

(72) SAMMUT, DENNIS J., US

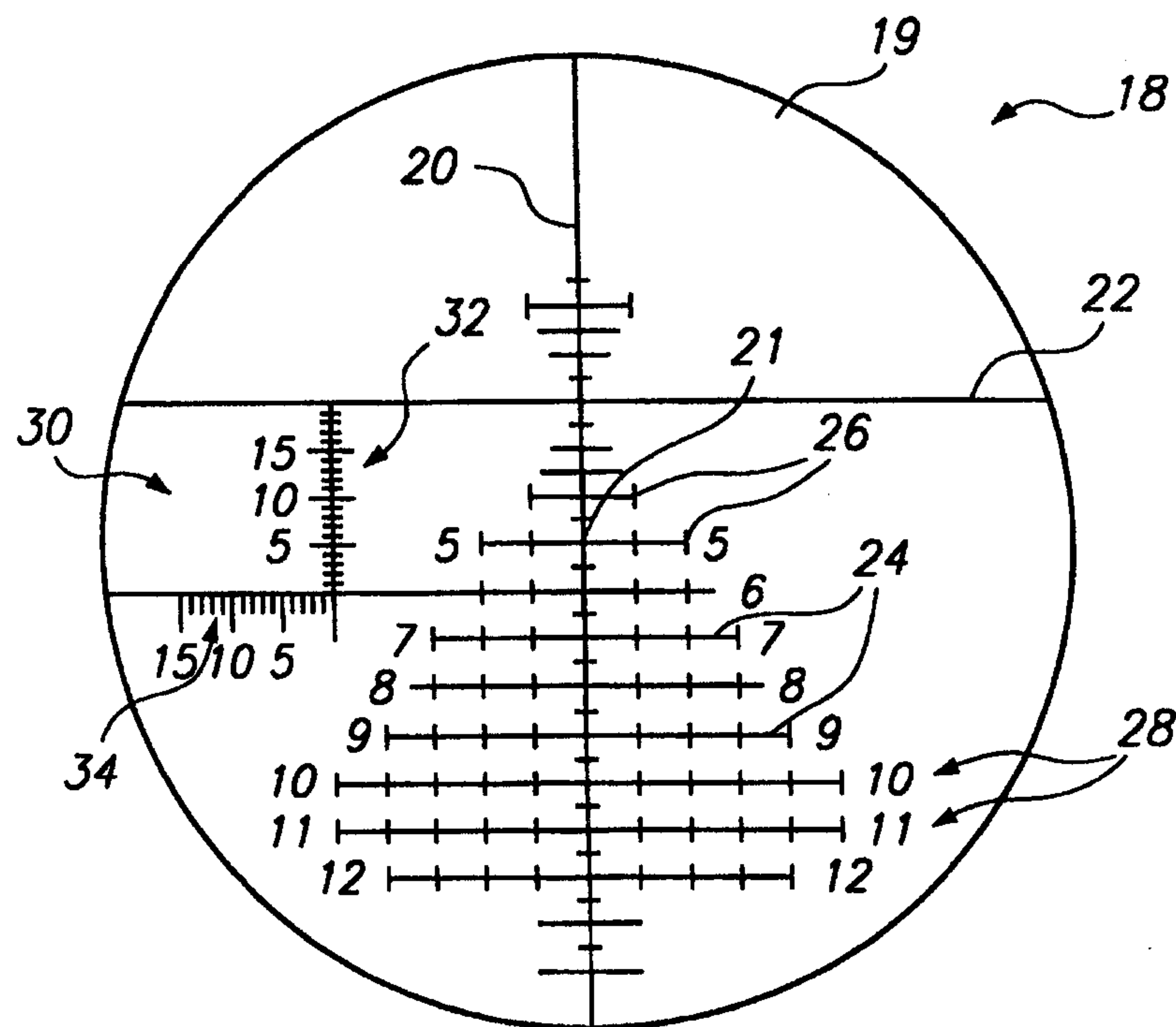
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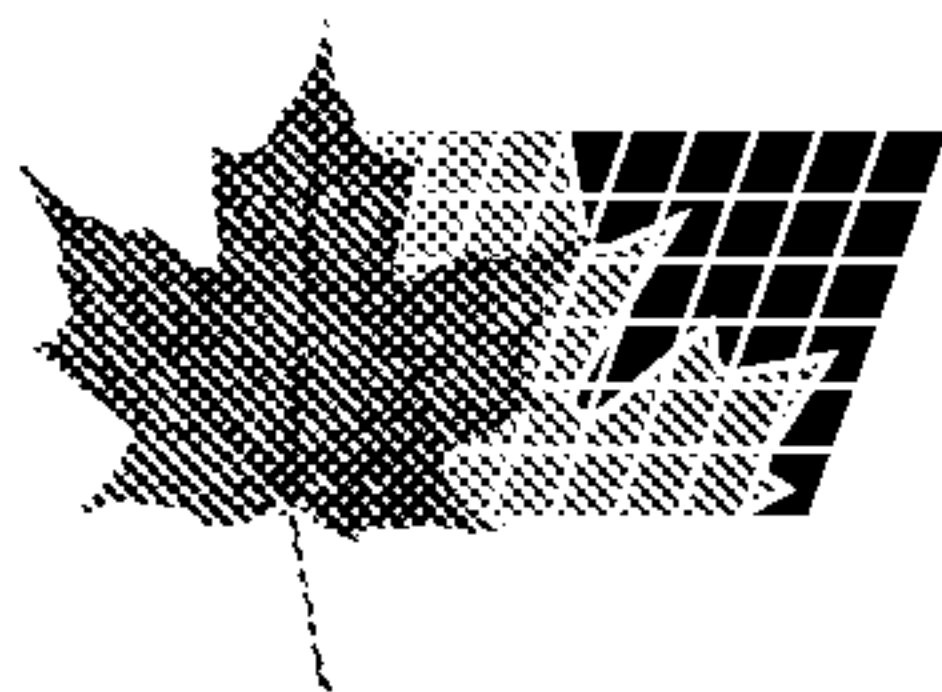
(54) **LUNETTE DE VISEE AMELIOREE ET RETICULE DESTINE A
CELLE-CI**

(54) **IMPROVED GUNSIGHT AND RETICLE THEREFOR**



(57) Cette invention concerne une lunette de visée télescopique améliorée et un réticule pour le tir à longue portée. Le réticule (18) convient pour toute lunette de visée télescopique classique, se présente sous la forme d'une tranche ou d'un disque transparents (19) dont le centre optique coïncide avec le centre d'un champ de vision lorsque ledit réticule est monté dans une lunette télescopique. Ce réticule se compose des

(57) An improved telescopic gunsight and reticle for long-range shooting is provided. The reticle (18) can be used with any conventional telescopic gunsight as an optically transparent wafer or disc (19) thus having an optical center (21) which coincides with a center of field of vision when the reticle is mounted in a telescopic gunsight. The reticle includes a primary vertical cross-hair (20) having a predetermined



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éléments suivants: trait vertical principal (20) d'une épaisseur prédéterminée qui coupe le centre optique de la tranche, trait horizontal principal (22) d'une épaisseur prédéterminée, coupant le trait vertical principal, pluralité de traits verticaux secondaires (26) d'une épaisseur prédéterminée, équidistants et coupant au moins quelques uns des traits verticaux secondaires (24), et un moyen de télémétrie (30) situé dans l'un des quarts de cercle définis par l'intersection des traits verticaux (32) et horizontaux (34) principaux.

thickness intersecting the optical center of the wafer, a primary horizontal cross-hair (22) having a predetermined thickness intersecting the primary vertical cross-hair (20), a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs (26) having a predetermined thickness evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary vertical cross-hairs (24) and a range-finding means (30) positioned in one of the quadrants formed by the intersection of the primary vertical (32) and horizontal cross-hairs (34).

