



Pride-Fowler 1.25-4X28 Pistol Scope

By: Dean Grua (IHMSA80x80)

<http://www.specialtypistols.us>

Article #37 – June 30, 2007

Some time ago, Mike asked me if I would do a test of a new pistol scope that had some interesting features. I always like new things, and agreed to test it and write it up. Life sometimes interferes with these things, so it was a year before I got the scope from him, then I didn't get around to the article until recently, even though I completed the test earlier.

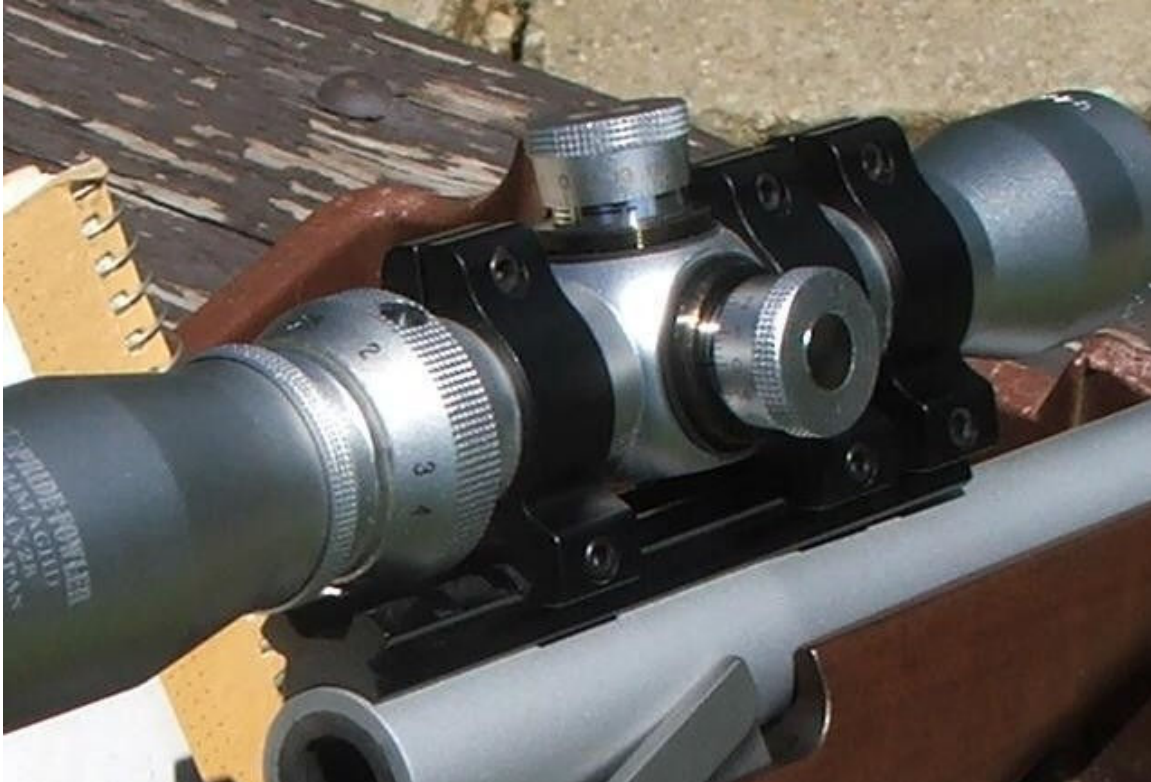


So, who is Pride-Fowler, and just what is so unique about their scopes? The company was formed by two well-known professional pistol competitors, John Pride and Mickey Fowler. Those who are familiar with action-shooting, will recognize these men as leaders in the shooting community. They have created a line of rifle, pistol and red-dot scopes, known as The Rapid Reticle. What is unique about these scopes, is that they are built for specific calibers with distance markings matching the ballistics of the round. Very similar to the Mil-Dot scopes, except these don't require calculations and counting stadia lines.

The version Mike sent me was the 1.25-4X28 made for the .44 Magnum. Since the only .44 Magnums I own are revolvers, Mike loaned me his Encore barrel for the test. With my frame and cobbled furniture, it was time to get down to business.



