



Handgun Optics: Red Dot Or Not?

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How Did Red Dots For Handguns Become Popular?

Many people feel they're already good with their iron sights.

- Red dots make it easier and faster to acquire a target.
- Red dots make you more accurate at distance than iron sights.
- Red dots make it easier to acquire a target more quickly, too.
- These factors caused shooters to switch to red dots for carbines, and now the trend has made its way to handguns.

The Disadvantages Of Red Dot Sights For Handguns

Most people have difficulty finding the dot quickly at first.

- If the red dot is not straight in front of your face, you won't see the dot.
- It takes practice, and this affects your drawstroke.
- Especially with defensive handguns, you need to acquire your target quickly, which requires training so you can properly draw and pick up the dot.
- Red dots are also costly, sometimes as much as the gun itself, and you have to pay for other accessories and modifications.
- You may wish to try out a red dot sight on someone else's gun, if you can, to make sure it will be right for you.

Advantages Of The Red Dot For CCW

There's just one focal point, allowing you to put your attention on just the target.

- Being able to focus on the bad guy is a big advantage in a gunfight.
- This advantage comes out in scenario drills. Focusing on the threat makes a huge difference.
- Your brain WANTS to focus on the threat.

When To Switch To Red Dot

Don't switch from iron sights until you've mastered them and have your fundamentals down.

- You've got to be a master with iron sights first before transitioning.
- If red dot sights aren't for you, you can always transition back.
- Red dot sights are great for people whose vision is not as sharp and who therefore have trouble finding the front sight quickly.
- Go with one of the smaller red dots, not one of the larger ones. The larger dot can cover up a lot of the target at long distances.

Tips For Training With Red Dots

Dry fire the hell out of your red dot setup!

- Make sure that your drawstroke is consistent.
- Learning how to push the weapon out in front of your face is very important.
- Get those reps in every day. If you're going to draw from concealment, train from concealment, because that's a different drawstroke.
- We're talking about 50 draws a day to start. Make sure you train both two hand and single hand, and also on the support side.
- Start timing yourself after you get comfortable.
- The red dot can help with diagnosing habits.

Prepare. Train. Survive.