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<p>(21) International Application Number: PCT/US98/20684</p> <p>(22) International Filing Date: 28 September 1998 (28.09.98)</p> <p>(30) Priority Data: 08/986,458 8 December 1997 (08.12.97) US</p> <p>(63) Related by Continuation (CON) or Continuation-in-Part (CIP) to Earlier Application US 08/986,458 (CIP) Filed on 8 December 1997 (08.12.97)</p> <p>(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: SAMMUT, Dennis, J. [US/US]; 1 Eucalyptus Court, Woodside, CA 94062 (US).</p> <p>(74) Agents: MEDLEN, Virginia, S. et al.; Medlen & Carroll, LLP, Suite 2200, 220 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94104 (US).</p>	<p>(81) Designated States: AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, HR, HU, ID, IL, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).</p> <p>Published <i>With international search report. Before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of the receipt of amendments.</i></p>	
(54) Title: IMPROVED GUNSIGHT AND RETICLE THEREFOR		
(57) Abstract		
<p>An improved telescopic gunsight and reticle for long-range shooting is provided. The reticle (18) can be used with any conventional telescopic gunsight as an optically transparent wafer or disc (19) thus having an optical center (21) which coincides with a center of field of vision when the reticle is mounted in a telescopic gunsight. The reticle includes a primary vertical cross-hair (20) having a predetermined thickness intersecting the optical center of the wafer, a primary horizontal cross-hair (22) having a predetermined thickness intersecting the primary vertical cross-hair (20), a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs (26) having a predetermined thickness evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary vertical cross-hairs (24) and a range-finding means (30) positioned in one of the quadrants formed by the intersection of the primary vertical (32) and horizontal cross-hairs (34).</p>		

IMPROVED GUNSIGHT AND RETICLE THEREFOR

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to telescopic gunsights, and more particularly to reticles for use in telescopic gunsights.

All shooters, whether they are police officers, olympic shooters, or weekend enthusiasts, have one common goal: hitting their target accurately and consistently. Accuracy and consistency in shooting depend largely on the skill of the shooter and the construction of the firearm and ammunition.

The accuracy of a firearm can be enhanced by the use of precisely-made components, including precisely-made ammunition. It is well known in target shooting that using ammunition in which the propellant weight and type, bullet weight and dimensions, and cartridge dimensions are held within very strict limits, can improve accuracy in shooting.

At very long ranges, in excess of 500 yards, however, the skill of the shooter and the consistency of the ammunition is often not enough to insure that the shooter will hit the target. As range increases, other factors can affect the flight of the bullet and the point of impact down range. One of these factors is "bullet drop". "Bullet drop" is caused by the influence of gravity on the moving bullet, and is characterized by a bullet path which curves to earth over long ranges. Therefore to hit a target at long range, it is necessary to elevate the barrel of the weapon, and the aiming point, to adjust for bullet drop. Other factors, such as wind, magnus effect (i.e., a lateral thrust exerted by wind on a rotating bullet whose axis is perpendicular to the wind direction), bullet design, and the idiosyncracies of the weapon can cause the bullet to drift to the left or right of the central path of the bullet over long range. Such effects are generally referred to as "windage" effects. Therefore, to hit a target at long range, it may be necessary to correct for windage by moving the barrel of the weapon slightly to the left or the right to compensate for bullet drift. Thus, in order to hit a target at long range, the shooter must see the target, accurately estimate the range to the target, estimate the effect of bullet drop and wind on the bullet, and use this information to properly position the barrel of the firearm prior to squeezing the trigger.

Conventional telescopic gunsights or scopes are not generally useful at long ranges in excess of 600-800 yards. The cross-hairs of such scopes are typically located in the center of the field, with the vertical hair providing a central indicator for making a windage adjustment, and the horizontal hair providing a central indicator for making a bullet drop adjustment. Modifications to this basic system have not, thus far, enabled a skilled shooter firing at long ranges to acquire and hit a target quickly and reliably, regardless of the weapon used (assuming always that the weapon is capable of reaching a target at the desired long range).

For example, U.S. Patent 1,190,121 to Critchett, discloses a reticle for use in a rifle scope containing a rangefinder having markings for finding a range with reference to the height of a man. Apparently because of the innate variation in the height of any given individual from that used to produce the reticle, and the resulting inaccuracy which that would produce at long ranges, Critchett's scope was only useful to 600 yards.

U.S. Patent 3,948,587 to Rubbert discloses a reticle and telescope gunsight system having primary cross-hairs which intersect conventionally at the center of the field, and secondary horizontal cross-hairs spaced apart by different amounts to form a rangefinder and distinct aiming apertures and points, based upon a predetermined, estimated size of a target. Rubbert's preferred embodiment is constructed for use in shooting deer having an 18" chest depth. However, like Critchett, the usefulness of Rubbert for shooting other targets of varying size at long range is doubtful.

U.S. Patent 3,492,733 to Leatherwood discloses a variable power scope having aiming cross-hairs and two upper cross-hairs for bracketing a target of known dimensions at a known distance. The scope is mounted to a gun barrel, and the position of the scope in relation to the gun barrel is adjustable up and down to compensate for bullet drop by covering the target with the bracketing cross-hairs, and rotating an adjustment ring to expand or contract the bracketing cross-hairs to bracket the target. Leatherwood's scope, like the others discussed above, has limited utility at long ranges because it is designed with a specific size target in mind, and would therefore be inaccurate when used with targets of widely varying size, and also because at long range the scope may not be able to move sufficiently in relation to the barrel (i.e., may be obstructed by the gunbarrel).

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U.S. Patent 4,403,421 to Shepherd discloses a scope having a primary and secondary reticles, the secondary reticle being a polygonal reticle with different indicia on the different faces which can be rotated into position to compensate for bullet drop and determining target range for different sized targets. However, having to rotate a secondary reticle to locate an appropriate target shape in order to determine the range is time consuming and undesirable, since it takes the shooter's attention away from the target.

It should be noted that the range finding inaccuracies inherent in these prior art references may be resolved using a laser rangefinder. However, since a laser rangefinder often emits a visible light, there is always the possibility that the beam from a laser rangefinder could be detected, revealing the position of the shooter, causing a live target to move, or other undesirable consequences, before the shot can be taken. Furthermore, a laser rangefinder includes complex electronics which must be handled with care. Laser rangefinders require highly reflective or broadside targets to achieve range. Finally, a laser rangefinder must be powered with electricity from a source which must be carried by the shooter. The additional weight is a burden, and the possibility exists that power source could fail or become exhausted through use, causing the rangefinder to cease working.

