

# LEUPOLD MARK AR MOD 1

The change in high-power service rifle rules several years ago to allow optics took the high-power world by storm. Some greatly opposed the change, loyal to the iron sights they had competed with for so long. Others embraced the change. Many of these individuals are those who had given up the sport because they were not able to see the iron sights well enough to compete. Scopes have changed the game. Others, like myself, switched because they discovered vision problems they did not realize they had. While I still could see iron sights, I was not able to shoot as well as I was capable of doing with them, though they did not hinder me enough for me to give up completely.

With the legalization of scopes, so came many different choices for competitors. I personally recommend the Leupold Mark AR Mod 1 scope. Service rifle rules restrict scopes to no more than 4.5x power. When I first needed a scope, I looked at several different ones. It largely came down to the reticle for me. I did not like the reticles that had both crosshairs and a circle and/or dot. My dad, guessing before I did that my eyesight would fail me, surprised me with the White Oak Leupold Mark AR Service Rifle Scope. I absolutely love the scope and it has tracked repeatedly for me. It has been easy to use and the reticle is simple – just crosshairs. It was not a large transition for me to move from irons to scope as I had previously shot silhouette with a scope and the Leupold reticle mimicked that of another scope I had used for



deer hunting.

As a competitive high-power shooter, it became necessary for me to equip both of my uppers. Competing in over 30 matches every year, I use one upper for practice and one for matches. This is so I do not burn out a barrel at 200 yards that I need to perform well at the 600-yard line. I wanted to maintain the same platform I was used to shooting and did not want to adjust to a different scope every time I changed uppers.

Around that time, White Oak discontinued their Leupold service rifle scope. With some help from Junior Shooters and Leupold's custom shop, I was able to try a customized version of the Leupold Mark AR service rifle scope that very nearly matched the White Oak scope I have. I ordered the Mark AR Mod 1 1.5-4 x 20 mm in matte finish with a duplex reticle. I had the custom shop add M1 turrets (elevation and windage), change to the wide duplex

reticle, and adjust the parallax to 200 yards. I have been able to seamlessly transition between both the White Oak Leupold scope and the Leupold custom shop scope, putting up great scores with both of them.

The only issue I ever had was realizing that I needed to remember or mark the number of lines above the zero stop so that I did not end up off a revolution in elevation. This is not a defect of the scope, but rather an adjustment that one needs to

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make when one shoots a scope rather than iron sights. The zero stop is amazingly helpful as it makes it easy to remember and change elevation settings between yard lines. No longer do I have to guess where I am: counting clicks, losing track, then starting over, wasting precious time. The number values and easy-to-move knobs allow me to quickly and easily change the windage and elevation on my rifle without losing track. This is especially important

while adjusting for wind at the 600-yard line.

Every competitor has his or her preference and his or her opinion of what scope works best. The Leupold Mark AR Mod 1 has performed reliably and has been incredibly user-friendly. For me, simple is best. I have heard many competitors complain about “clutter in their glass.” This scope, with the wide duplex reticle (or duplex reticle if not altered by the custom shop), is not “busy” and

thus allows the competitor to focus on the shot without distraction. I am very grateful to both Leupold and to Junior Shooters for working with me and giving me the opportunity to review this scope. For competitors who miss the White Oak Leupold service rifle scope, consult Leupold’s custom shop, they have given me a quality product I am confident in. ©