

UNTER JÄGERN  
Redring®  
Optical sight for shotguns

## WEAPONS, SHOT & OPTICS

By Martin Ossman

The Swedish firm Redring has developed a sight for shotguns with several patents hidden in it. Last October, renowned Austrian weapons retailers and gunsmiths met for a practice test at the Vienna-Neustadt Shooting Range in order to get an idea of the suitability of using the Redring sight for skeet shooting as well as hunting.

In terms of technology, shotguns appear to be relatively simple weapons, however shooting moving targets is somewhat more complex. Even during youth hunter training, or at the latest during shotgun training, the message is repeatedly drilled in: always keep the target in focus in order not to aim with the front sight. We are all familiar with Churchill's colorful description that a perfectly crafted shotgun is an extension of the eye, which together with the correct swing allows us to hit our target. Is this true anymore with optical sights for shotguns?

### **Redring highlights the shot pattern diameter from 20 meters**

The Redring sight was developed by the Scandinavian shooting coach Östergren and is manufactured in Sweden. It does not involve a magnifying lens system, rather merely an "image" that is projected onto a glass surface. As the product name describes, it doesn't involve a dot as with other manufacturers, rather a red circle. Since the hit rate when shooting with a shotgun is mainly determined by the aim of the shot, this should not be changed in particular for a well adjusted shotgun. Hence, the Redring lies very flat on the rib of over-and-under shotguns. After assembly, which the shooter can do by himself, no additional adjustment or sight-in is necessary. In order to install the Redring sight on a wide variety of ribs, it comes with three "adjustment mounts" in varying sizes. The sight is activated using two buttons, whereby a red ring appears. If the shooter aims for a target at a range of 20 meters, the diameter of the ring on the target roughly reflects the diameter of the shot pattern. The Redring sight is parallax-free and both eyes need to be open when taking aim. The ring will not appear if the shooter is not looking with both eyes straight through the Redring. There is also a recognition tool that determines if the aim is correct or not. The intensity of the light ring increases or decreases based on the background. If you aim toward the sky, the image will get brighter in a split second. Conversely, if the shooter aims at a bird crossing a dark stand of trees, the intensity of the ring will decrease in order not to blind the shooter. The Redring weighs 192 grams with the mounting assembly and does not noticeably disturb the center of gravity or the swing behavior of the shotgun.

Shooters can assemble the Redring on all common rib widths for over-and-under shotguns using the adjustment mounts provided.

### **Using Redring on the hunting course**

The list of participating retailers at the Vienna-Neustadt club revealed competitive shotgun shooters such as Martin Praschl-Bichler and Gerald Fishak. Multiple European championship shooter Wolfgang Lagler was even listed as an instructor and puller.

The hit rate of all participants was immediately noticeable. It was not necessary to do a long sight-in with the Redring. Slow-moving targets on the hunting course, such as the flying pigeons, could be captured immediately with the Redring unit. The hitting the pigeons was like money in the bank. The faster the target, the more the shooter had to lead the target. This works very well with the Redring sight because you can pause to a certain extent (e.g. overrun discs about one ring diameter and fire). Even for European champion Wolfgang Lagler, the Redring was a new product that has its rightful place in the sport: "You get a good feel for the shot itself, because you can easily follow the flight path of the target. The eye appears to intuitively try to keep the target in the ring. You can swing better and learn to stop wasting shots. This is an ideal device for training young shooters, certainly when aiming at very fast moving discs. The seasoned shooter eventually gets used to it and looks beyond the shot."

Joakim Frisk from Sweden presents the Redring sight to Gerhard Rohrbacher (r) in Vienna-Neustadt who imports it for specialized hunting stores in Austria.

The sight has an illuminated red ring projected onto it, whose diameter corresponds precisely the diameter of the shot pattern at 20 meters. The image is parallax-free and only visible when the shooter takes aim across the rib with both eyes. This allows the shooter to detect a faulty, canted firing position.

**Redring® technical details**

Weight:	192 g including mounting
Length:	134 mm with mounting
Width:	44 mm
Height:	34 mm above the rib
Battery:	AAAA 1.5 V – Capacity for 300 hours
Power-save mode:	automatic shutdown after 3 hours
Material:	Anodized aluminum (aircraft construction)
Price:	€ 790 at Austrian retailers

“The eye appears to intuitively try to keep the target in the ring. You can easily follow the flight path of the target and you learn to stop wasting shots”, says European Hunting Champion Wolfgang Lagler about Redring.