Accordingly, the need exists for a telescopic gun sight having a reticle which includes an optical rangefinder which permits a skilled shooter to accurately identify the range to any target of estimable size, no matter how large or small, to make fast and accurate adjustment for bullet drop and windage, using the shooter's knowledge and experience and without the need to move rings or make adjustments to the scope, thus enabling the shooter to accurately hit targets at ranges of at least about 1200 yards out to about 2500 yards or more, depending upon the eyesight of the shooter and the maximum range of the selected firearm.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In one embodiment, the present invention provides an improved telescopic gunsight having a housing, including a means for mounting the housing in a fixed, predetermined position relative to a gun barrel, an objective lens mounted in one end of the housing, an ocular lens mounted in the opposite end of the housing, a reticle mounted in the housing between the objective lens and the ocular lens, the reticle

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having an optical center, a primary vertical cross-hair intersecting the optical center of the reticle, a primary horizontal cross-hair intersecting said primary vertical cross-hair at a position above the optical center when the housing is mounted to the gun barrel, to form an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower left quadrant, and a lower right quadrant, a plurality of secondary horizontal cross-hairs evenly spaced along the primary vertical cross-hair, a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, and rangefinder markings positioned in one of the quadrants. The telescopic gunsight of this embodiment can be a fixed power scope or a variable power scope. When optics are mounted in the housing to permit the power to be varied along a predetermined range, the reticle is most preferably mounted between the objective lens and the variable power optics.

In another embodiment, the present invention provides a reticle for use in any conventional telescopic gunsight, whether such telescopic gunsight is a fixed power scope or a variable power scope. A reticle of this embodiment is preferably constructed from an optically transparent wafer or disc having an optical center which coincides with a center of a field of vision when the wafer is mounted in a scope. A primary vertical cross-hair having a predetermined thickness bisects the disc, intersecting the optical center of the disc. A primary horizontal cross-hair having a predetermined thickness intersects the primary vertical cross-hair, most preferably above the optical center of the disc, to form an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower left quadrant, and a lower right quadrant. A plurality of secondary horizontal cross-hairs having predetermined thickness are evenly spaced along the primary vertical cross-hair. Preferably, at least some of these secondary horizontal cross-hairs are identified with a unique identifier, to aid the shooter in locating the appropriate horizontal cross-hair to use in selecting an aiming point. A plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs having predetermined thickness are evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs to aid in making accurate windage adjustments. Finally, a separate range-finding means is positioned in one of said quadrants to aid the shooter in determining the range to target.

Other embodiments will be evident from a consideration of the drawings taken together with the detailed description of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

A better understanding of the invention and its advantages will be apparent from the detailed description taken in conjunction with the accompanying drawings in which:

Fig. 1 is a diagram showing the optical components of a telescopic gunsight of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a front view of a reticle of the present invention, showing the markings as viewed through a zoom telescopic gunsight at high power, the spacing of the markings based upon an "inch of angle" scale;

Fig. 3 is a front view of a reticle of the present invention, showing the markings as viewed through a zoom telescopic gunsight at low power;

Fig. 4 is a partial side view of a firearm showing a telescopic gunsight mounted on the barrel;

Fig. 5 is an example of 500 yard zero ballistic table created for a .50 Cal. Bolt Action Model M-93 Rifle having a 30 inch barrel built firing a .50 Cal Browning Machine Gun cartridge;

Fig. 6 is an example of a worksheet which can be used to calibrate the markings on a reticle of the present invention;

Fig. 7 is a completed worksheet based upon the table shown in Fig 5;

Fig. 8 is an illustrative table providing data for determining an appropriate windage adjustment for the example; and,

Fig. 9 is a reticle of the present invention based upon a "centimeter of angle" scale.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

As shown in Figs. 1 and 4, a telescopic gunsight 10 (also referred to herein as a "scope") includes a housing 36 which can be mounted in fixed relationship with a gun barrel 38. Housing 36 is preferably constructed from steel or aluminum, but can be constructed from virtually any durable, substantially non-flexible material which is useful for constructing optical equipment. Mounted in housing 36 at one end is an objective lens or lens assembly 12. Mounted in housing 38 at the opposite end is an ocular lens or lens assembly 14. It is well known in the art to make such lenses from either a single piece of glass or other optical material (such as transparent plastic)

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which has been conventionally ground and polished to focus light, or from two or more pieces of such material mounted together with optically transparent adhesive and the like to focus light. Accordingly, the term "lens" as used herein is intended to cover either a lens constructed from a single piece of optical glass or other material capable of focusing light, or from more than one pieces mounted together to focus light. As will be understood by one having skill in the art, when the scope 10 is mounted to a gun barrel 38, the objective lens 12 faces the target, and the ocular lens 14 faces the shooter's eye.

Other optical components which may be included in housing 36 include variable power optical components 16 for a variable power scope. Such components 16 typically include magnifiers and erectors. Such a variable power scope permits the user to select a desired power within a predetermined range of powers. For example, with a 3-12 x 50 scope, the user can select a lower power (i.e., 3x50) or a high power (i.e., 12x50) or any power along the continuous spectrum in between.

Finally, a reticle is typically included to assist the shooter in hitting the target. The reticle is typically (but not necessarily) constructed using optical material, such as optical glass or plastic, and takes the form of a disc or wafer with substantially parallel sides. In a fixed power scope, the reticle can be mounted anywhere between the ocular lens 14 and the objective lens 12. In a variable power scope, the reticle is most preferably mounted between the objective lens 12 and the optical components 16. In this position, the apparent size of the reticle when viewed through the ocular lens will vary with the power; for example, compare Figure 2 (high power) with Figure 3 (low power). I prefer a variable power scope manufactured by Schmidt & Bender GmbH & Co. KG of Biebertal, Germany, because of its excellent optics. With a Schmidt & Bender Scope, such as a 3-12 x 50 or a 4-16 x 50, when the reticle is mounted between the objective lens and the variable power optical components 16, I have found that the selected aiming point (as described in more detail below) on my reticle does not vary as the shooter zooms the scope in and out to find the most desirable power for a particular shot.

As shown in Figure 2, the preferred reticle 18 of the present invention is formed from a substantially flat disc or wafer 19 formed from substantially transparent optical glass or other material suitable for manufacturing optical lenses. Disc 19 has

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two, substantially parallel, sides. A primary vertical cross-hair 20 is provided on one side of said disc 19 using conventional methods such as, for example, etching, printing, or applying hairs or wires of known diameter. Etching is preferred. Primary vertical cross-hair 20 preferably bisects the disc 19 and intersects the optical center 21 of reticle 18. A primary horizontal cross-hair 22 is also provided, and most preferably intersects the primary vertical cross-hair at a position well above the optical center 21. Positioning the primary horizontal cross-hair in this way provides the necessary additional field of view necessary to shoot accurately at long ranges. Thus, the primary vertical cross-hair and the primary horizontal cross-hair form four quadrants: an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower left quadrant, and a lower right quadrant, when viewed through a scope properly mounted to a gun barrel as shown in Fig. 4.

A plurality of evenly-spaced, secondary horizontal cross-hairs 24 are provided along the primary vertical cross-hair 20, preferably both above and below the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 to aid in range adjustments and for locating an appropriate aiming point on the reticle with respect to the distance to the target. Some of these secondary, horizontal cross-hairs are provided with unique symbols 28 which are useful in quickly locating a particular horizontal cross-hair. Symbols 28 can be numbers, as shown in Figure 2, letters or other symbols. Symbols 28 are used for identification purposes only.

A plurality of evenly-spaced, secondary vertical cross-hairs or hack-marks 26 are provided on at least some of the secondary horizontal cross-hairs 24, to aid the shooter in making adjustments for windage and for locating an appropriate aiming point on the reticle with respect to both windage and range.

Also provided, most preferably in the lower left quadrant, is a means for determining range. As shown in Figure 2, the rangefinder 30 includes a vertical arm 32 and an intersecting horizontal arm 34. Vertical arm 32 is provided with a plurality of evenly-spaced horizontal cross-hairs which intersect vertical arm 32; horizontal arm 34 is provided with a plurality of evenly-spaced, preferably downwardly extending cross-hairs. At least some of the range finding cross-hairs are marked to correspond to a scale useful for determining range.

