



MEET THE VLAD

Ek Archery's new subcompact crossbow

The inexpensive .22 long rifle is a cartridge with manifold applications; precision target shooting, plinking, small game hunting and when pressed into service, self-defence. The .22LR, and the variety of firearms that it services, was the inspiration that drove the engineering team at Ek Archery Research to reimagine the crossbow pistol as a product of diverse functionality.

The ubiquitous pistol crossbow seen on the shelves of sporting goods stores and military surplus shops has long been the product that many a teenager has saved their pocket money to buy. As the young shooting enthusiast upgrades from a slingshot or plastic BB gun, they find that

the pistol crossbow has much of the same thrill as an air rifle, that something which is absent from their airsoft-type toys; namely the satisfying feeling of engaging the target with solid penetration.

Ek Archery Research's manufacturing partner, Poelang Pte. Ltd., has been producing the "often copied but never equalled" Cobra

Pistol Crossbow since 1992. Still available at a very reasonable retail price point, the venerable Cobra is sold in two variants, an aluminium frame model and a sturdy economical plastic-frame version. While these products are still a joy to shoot they have a couple of operational drawbacks that limit their use; the 80lb limbs of the Cobra

need a moderate amount of arm strength to cycle and its single-shot configuration does not allow for a quick follow-up shot.

The VLAD, the evolution of the Subcompact Crossbow

The issues of the Cobra have been elegantly resolved in Ek Archery's latest issue, the