



Whipshot

Ek Archery advances defensive tactical products

Leading technologies have given rise to a new tactical archery platform that users can feel confident in when deploying as home self-defence tools.

By the mid-17th century, firearms had rendered bows obsolete on conventional battlefields; however, they continued to be an effective weapon for asymmetrical warfare in conflicts around the world for another 200 years. While the lethality of an arrow is without question, very few would wish to bring a bow to gun fight. Consequently, bows and crossbows fell into the realm of Sports and Traditional Hunting where they continued to evolve through the development of high-tech materials and modern fabrication techniques.

As a manufacturer of an extensive range of archery products, Ek Archery Research has been in the business of product development in both the sports and hunting sectors of the industry for three decades. It was from this perspective that Ek saw the potential

in providing a new range of products for the multi-billion-dollar emergency-preparedness market. In countries that have strict or prohibitive firearm-control laws, urban survivalists and “preppers” are a large consumer base that lack effective, ranged weapons for defensive purposes.

Built from the ground up

The problem with the sports recurve bow or hunting crossbow pressed ad hoc into a defence role is the two-fold problem of low-rate of fire and the extensive investment of time needed to become proficient in a variety of environments. Punching holes in paper and harvesting game inform the design parameters of modern archery equipment in ways that make it unsuitable for kinetic defence scenarios.

To resolve these problems Ek

Archery built a new platform from the ground up by envisioning how a “non-firearm” device like a crossbow could operate more effectively in a CQC situation. Primarily, the need for heavy draw weights and high velocities are unnecessary as the effective operational range would be within 50 meters. By scaling down the limbs of the crossbow to the threshold of effective bolt penetration the device could become significantly more compact. An interchangeability of quick-change, recurve limbsets in different poundage’s would allow the operator to tune this carbine crossbow to personal preferences. Eschewing the scopes of hunting crossbows for a reflex-type red-dot sight would allow a new user to develop effective accuracy for defensive short-range situations.>>

VLAD



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High Speed Cycling

While there is no doubt that staring down the rail of a cocked crossbow is a formidable deterrent; it is still a one-shot affair. Only with the ability to produce reasonably sustained fire could the crossbow evolve into a true defence platform. Since cocking a traditional crossbow is an unwieldy affair of cranks and ropes, the design team at Ek, inspired by lever action rifles, incorporated a cocking arm into the frame of the crossbow which allows the weapon to be cycled at high speed. The coupling of this cocking lever with an integral top-loading magazine developed by Ek Archery and Jorg Sprave realised the possibility of a true tactical crossbow in the Cobra System R-Series product line.

Powerful Deterrent

The Cobra System Adder RX is the first crossbow since the ancient Chinese “Chu-Ko-Nu” that can lay down continued suppressive fire. However, the similarity stops there, because unlike its

underpowered progenitor, the Adder’s magazine holds five 7.5in 190gr. carbon fibre bolts that achieve 270fps. Held down by spring loaded arm, the bolts reliably feed through different shooting positions and the magazine is easily reloaded in the dark or on the move. Introduced this year, a new 2.0 version of the magazine offers an improved 7-shot capacity and is completely compatible with earlier Adder crossbows.

Whip it Good with the Whipshot!

The Whipshot is a magazine and cocking system that bolts onto Ek’s short axle-to-axle Anvil compound bow. This configuration is appropriately named because in less than ten seconds the operator can put six 260gr. 15in arrows downrange at up to 240 fps. The Anvil compound bow is highly adjustable to fit the preferred draw length and draw weight of the operator. Using a reflex sight mounted on the magazine a novice can quickly master rapid shooting techniques. The Whipshot has intuitive pump style cycling, reminiscent of a

shotgun’s operation, and the arrow is released with a thumb trigger.

Small, but Fierce

The VLAD is a sub-carbine repeater crossbow built around the 6.5in aluminum bolt used by the ubiquitous Cobra pistol crossbow. Like the R-Series crossbows the VLAD features a quick-change limbset system that allows the user to choose a poundage that suits its application. With 90lb limbs the VLAD puts its bolts on target at 200fps, delivering up to 19 joules of impact. What makes the VLAD so effective is that it features an integral 8-shot top fed magazine that can be replenished in a second with a speedloader.

These Ek Archery Research magazine-fed archery platforms can be upgraded with a number of tactical goodies and there are already a decent number of aftermarket companies offering an interesting range of formidable specialized broadhead bolts and arrows to feed your beast.

www.ek-archery.com