The spacing between the range-finding cross-hairs is most preferably based upon a non-conventional scale, which I refer to as the "inches of angle" scale. An

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"inch of angle" is defined as the angle made (or the distance on the reticle) which covers exactly one inch at 100 yards. On the reticle shown in Figure 2, an inch of angle is the distance between any two adjacent rangefinder cross-hairs. That is, the space between any two adjacent rangefinder cross-hairs will cover or exactly contain a one-inch target at 100 yards. A similar scale for metric shooters, which I call a "centimeters of angle" scale, can also be used, with a centimeter of angle being the distance on the reticle which covers exactly one centimeter at 100 meters. Conventional scales, such as the "minute of angle" scale or Mil Radian scale, can also be used, but are not preferred because they are less intuitive to use and make the accurate estimation of long ranges more difficult.

The spacing between secondary cross-hairs on the primary vertical and horizontal cross-hairs are also determined with reference to the scale used for the rangefinder. For the reticle as shown in Figure 2, it can be seen by reference to the rangefinder that the spacing between the secondary horizontal cross-hairs labeled 5 and 6 is 5 inches of angle. A shorter secondary horizontal cross-hair (or hack mark) appears between horizontal cross-hairs 5 and 6, at a position 2.5 inches of angle from either secondary horizontal cross-hair 5 or 6. The secondary vertical cross-hairs 26, as shown in Figure 2, are spaced apart by 5 inches of angle.

The thickness of the lines are also preferably determined with reference to the range-finding scale used. For the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 2, the preferred thickness of the primary vertical cross-hair 20 and primary horizontal cross-hair 22 is 0.5 inches of angle and the preferred thickness of the secondary horizontal and vertical cross-hairs are 0.25 inches of angle. The rangefinder arms 32, 34 and the marked (5, 10, 15) rangefinder cross-hairs are preferably 0.25 inches of angle thick, and the intermediate range-finding cross-hairs are preferably 0.1 inches of angle thick.

To use a scope and reticle of the present invention, it is preferred that the shooter become familiar with the characteristics of the weapon and ammunition to be used. The scope and reticle can be calibrated to work with almost any type of rifle. To calibrate the scope and reticle, the shooter first determines the ballistics based upon the characteristics of the weapon and ammunition to be used. For example, let us suppose the weapon to be used is a .50 caliber Bolt Action Rifle, Model M-93 with a 30 inch barrel built by Harris Gunworks in Phoenix, Arizona. The cartridge selected

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is .50 Cal Browning Machine Gun cartridge, each of which is constructed from a brass case (made by Winchester), primer (CCI #35); powder (218 grains ACC #8700 by Accurate Arms Powder), and bullet (750 grain AMAX Match bullet by Hornady, ballistic coefficient 0.750). A computer can then be used to run a ballistics program to determine bullet drop for this weapon/ammunition combination. I prefer a software program by W.R. Frenchu entitled "Ballistic V.4.0" which was copyrighted 1988 and is based upon Ingalls' table. However, other software programs, such as "Ballistic Explorer for Windows," sold by Oehler Research of Austin, Texas, may also be used.

After inputting the necessary data for the cartridge and other data such as altitude, temperature, atmospheric pressure, etc., the computer can calculate points of impact for various ranges. See, e.g., Figure 5, which provides a table with a zero at 500 yards. Other tables can be calculated with zero values at other ranges. 500 yards has been selected here solely for the purposes of illustration. To assist the shooter in understanding how to "calibrate" the reticle, a worksheet, such as that illustrated in Figure 6 can be used.

Next, the shooter can select the size of the bulls eye (or target area) to be hit using a reticle of the present invention. For example, a selected bulls eye could be 6 inches in diameter, 10 inches in diameter, 12 inches, 36 inches, 48 inches etc. A hit anywhere in the bulls eye counts as a direct hit. For the purposes of this example, I used a 12 inch bulls eye from a range of point blank to 1000 yards and a 36 inch bulls eye from 1100 yards to 1650 yards.

When the shooter sees the reticle through the eyepiece, the secondary horizontal cross-hairs can be seen. These cross-hairs are evenly spaced 2.5 inches of angle apart. Thus, the spacing between the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 shown in Figure 2, and the first secondary horizontal cross-hair below the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 is 2.5 inches of angle. The spacing between the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 and the secondary horizontal cross hair labeled "5" is 15 inches of angle. This means that adjacent cross-hairs would span a 2.5 inch target at 100 yards. The space between the primary horizontal cross-hair and the secondary horizontal cross-hair labeled "5" would cover a 15 inch target at 100 yards. At 200 yards, adjacent cross-hairs will span a target of 5 inches, and the space between the primary horizontal cross-hair and the secondary cross-hair labeled "5" would cover a 30 inch target. At 600 yards, adjacent cross-hairs will span

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a target of 15 inches. the space between the primary horizontal cross-hair and the secondary horizontal cross-hair labeled "5" would cover a 90 inch target. and so on. As can be seen, there is a linear relationship between the inches of angle scale and the range to the target in yards.

Using a table such as that shown in Figure 5, and a worksheet, such as that shown in Figure 6, the shooter can "calibrate" a scope of the present invention for the particular weapon and ammunition selected. For this example, a 500 yard zero table was selected for purposes of illustration. Therefore, the shooter marks the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 on the worksheet with the number 500 (e.g., if the target were exactly 500 yards down range, the shooter would select an aiming point along the primary horizontal cross-hair 22 to hit the target). The range value of the first secondary horizontal cross-hair below the primary horizontal cross-hair can then be calculated. Estimating a value of between 600 and 700 yards, the shooter can determine the closest value by calculating the inches of angle at 600 and 700 yards (which corresponds to bullet drop)

$$\frac{2.5 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 600 \text{ yards} = 15.10 \text{ inches of angle}$$

$$\frac{2.5 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 700 \text{ yards} = 17.50 \text{ inches of angle}$$

These calculated values are matched with the values shown in the selected Ingalls table (in this example, the 500 yard zero table shown in Figure 5). The 600 yard range on the table shows a trajectory of 18.4 inches. The 700 yard range on the table shows a trajectory of -44.6 inches. Since the calculated bullet drop at the first secondary horizontal marker is 15.1 inches, and this most closely correlates with the trajectory shown in the Ingalls table for 600 yards (-18.4 inches), the first secondary horizontal cross-hair below the primary horizontal cross-hair is marked on the worksheet as 600 yards. Although the actual bullet impact should be 3.3 inches below the dead center of the 12 inch diameter bulls eye ($18.4 - 15.1 = 3.3$), this is close enough since a hit is considered to be anything within the 12 inch bulls eye. The shooter can then repeat this process to calibrate the reticle for every secondary horizontal cross-hair below the primary horizontal cross-hair. The results in this example can be used to shoot at any target within a range up to 1700 yards. The results using this method can be seen in Figure 7. Longer ranges can also be

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calibrated using a zero table for a longer range (e.g., anything from a 600 yard zero table to a 2500 yard zero table).

