

BOOK OF THE AR-15



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▲ **OWN IT** HAVA COVER GUN AUCTION
AR15.COM FORTIER GOES ONLINE
IMPACT SHIFTS SHOOTING ROLLOVER PRONE
RODRIGUEZ IS TRIGGER HAPPY

BY SGM KYLE E. LAMB (RET.)



This shooter is well protected by the vehicle and can easily make head shots at 100 yards.



ROLL OVER

IMPACT SHIFTS WHEN SHOOTING ROLLOVER PRONE WITH A RIFLE.



The author demonstrates how to use the Junkyard Prone position to engage a target without becoming one.

You encounter fire from the enemy; you take cover behind a low-slung vehicle; you prepare to engage the threat, or what little of him you can see.

As you crawl into position you realize the car is so low to the pavement that you will have to lay your carbine on its side to effectively see your sights and engage. So if this threat is at 100 yards, where will you hold to make an effective shot? What if that same threat is on the opposite side of the vehicle, only three yards from your position?

Every time I ask this simple question of our new students: "Where will the bullet impact from your point of aim when laying the carbine 90 degrees right or left?" I get several answers, most of them simply guesses.

If you fancy yourself a combat marksman, you must know where your rounds will impact at any given realistic distance. You must also know where the impact will be if you decide to shoot from a nonstandard position under a car or over the hood of a vehicle.



Day or night, you must be prepared to engage from extremely uncomfortable positions and know where your bullets will impact.

100 YARDS AND FARTHER

So what happens when the gun is canted left or right?

Let's start with a 90-degree cant to the right. That is, the carbine is laid on its right side, the sights being farthest to the right. Your line of sight will be a straight line, but the trajectory of the bullet will never be straight. It does not matter how hot the load you are shooting, you will have what some call a parabolic curve, which is the bullet's path or trajectory. With normal trajectory with the gun held in the standard position, the bullet will most times cross your line of sight twice. I prefer a 50-yard zero with my AR-type platforms, so this allows me

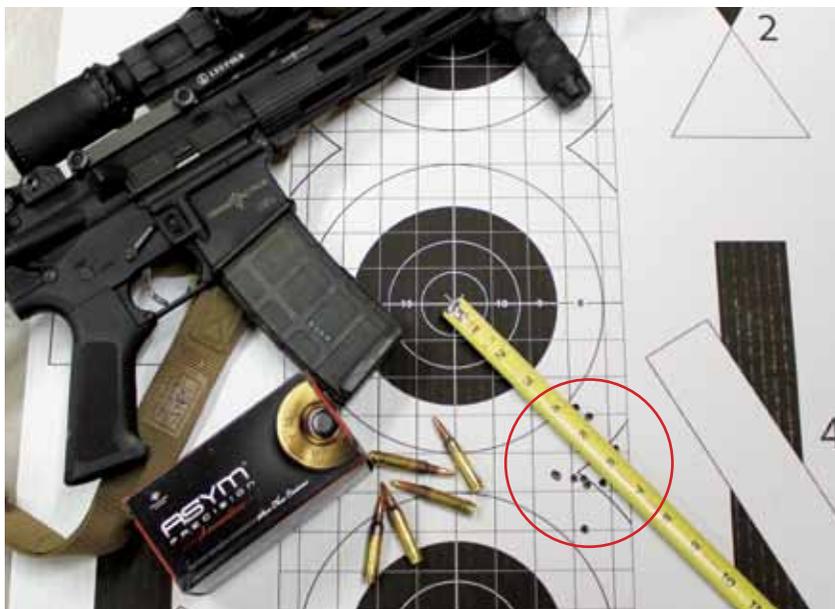
to be roughly zeroed at 50 and 250. The bullet's trajectory crosses my line of sight at 50, rises above the line of sight and drops back across the line of sight again at 250, in a perfect world.

All this being said, where will that trajectory arc be carved when we lay the gun to the side?

Gravity will immediately start to affect the trajectory of the bullet, so if the carbine is laid on its right side, the bullet will definitely be dropping lower than normal. Remember, with your normal zero the bullet is rising because the barrel is pointed at a slight uphill angle. With the rifle on its side, there is no uphill, so to



This shooter has an excellent position. He's as low as possible with the firing elbow down and the buttstock supported on top of his shoulder.



