built in over the years.



Hunting

The setup rifle and whole package with 1 MOA dot lends itself for longer than normal shots on open sights if needed clear sight picture to precisely place your shot. I have over this season shot a few animals closest being 80 meters and the shot was true. What I love about the Trijicon SRO is that it doesn't shut off automatically and the battery last up to 3 years at a lower light setting. If you are the type of hunter that worries about battery failure just replace it every time before a big hunt.

The SRO has also made it easier to replace batteries which can be done from the top and you don't have to remove the sight before replacing the battery like the previous models. Sighting it in was a breeze and I did so at 50 meters and one click is 1 MOA or basically 2 clicks for 1 inch at 50 meters.

I switch mine off before placing the rifle in the safe. The dot also allows shooting at low light and as long as you can see your target you will be able to shoot. In other words your own eyesight will fail to see the target but the dot will still be there to use.



Easy access to remove and replace battery and sighting it in was a breeze

Shooting Targets and Competitions

I regularly compete in Big bore shooting competitions and have recently shot my first competition with the rifle and I must say I'm impressed. I did not win or come in the top shooters like I normally do but I am still learning the rifle and the sight. I also made a rookie mistake and didn't double check that my Range loads shoot correctly on target and just left the sight on its hunting ammo setting. Time was just not with me with work keeping me away from any range before the competition.

The scoring works on hits and time the more you hit with a quicker time the more you score. We also add in the bullet energy which gives you a handicap of some sort so that a 375 H&H with little recoil can compete with a 500 Jeff with double the recoil and time to get back on target. Making it a level playing field.

We try and simulate real lifetime scenarios with our targets some of them static and some of them moving like a charge or away from you. Even some that will move from right to left or vice versa. Basically the closest you can come to the real thing shooting against time and under pressure from spectators.

With that as background I only wanted to make sure to have more hits on the board than chasing time. The result was not so great but from all the targets it seems that my rifle shoots the target ammo right which is not the same as my hunting ammo cheap 480gr bullets vs Woodleigh bonded 480gr bullets. The cheap bullets shot right about a 1" more and I missed more than I should have. But that was my mistake in not making sure of the zero.

So scoring sucked but what surprised me was without chasing time on the ranges I was one of the fastest competitors on the range. Reason being that the target acquisition was so immensely fast and there was nothing in the way of the action when I needed to load the magazine when we needed to. I normally compete fast in the shoots but shooting as fast as I did without trying was a good indication of my setup that it works and all my plans and time to get it going was worth it.

Next shoot is around the corner this time I will make sure my rifle is zeroed correctly and am looking forward to it.

Conclusion

If any of you would like to improve your CZ550 or Bruno 602 Big bore calibres and you are opting to add on a reflex sight don't hesitate to do it you will enjoy it. So much so, that like me you would like to hunt with it all the time even if it is after normal plainsgame. I was backup on a friends recent buffalo bull hunt, but he did good and did not need any backup shots. So in total I spent 18 days hunting with the rifle this season and I was impressed and can feel a long hunting career coming for the rifle and sight.

The challenge to hunt almost like open sights but having a better sight picture and shot placement guide with the reflex dot.

To own your own Apex Predator Mount contact MRS Techniques

MRS Techniques www.mrst.co.za

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The Apex predator base mount is priced at 150 USD without shipping and includes all you need to fit the mount yourself no need to take it to a gunsmith. Different footprints can also be ordered for the different manufacturers of reflex sights.