Alternatively, the shooter can locate the secondary horizontal cross-hair to use for an aiming point for a specific range. For example, using the same 500 yard zero chart found in Figure 5, if the shooter wishes to hit a target at 1100 yards, he estimates two or three secondary horizontal cross-hairs which should bracket the correct secondary horizontal cross-hair to use as an aiming point. The shooter guesses the correct cross-hair is between the cross-hair identified as 6 and the cross-hair identified as 8. He then performs the same calculation:

Cross-hair #6: $\frac{20 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 1100 \text{ yards} = 220 \text{ inches of angle}$

Cross-hair #7: $\frac{25 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 1100 \text{ yards} = 275 \text{ inches of angle}$

Cross-hair #8: $\frac{30 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 1100 \text{ yards} = 330 \text{ inches of angle}$

Looking at the 500 yard table, the bullet drop at 1100 yards is 247 inches. This looks fairly close to mid-way between. To double check this estimate, the shooter can run the calculation for the unlabeled secondary horizontal cross-hair between cross-hair 6 and cross-hair 7, which is located 22.5 inches of angle below the primary horizontal cross-hair:

$\frac{22.5 \text{ inches of angle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 1100 \text{ yards} = 247.5 \text{ inches of angle}$

This value most closely approximates the trajectory according to the 500 yard zero Ingalls table used for this example, and, if used should correspond to a point exactly 0.5 inches off dead center.

Once the scope has been calibrated for the weapon and ammunition specified, the shooter can test the calculated values against actual performance at a range. The values generated using computer projections, ballistic tables and calculations are only a guide; however, they should be quite close to actual performance. It is preferred that the final range value assigned to each secondary horizontal cross-hair should be based on an actual line firing test of the selected weapon and ammunition

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at various ranges. A minimum of three shots should be used for the final confirmation of the estimated values.

Once the reticle has been calibrated as described above, it can be used in the field to acquire and hit targets of all sizes at very long, unknown ranges. While the preferred range for the preferred embodiment is at least 500 yards to 2500 yards (assuming the weapon/ammunition combination selected are capable of accurately hitting a target at these ranges), a scope of the present invention could be used to hit targets at shorter ranges, as well as longer ranges, limited only by the capacity of the weapon and the eyesight of the shooter.

The preferred rangefinder, shown in Figure 2, can easily be used to accurately determine the range to a target whose size is known or can be estimated. For example, for a 36 inch bullseye target placed at an unknown distance from the shooter, the shooter need only align the right edge of the target with the vertical arm 32 of the rangefinder so that the horizontal arm 34 of the rangefinder appears to pass through the center of the bullseye target. If, for example, the left edge of the target extends to the cross-hair corresponding to 6 inches of angle, then the observed size of the target is 6 inches of angle, and the range to target is calculated to be:

$$\text{Range (yards)} = \frac{\text{actual size inches of angle} \times 100}{\text{observed size inches of angle}}$$

or, in this example,

$$\text{Range (yards)} = \frac{36 \times 100}{6} = \frac{3600}{6} = 600 \text{ yards}$$

As a further example, suppose that the shooter observes a moose in the distance, eating vegetables from a garden near a house. From a comparison with a door in the house, the shooter estimates the size of the moose to be 6 feet at the shoulder. Upon viewing this target in the reticle, the shooter aligns the horizontal arm 34 of the rangefinder with the ground level upon which the moose is standing, and the vertical arm 32 of the rangefinder with the Moose's shoulder. The shooter determines that the Moose's shoulder touches the cross-hair marked 5.

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$$\text{Range} = 72/5 \times 100 = 1440 \text{ yards}$$

Once range has been determined, the shooter can then select the appropriate aiming point on the calibrated reticle, without the need for taking his eye off the target and without the need of making any adjustments to the scope.

Because it is often not possible to accurately estimate windage problems down range, particularly over long ranges, it is easiest for the experienced shooter to use the reticle of the present invention to correct after a shot is observed to drift. As noted above, the secondary vertical cross-hairs are evenly spaced every 5 inches of angle, which provides a scale for adjusting a second shot towards the target. For example, a 50 cal. bullet is fired at a target 1500 yards away. The intersection between the primary vertical cross-hair and the secondary horizontal cross-hair identified by number 11 is the selected aiming point. The bullet was observed to drift approximately two secondary vertical cross-hairs to the right of center. To correct for this drift, the shooter need only shift the aiming point to the intersection between the second vertical cross-hair to the right of the primary vertical cross-hair and the horizontal cross-hair identified by number 11, effectively moving the barrel of the weapon left the appropriate distance to compensate for windage. Likewise, if the bullet passes the target too high or too low, the shooter can use the secondary horizontal markings to adjust for range. For example, if the bullet is observed to pass two secondary horizontal markings above the selected aiming point when it passes the target, the shooter can quickly adjust by shifting his aiming point up two secondary horizontal cross-hairs, thus depressing the barrel of the firearm.

If it is not possible to visually determine bullet drift, the shooter can use a table which takes into account local conditions, the weapon, and ammunition to determine the amount of deflection over a selected range. See Figure 8 for an illustrative table. With the conditions as stated in Fig. 8, and for a wind crossing from the left of the shooter to the right, the expected deflection of the bullet at 1000 yards would be 54.1 inches to the right. The aiming point for windage can be easily calculated:

$$\frac{\text{inches of angle on reticle}}{100 \text{ yards}} \times 1000 \text{ yards} = 54.1 \text{ inches}$$

$$\text{inches of angle on reticle} = \frac{54.1 \text{ inches} \times 100 \text{ yards}}{1000} = 5.41$$

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1000 yards

Thus, the shooter can correct for windage on a first shot by choosing the intersection between the correct secondary horizontal cross-hair for 1000 yards, and the first secondary vertical cross-hair to the right of the primary vertical cross-hair (which, as indicated above for the preferred embodiment, is spaced 5 inches of angle away from the primary vertical cross-hair).

One skilled in the art will recognize at once that it would be possible to construct the present invention from a variety of materials and in a variety of different ways. While the preferred embodiments have been described in detail, and shown in the accompanying drawings, it will be evident that various further modification are possible without departing from the scope of the invention as set forth in the appended claims.

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CLAIMS

I claim:

1. An improved telescopic gunsight, comprising:
 - a housing, including a means for mounting said housing in a fixed, predetermined position relative to a gun barrel;
 - an objective lens mounted in said housing at one end thereof;
 - an ocular lens mounted in said housing at an opposite end thereof;
 - a reticle having a plurality of aiming points mounted in said housing between said objective lens and said ocular lens, said reticle having an optical center, a primary vertical cross-hair intersecting the optical center of the reticle, a primary horizontal cross-hair intersecting said primary vertical cross-hair at a position sufficiently above the optical center to provide at least one aiming point for a target at a range greater than 500 yards, said primary vertical and horizontal cross-hairs forming, when said housing is mounted to said gun barrel [to form], an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower right quadrant, and a lower left quadrant, a plurality of secondary horizontal cross-hairs evenly spaced along said primary vertical cross-hair, a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, each said intersection between said horizontal cross-hairs and said vertical cross-hairs forming one of said plurality of aiming points; and,
 - a rangefinder means.
2. The improved gunsight of claim 1 wherein said rangefinder means is an optical rangefinder positioned in one of said quadrants on said reticle, said rangefinder including markings for determining the range to a target of known or estimable size.

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3. The improved gunsight of claim 1 additionally including variable power optics for permitting a user to select the optical power of the gunsight within a predetermined range, and wherein said reticle is mounted between said variable power optics and said objective lens.

4. The improved gunsight of claim 2 wherein said rangefinder markings and said cross-hairs are all based upon an inch of angle scale.

5. The improved gunsight of claim 2 wherein said rangefinder markings and said cross-hairs are all based upon a centimeter of angle scale.

6. The improved gunsight of claim 1 wherein at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs include a unique marking for identification purposes.

