

Up And Atom!

Mark Camoccio gives his thoughts on the mighty mini MTC SWAT Prismatic 10 x 30 Atom

MTC Optics have built up a reputation for innovation over several years, and where the airgun scene is concerned, they continue to ruffle plenty of feathers. Their Connect model is a regular sight on the hunter field target scene, where super-short eye relief helps to minimise parallax error, and on test here is their other main radical design – the MTC SWAT Prismatic 10 x 30 Atom.

SWATTING UP

So what does SWAT stand for in this context? 'Super Wide Angle Technology' is the name of game, and there are three models in the Prismatic range; a 12 x 50, 10 x 42, and my 10 x 30 version on test here. First impressions are of the crazy short length, and at just 5.25 inches long, this is one of the most compact sighting systems on the market. There's quite a bit in the box, too; a flip-up, screw-on front lens cover, soft rubber eye shroud and cap for the rear, diagonal mount clamp, two 11mm to Picatinny adaptors, and three mount bases measuring 63mm, 95mm, and 135mm.

So, what's the big deal? Well, for a start, if space is an issue, this sight will pretty well mount anything. The



The super-compact MTC SWAT Prismatic 10 x 30 Atom

prism system means field of view is massive, and again there's extremely short eye relief, so parallax error should be minimised, and that patented adjustable mounting system adds further versatility.

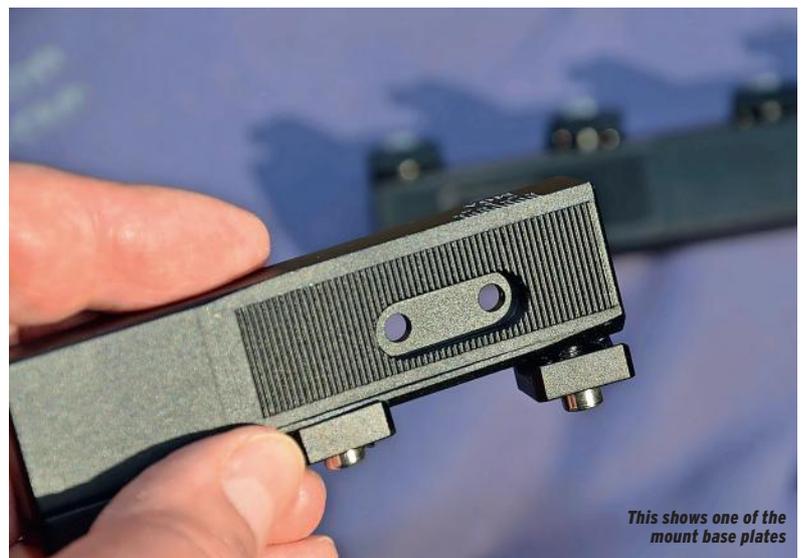
MOUNTING AND TWEAKING

The sight itself sits in a clamp, and

this connects to one of the bases as required, via two bolts underneath. The bases are designed to grip over a Picatinny rail, but if you are fixing the Atom to conventional dovetail rails, then tighten up the mount base screws just enough so that the adaptor blocks can be snapped into place under a small amount of



Note the subtle angle adjustment - all part of the design



This shows one of the mount base plates



Pick the base length you need



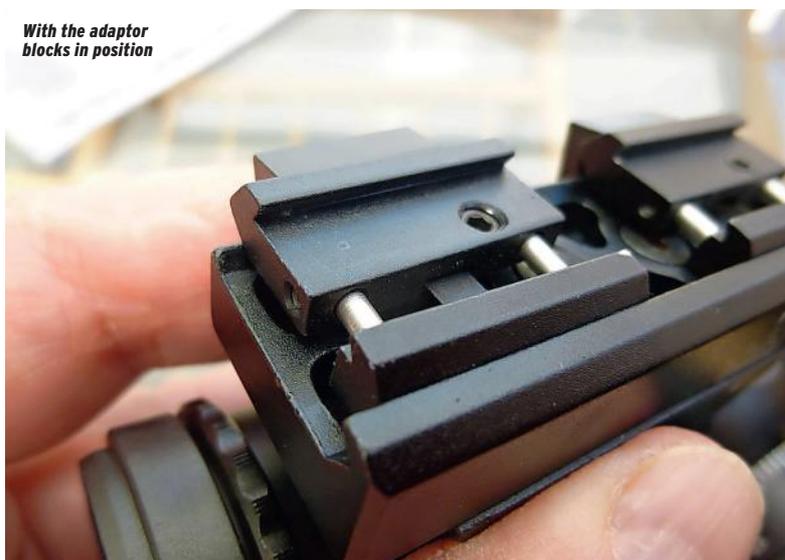
Neat adaptor blocks are supplied to switch to standard dovetail rails

tension. The assembly will now tighten on dovetails, where required. Turrets are of the push-pull variety, but we don't need to touch them just yet.

