



November 19, 1991

Mr. Bill Bassett
Bassett Machine
P.O. Box 615
Dripping Springs, Texas 78620

Dear Mr. Bassett:

I have completed testing your scope mount for the M14/M1A rifle. The testing was carried out primarily on an early model, national match version, Springfield Armory M1A (Divine, Texas) and a late model special sporter version of the Springfield Armory M1A (Geneseo, Illinois) and took place during the Summer and early Fall this year. Burris rings and a Bushnell 3-9x40 Armor-Sight were used for all the testing. The following conclusions have been reached:

1. The mount is very sturdy, there were no failures of any type once mounted on either of the primary test rifles. There is no sign of wear after being removed and reinstalled approximately 50 times during testing and in firing 1200 rounds (Israeli brass and primer, 45 grains H335, and Hornady 150 grain HPBT).
2. The mount returned to approximate zero each time it was removed and reinstalled (during testfiring, there was no measurable error - it seems popular to state this as within 1/2 inch of zero or within 1/2 minute of zero). Both of the primary test rifles were "on the paper" with the same scope settings so no adjustments were necessary to move the mount from rifle to rifle. With each move, each rifle would return to its initial "zero".
3. The mount was attached to approximately 25 different Springfield Armory M1A rifles with serial numbers ranging from 000XXX to 65XXX, with no difficulties. While most of these rifles were not fired, the ease with which the mount installs gives confidence that there would be no problems develop with the mount itself, or having it return to zero.
4. The mount was not easily installed on some models of the semi-automatic versions of the Federal Ordnance/Norinco rifles currently on the market. On many of these rifles, the scope mount hole is off-center from the vertical aligning groove and the mount doesn't install flat against the receiver. Over 75 such rifles were examined, and at least 50 had the same misaligned mounting hole. Slotting the scope mount bolt hole (and enlarging the outer countersink for the bolt head) permitted easily installation. Simply enlarging the bolt hole and countersink might work as well, but was not tried. The test rifle of this type was not extremely,

accurate with the test ammo, but each group centered about the same location, indicating good return to zero here as well.

5. Five other popular brands of scope mounts for the M14 were tested as well, and all failed to return to zero after being removed and reinstalled. In addition, four of the mounts showed significant wear to the raised vertical and horizontal bars after firing several magazines of ammo in the rifles. Two of the mounts seemed to fit ok when first installed so it is assumed that the aluminum mounts simply could not withstand the recoil. The other two mounts showed problems after installation and removal, but before any rounds were fired, indicating poor alignment with the grooves on the receiver (the aluminum alignment bars were dented).

The fifth type of mount required removal of the cartridge clip guide and installation of a new block in its place. This block came drilled and tapped and thus the mount was installed with two bolts, instead of the single bolt used with the lesser expensive models. After testing, this model showed no wear, but it would not hold zero, often changing while a group was being fired. A second unit of this brand was obtained and tested as well, with even worse results, this time showing significant alignment bar deformation after only one installation and removal.

6. After testing the Bassett Machine scope mount on the other test rifles for several months, it was reinstalled on the original rifle where it returned to the original zero.

7. The Bassett Machine scope mount is the least expensive of the six mounts tried.

In summary, your scope mount is the only one which held zero and returned to zero after being removed and reinstalled. In addition, it costs less. I highly recommend it to anyone adding optical sights to the M14/M1A rifle.

Sincerely,



Fred D. Lewallen
Associate Professor and Coordinator
Computer Engineering Technology