7. The improved gunsight of claim 2 wherein said rangefinder is located in said lower left quadrant.

8. A reticle for use in a telescopic gunsight including a mount for mounting said gunsight in a fixed, predetermined position relative to a gun barrel, said reticle having an optical center and comprising:

a primary vertical cross-hair spanning said reticle and having a predetermined thickness intersecting the optical center of the reticle;

a primary horizontal cross-hair spanning said reticle and having a predetermined thickness intersecting said primary vertical cross-hair to form an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower left quadrant, and a lower right quadrant;

a plurality of secondary horizontal cross-hairs having a predetermined thickness evenly spaced along and intersecting said primary vertical cross-hair, each said secondary horizontal cross-hair forming an aiming point with said primary vertical cross-hair, each of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs being shorter than said primary horizontal cross-hair;

a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs having predetermined thickness evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, each said secondary vertical cross-hair forming an aiming point with said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, each said secondary vertical cross-hair being shorter than said primary vertical cross-hair; and,

a rangefinding means positioned in one of said quadrants.

9. The reticle of claim 8 wherein said primary horizontal cross-hair intersects said primary vertical cross hair at a position sufficiently above the optical center of the reticle to provide for at least one aiming point for a target at a range in excess of 500 yards.

10. The reticle of claim 8 wherein said upper left quadrant and said upper right quadrant have a smaller area than said lower left quadrant and said lower right quadrant.

11. The reticle of claim 8 wherein said rangefinder means comprises a vertical marking and an intersecting horizontal marking, each of which is provided with a plurality of evenly-spaced range finding cross-hairs.

12. The improved gunsight of claim 11 wherein the width of and spacing between said vertical and horizontal cross-hairs and said range-finding cross-hairs are all based upon an inch of angle scale.

13. The improved gunsight of claim 11 wherein said width of and spacing between said vertical and horizontal cross-hairs and said range-finding cross-hairs are all based upon a centimeter of angle scale.

14. The improved gunsight of claim 8 wherein at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs include a unique marking for identification purposes.

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15. The improved gunsight of claim 8 wherein said rangefinder means is located in said lower left quadrant.

16. A method for hitting a target of known or estimable size with a bullet fired from a firearm at a range in excess of 500 yards, using a telescopic gunsight mounted to the firearm, the telescopic gunsight having a reticle with an optical center, a primary vertical cross-hair intersecting the optical center of the reticle, a primary horizontal cross-hair intersecting said primary vertical cross-hair at a position above the optical center, when said gunsight is mounted to the firearm, to form an upper right quadrant, an upper left quadrant, a lower left quadrant, and a lower right quadrant, a plurality of secondary horizontal cross-hairs evenly spaced along said primary vertical cross-hair, a plurality of secondary vertical cross-hairs evenly spaced along at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, unique identifying markings associated with at least some of said secondary horizontal cross-hairs, and an optical rangefinder positioned in one of said quadrants, said method comprising the steps of:

locating a target of known or estimable actual size at a range in excess of 500 yards;

determining the number of evenly spaced, scaled markings on the rangefinder which span the target area, to determine an observed size;

calculating range to the target using the relationship between the actual size and the observed size;

selecting from said primary and secondary horizontal cross-hairs a horizontal cross-hair which has been predetermined to correlate to the calculated range;

selecting as an aiming point on the selected horizontal cross-hair the intersection between the selected horizontal cross-hair and a vertical cross-hair based upon windage considerations;

aligning the center of the target with the selected aiming point; and, shooting at the target.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein said telescopic gunsight is calibrated for range before shooting at a target, whereby the horizontal cross-hairs have known range values based upon relevant factors including the firearm and ammunition used.