The clever bit is that you can now roughly zero using the adjustment built into the sliding ramp mount, effectively allowing for 'centred optics'. Adjustment requires the mount to be removed periodically, so make a note of the markings on the scale at the start, and adjust in known increments. Keep a note of where the mount sits on the rails, too. Trial and error plays a part, but familiarity will help. With the mount removed, two bolts in the underside allow for the scope to be moved in an arc along the scale, affecting POI. Re-tighten the clamp, reposition the sight on the dovetail, fire some more shots, and assess results. When close to zero, fine tune using the turrets.



The user now adds range markers to the parallax dial



With the adaptor blocks in position

STICK 'EM UP

This revised model now comes with no range markings on the left parallax knob, with MTC taking the sticker route, allowing the user to add their own distance markers. Pre-marked figures often don't correlate with the user's eyesight, so are only a guide in any case. With minimum focus at around 6m, this sight is just perfect for airgun sport. Of course, many will

that comes with this SWAT Atom – namely that it is strictly for recoilless airguns, advice that is even emblazoned across the rear lens cap! Why? Because with such incredibly short eye relief, specified as 14mm, viewing the target requires the ocular lens literally to rest against the nose and eye socket. Use any gun with a kick, and you will soon know about it! Think about a

"viewing the target requires the ocular lens literally to rest against the nose and eye socket"

find their way into HFT, and the real-world hunting equivalent, and in this scenario, having added a few guide ranges on the dial will be a great help.

WARNING

OK, time for the basic warning

conventional scope and eye relief of around three inches, and the Atom is a radical departure, whichever way you look at it. Mount up, and view a full circular sight picture, and you are now experiencing the 'in yer face' full-on contact that this device



Turrets are push/pull lockable



Note the fine markings for precise location/height



The new side parallax dial has no pre-set markings



Note the markings on the rear diopter



The latest spec includes an inner lens cover with warning

requires.

Let's state right here that this scope won't be for everyone, and on a personal level, I can't abide contact with the face for very long, yet my club is full of shooters using the MTC Connect, a scope that requires similar close-quarter characteristics.

Decide it is for you, and the benefits are hard to refute. Once in position, field of view, at 2.5-3x that of a comparable powered scope, is simply enormous. Clarity and sharpness of image is good, and the glass-etched MD5 reticle is sufficiently refined, offering both precision and a plethora of reference markers. Illumination is in red, although I have to say that on test I was unable to vary the brightness. That minor detail apart, with this Atom there's clearly plenty to get excited about.

EVOLUTION OF THE SPECIES

The Connect has been a great seller for the MTC brand, and that proved that customers weren't afraid to try something different. The prismatic system offers even more of an eye-popping experience, and looks set to become an established alternative to the old guard of traditional offerings. With a current RRP of £375, this MTC SWAT Prismatic Atom isn't exactly cheap, but given a hatful of USPs and a genuinely unique feel, it deserves to succeed. ■

SPECIFICATION

Model: MTC SWAT Prismatic
10 x 30 Atom

Manufacturer: MTC Optics

Magnification: Fixed 10x

Objective Lens Diameter:
30mm

Reticle: Glass-etched MD5 design

Illumination: Yes, in red

Linear Field of View: 32ft
@100 yards

Weight: 10.7oz

Eye Relief: 14mm

Click Values: 1cm @

100metres

Body Tube: 34mm

Minimum Focus: 6m

Length: 5.25"/135mm with caps

Turret Type: Push/pull tactical

Clicks Per Rotation: 56 on both turrets

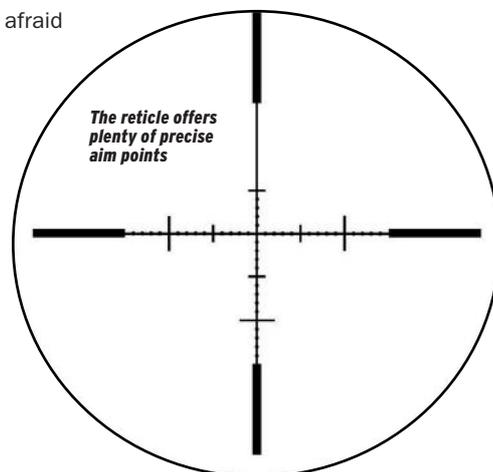
Number of turret revolutions: 5 windage /5 elevation

Price: £380 including flip-up lens caps and three mount bases

Contact: MTC Optics

www.mtcoptics.com

RRP: £380



The reticle offers plenty of precise aim points