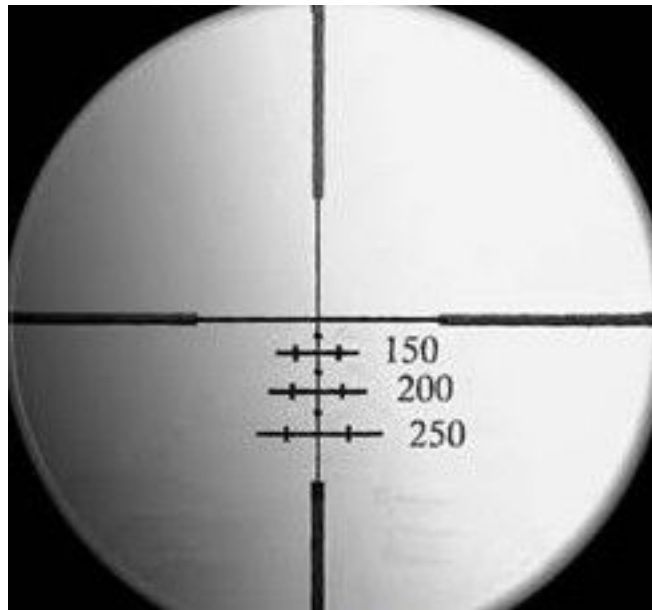
When I mounted the scope, I gave it good once-over. It is a matte silver finished 1" tube, long eye-relief scope with multi-coated lenses. Weight is about 10 ounces. The elevation and windage turrets had 1/4 minute adjustments and came with protective caps. According to the literature, the scopes are water and fog proof, and shock resistant. Well, it should be...the .44 Magnum does have a bit of recoil in a TC frame. I wasn't going to throw it in a lake though, just wanted to see how the new reticle worked.



The manual states that the scope is calibrated for .44 Magnum 240 grain bullets going 1400 fps. In my ammo closet I had several boxes of loads running about 1425 fps with 240 grain bullets for my 10.5" Eldorado. That should be close enough. Got the scope bore-sighted at 100 meters, and the first shot was on the steel pig. After a little fine adjustment, it was zeroed.

The reticle is a standard duplex crosshair. What makes it unique are the 3 lines below the center crosshair, marked 150, 200 and 250. These are distance markers for either yards or

meters. There is also a fine dot between each line, which would indicate 125, 175 and 225 yards. Each distance line has a short segment that is used for windage. The end of each line is for a 10 mph wind, while the pins indicate a 5 mph wind.



Once you know the distance to the target, or game animal, it is super-easy to get the correct holdover necessary, without having to guess, or calculate anything. Since I was on a silhouette range, we already have targets set at the exact distances this scope is calibrated for. I shot several 5-shot groups on the pigs at 100 meters, all were centered. Next I went out to 150 meters, for the dreaded turkeys. Without changing a thing on the elevation turret, I placed the 150 yard line of the crosshairs right on the center of the turkey. The turkey went down with the shot...I had forgotten to lock it up. Upon resetting, the shot was a couple inches low of center, which was where the scope was pointed when the gun went off. Remember, I was shooting creedmore, not from a solid benchrest. I fired a few more groups on a couple turkeys, and all of them were well-centered.

The same drill was performed on the rams...just use the 200 yard marking on the crosshair, line the ram up centered to that, and the shots all impacted where they were supposed to. This is a really neat setup...it works just as advertised! I was very impressed. I even had a bit of crosswind to deal with, and using the 10 mph windage mark, I held that on the center of the ram. The bullets curved right in with the wind for center hits.



There is one important note about using this scope. The calibration is set to work while the scope is on 4x only. The center of the crosshairs will still be dead on regardless of magnification used, but you must be at 4x for the distance markings to be correct. My only complaint about this scope, and it's a minor one, is that in the creedmore position, with the long eye-relief required, the numbers are a little hard to read while the scope is moving around, you just have to be careful you have the correct one. This is not a problem with the scope...after all, it was designed to be used from a more solid rest, and in that respect, it works very well.

Pride-Fowler also has a pistol scope for the 500 S&W Magnum, and several rifle scopes covering the .22LR and Magnum, the .17HMR and centerfire rifles out to 600-800 yards. This is a good scope, well worth checking out, and the retail price is only \$289. Now, if only they would expand their lineup for more handgun calibers.