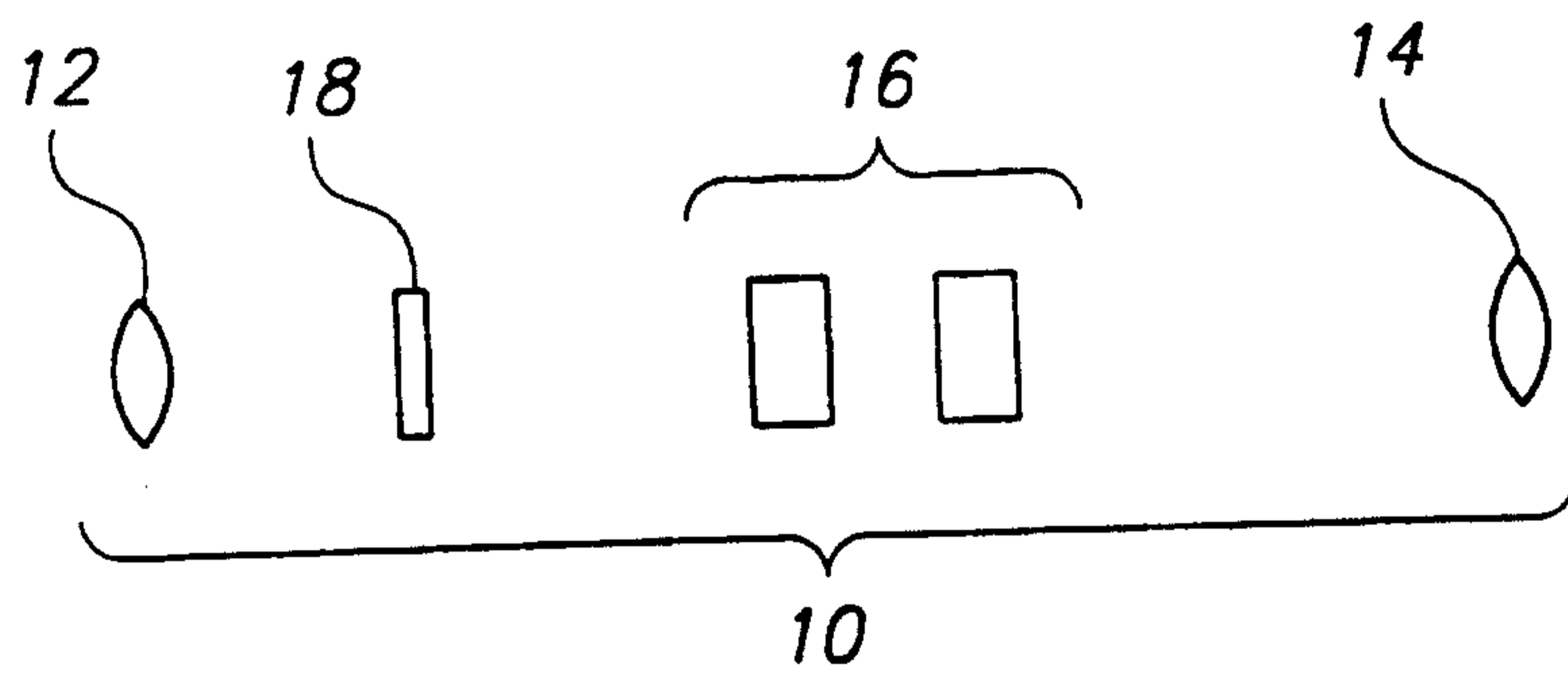
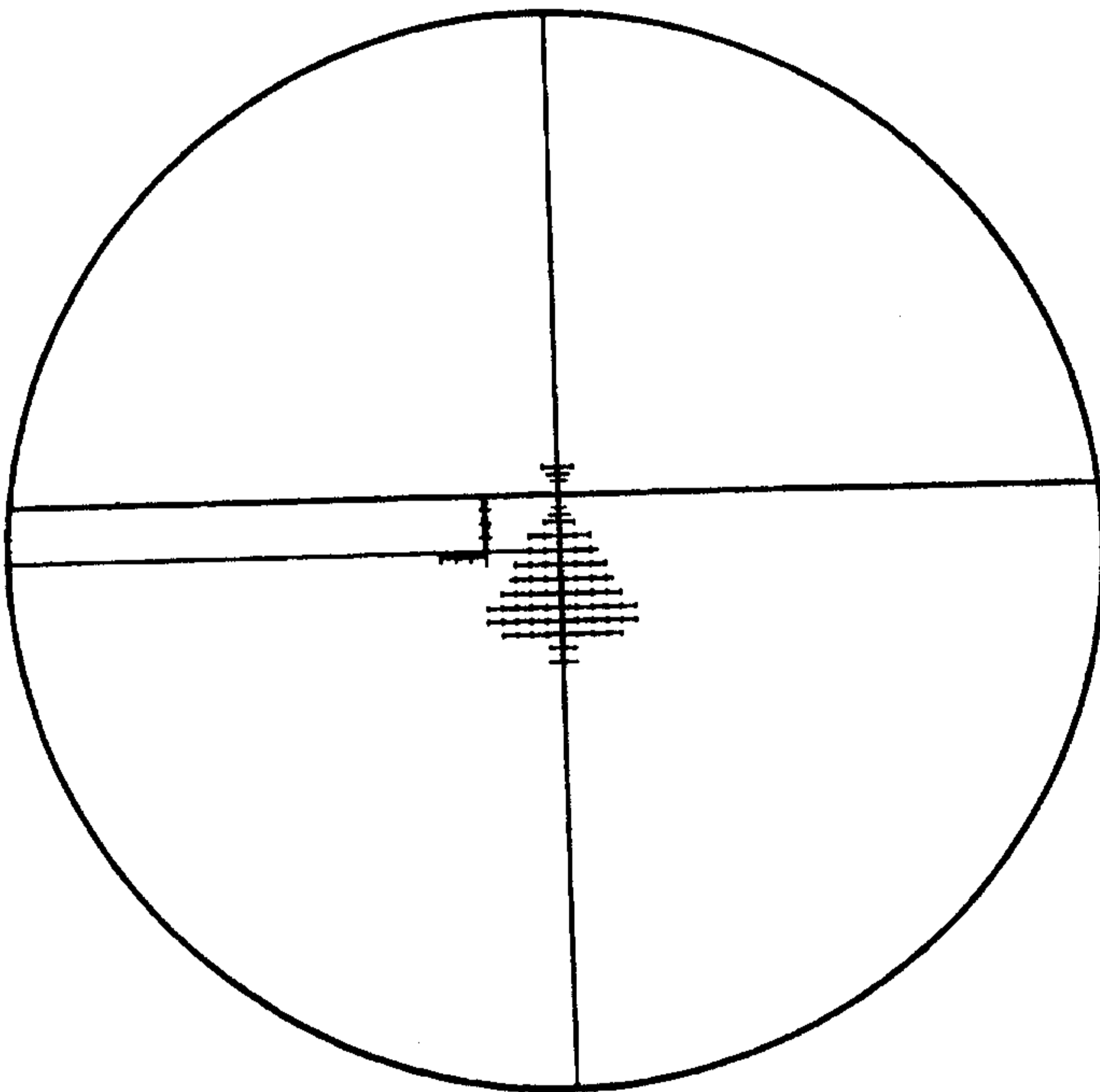
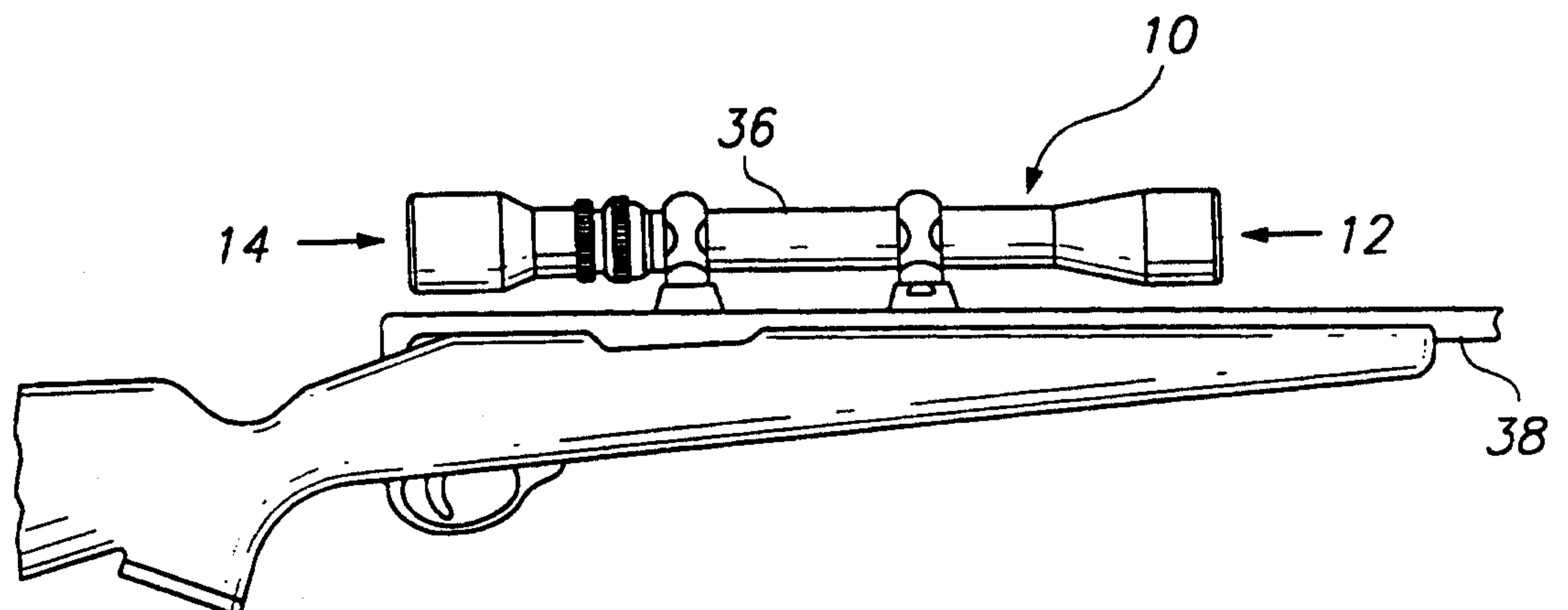
18. The method of claim 17 wherein calibration is performed by:
selecting a range for zeroing the aiming point formed by the intersection of the primary vertical cross-hair and the primary horizontal cross-hair;
determining the corresponding range for the secondary horizontal cross-hairs using a ballistics table appropriate for the selected firearm, ammunition, and the selected zero range; and
validating or adjusting the calculated ranges by live firing at a range.