This target is the result of shooting at 100 yards using the new Leupold CQBSS 1-8X scope and an ASYM 75-grain load. The impact is six inches off center and at a 45-degree angle from point of aim when shooting with the rifle laying on its right side.

Facing page, top left: This soldier drops into prone position. This may be the only option you have in certain scenarios. He's using the vertical grip hooked on his arm for recoil control. Top right: When it is time to shoot, where do you hold at three yards? Bottom: If you hold your sights between the threat's eyes, you will hit in the RED circle (bottom). If you hold on his mouth, you will hit right in the BLUE circle. If you hit high on the skull in the RED circle, there's a chance that the bullet will skip off and not penetrate. Hitting in the nose is a better option.

this type of shooting finally had enough and said, "Just aim high to the magazine side." This makes total sense, and I have used this in every class I teach so that shooters will immediately know where to hold. As I said earlier, test this theory on your own so you know where to hold for the different yardages at which you will need to shoot. When I am engaging targets at 50 yards and as close as 25 yards, I do not use any hold-off. You will have to judge this for yourself once you get on the range.

No matter the position, aim high to the magazine side when laying the carbine 90 degrees from your normal position and you should be good to go—that is, if you are at a distance over 75 yards.

EXTREME CLOSE RANGE

Oh, how simple this all seems, but wait. There is always more. If the distance is five yards and closer, where will the bullet impact? If you think it doesn't matter, you may be

speak. This simply means that you will see more bullet drop than you are accustomed to.

You also have to contend with the rise of the bullet. In the normal position, as stated before, the bullet is rising. This is because of the barrel pointing slightly up. Now we still have the barrel launching the bullet toward our line of sight, which happens to be to the right of the barrel instead of above the barrel. This will account for the bullet curving in a different and less desirable manner. That is, if you don't know where to hold.

WHAT'S THE RULE?

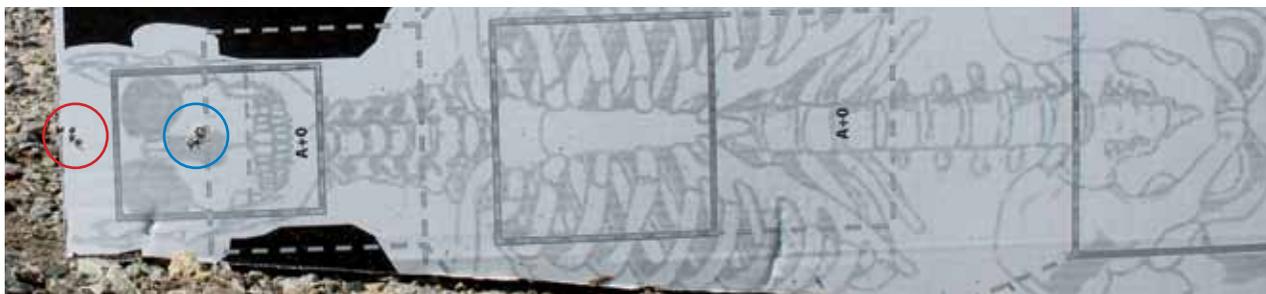
My rule is this. If the carbine is laid to the right, your bullet will impact low and right. If it's laid to the left, the bullet will impact low and left. As a good starting point we normally see about eight inches at a 45-degree angle low and to the side you are laying the weapon on. This is if you are shooting from 100 yards. This isn't always true, so you should try this the next time you are on the range.

HIGH TO THE MAGAZINE SIDE

One of our students who struggled with

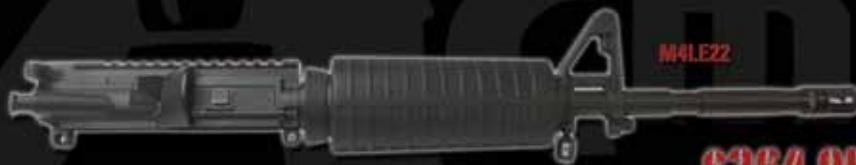


These examples of two different positions from the same cover definitely drive home the point of using Junkyard Prone and knowing your hold-offs. Keep your head down, and quickly eliminate the threat.



