

VLAD. The VLAD takes much of its pedigree from the innovations that make EK's R9 and Adder such superlative carbine crossbows, namely a design that allows the crossbow to be rapidly disassembled and reassembled into discreet components and the inclusion of an integrated cocking system that uses mechanical advantage to cycle the device.

With just the tip of a crossbow bolt, the pin that secures the VLAD's integral magazine is released allowing the limb set to be quickly changed or stowed away for transport. Packaged with a pair of 60lb and 90lb limbs, and when supplemented by the additional purchase of a low-cost 30lb limb set, the VLAD can easily be cocked by almost any user. The VLAD also does away with awkward cocking lever of the original Cobra by mating the cycling mechanism to its aluminium side-folding stock. With a specialised fore-grip

and the additional leverage provided by the stock, cocking the crossbow is effortless and rapid.

Borrowing from EK's powerful R-Series "Adder" Carbine Crossbow, the VLAD features an integral eight-shot top fed magazine that reliably provides a bolt as fast as the operator can cycle the crossbow. Using the provided eight-shot 'charger-clip' the VLAD's magazine can be reloaded in seconds and a fully kitted VLAD can be carried with two of these speedloaders attached to Picatinny rails on the front end of the crossbow.

From Casual Shooting to SHTF

When operated with the 30lb limbset, open sights and a square of solid target foam, the VLAD is the ultimate back-garden plinker with which to hone one's shooting skills. The bolts used by the VLAD are a very economical choice for casual shooting and be resourced for as little

as 36p (44 cents) per bolt. However, when the VLAD is equipped with its red-dot sight and a 60lb/90lb limb set it transforms into a formidable defence platform propelling the 6.5in aluminium bolt at 165/200fps and delivering up to 19 joules of impact. In lieu of a firearm, the VLAD is a serviceable short to medium range weapon that can give the defender the advantage of distance and the ability to rapidly place a second or third shot on target.

It is this versatility that makes the VLAD an indispensable component of the survivalist's 'bug-out bag'. With the stock folded, a flat-packed VLAD measures just 18 inches in length and weighs 4.1lb, taking up a modest amount of room in a small backpack with its limb sets and speedloaders; leaving plenty of space for other equipment.

One of the requirements for both urban survivalists and rural preppers is that

equipment for small game hunting in emergency situations should rugged, field-serviceable and quiet; and the VLAD was designed with all of these specifications in mind.

Constructed to be exposed to the elements the VLAD is not a fragile system like a compound crossbow and its limb sets are easily restrung; replacement strings being inexpensive. The sound signature of the VLAD's recurve limbs in operation is quieter than the report of an air rifle.

The VLAD comes pre-packaged with a red-dot sight, a speedloader, a replacement limb string, a pair of limb sets and 16 bolts, making it ready-to-shoot out of the box. With the addition of further accessories like an integrated laser sight, extra speedloaders and a tactical light, the VLAD becomes an aggressive tool of both defence and survival.

 www.ek-archery.com