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ELIMINATING PARALLAX

In this day and age it would seem that you need only point your rifle in the general direction of the target and let the high-speed, laser-guided, illuminated, variable, ranging, trajectory-compensating scopes take over, resulting in target lock reminiscent of a fighter pilot and his F-16. In other words, just fire and forget. Well, not so fast. Huge advancements have been made in the firearm optics industry over the last 20 years, but we still have to deal with small issues that may drive you crazy when trying to engage targets quickly from nonstandard positions.

What Is Parallax?

Parallax is the reticle of your scope aligned on a slightly different focal plane than where the target actually is. Imagine you have a target at 600 yards. Your scope thinks the target is at 100 yards, therefore the scope, shooter and firearm are all a bit confused. This confusion comes in the form of perceived wobble in your sights or slight sight movements when shifting your head and eye around behind your riflescope.

If you want to see parallax, set your scope on a table. Do not touch it. Pick out a target at 100 yards, and move your head around behind the scope. If the reticle moves on the target, you have parallax. If the reticle does not appear to move, pick out another target at a different distance and go through the procedure again.

Your scope may have one minute of parallax or one foot of parallax. This is something you need to know.

If you are using a sniper scope of any quality, it will have a knob located on the left side of the tube. This is used to dial the correct parallax setting into the scope. Most shooters call this the reticle focus knob, and in actuality, if every setting is correct your reticle will be in focus when parallax is adjusted. But truth be told, this knob is to adjust parallax.

You hear shooters and trainers talk about parallax; you hear manufacturers decree that their scope is parallax free. Last time I checked, the Hubble telescope isn't even parallax free. So do you really think a personal scope will pass that test?

Eliminating Parallax

If you have a scope that is lacking the extra dials to align focal planes, you are not completely out of luck. If the scope is a red dot scope that will allow the viewing of your iron sights through the scope, you are really in good shape.

Several scope-mount manufacturers push mounting options that place the reticle of the scope high above your iron sights... or iron sight manufacturers build folding sights to get them out of your way.

I personally prefer to have my front sight up at all times, which in turn pushes me to align the dot on top of the front sight. Of course, the front sight will always be in your way... yep, and I don't even notice it is there. I naturally place the dot on the iron sight and whack away.

How Does it Work?

Having the front sight aligned with your red dot, assuming that your iron sights are zeroed to the same yard line as your red dot, will force you to attain somewhat of the same stock to cheekweld that we are always pushing for. If you are in a nonstandard position, a stock to cheekweld may be totally out of the question. Therefore, having the ability to align the front sight with the dot can vastly improve your chances of hitting the target. After all, that is what shooting is all about.

Using this technique will also help to decrease group size during your normal zeroing process. This will help you attain a true zero that will be consistent as you shoot from obscure positions.



Don't obstruct your dustcover when using the Roll Over positions, as this is a sure way to induce a stoppage.

wrong—hopefully not dead wrong. As we shoot at extreme close range the rounds will now impact in a straight line in the direction of the barrel from your line of sight, at least 2½ inches. This may not seem like a lot, but if only a portion of your target is exposed, you must pick the correct spot to hold your sights.

Aim where you need to aim, not where you want to hit.

So if I throw myself in the dirt and attempt to engage a threat with the gun laying on the right side, I will have bullets impacting at least 2½ inches to the



Top left: Proper stock to cheekweld, sights aligned on the target—the ideal situation. Top right: As the shooter moves his head, you can see the red dot move on the target. This is parallax. Head held to the left. Bottom left: Head held to the right. Bottom right: With the front sight up, you can cowitness and help to eliminate parallax.



Staying as low as possible is key. Know where you need to hold, because you may not have time to analyze the situation.



This rifle is free of gadgets on the left side, allowing for it to be as close to cover as possible. This is something important to consider when setting up your rifle. Here you just see a VTAC Extreme Battle Rail and Light Mount.

left. Let me quickly explain why this occurs. Sight offset from your barrel is normally at least 2½ inches with the standard M4 Carbine configuration. This will increase with most standard mounting options for red dot and magnified optics.

Don't be fooled by the distance. Up close and personal causes shooters to quit looking at their sights and succumb to point shooting, which is a huge no-go. When they do finally pick up a set of sights to use, they place the sights where they want the bullet to

impact, another no-go at these breath-smelling distances.

Now that you have enough information to get you through your next practice session on the range, you are one step closer to becoming a true combat marksman. **AR-15**

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