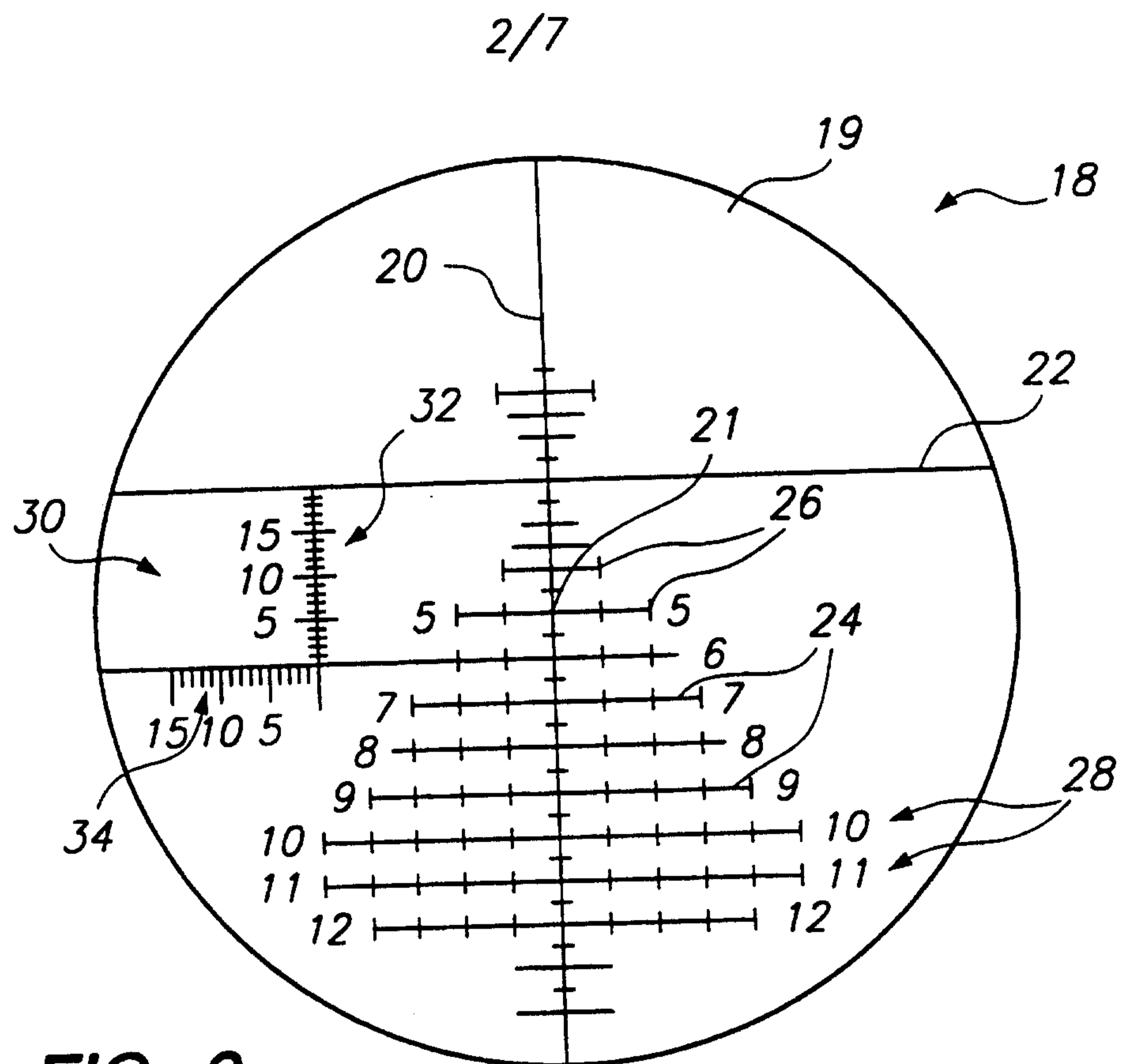
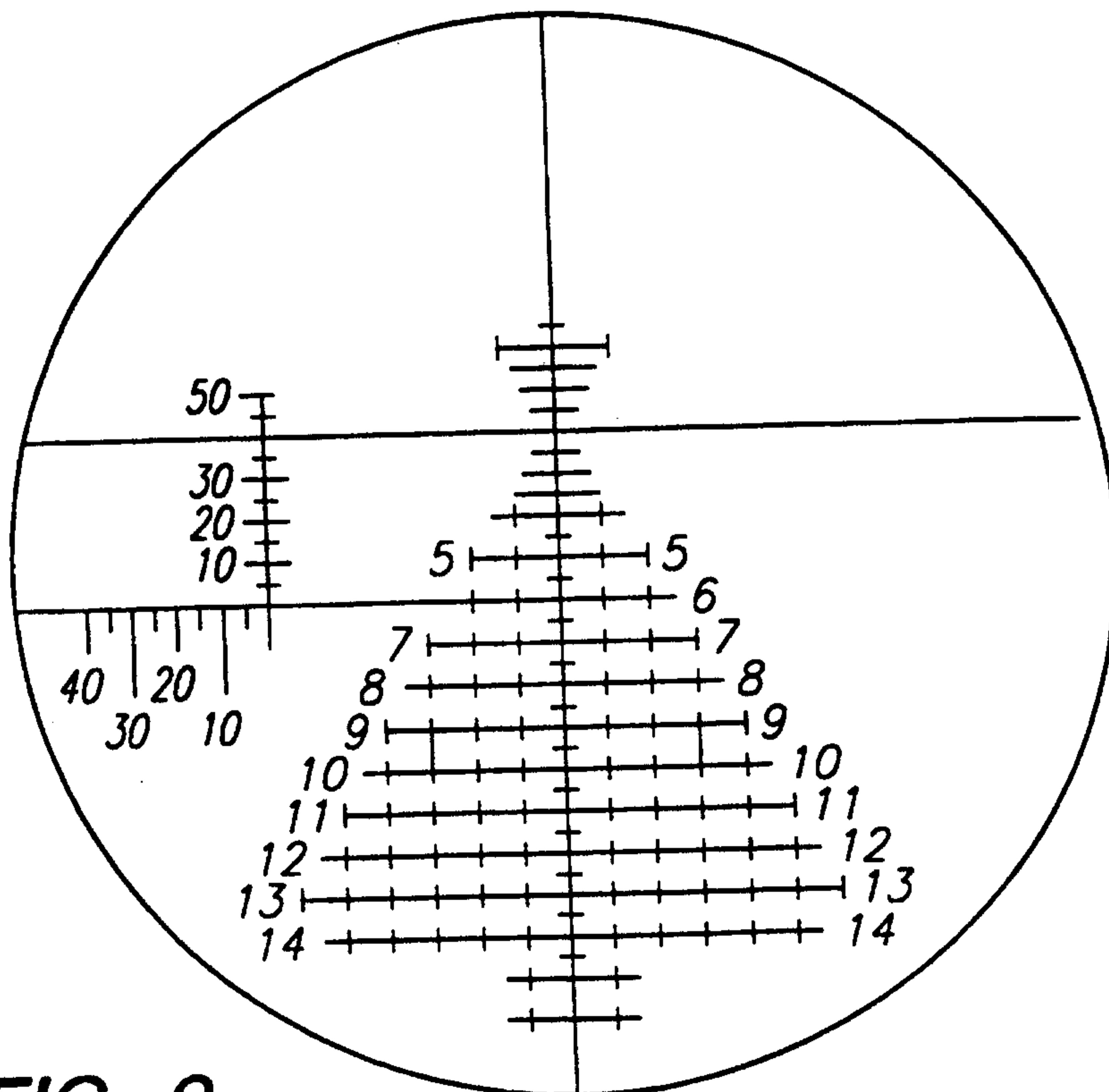
19. The method of claim 16 wherein said scale is inches of angle, and said range is calculated using the calculation

$$\text{range} = \frac{\text{actual size (inches)}}{\text{observed size (inches @ 100 yards)}} \times 100 \text{ (yards)}$$

20. The method of claim 16 wherein said secondary vertical cross-hair used for the aiming point is selected after determining the windage correction needed for the determined range to the target.

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**FIG. 1****FIG. 3****FIG. 4**
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**FIG. 2****FIG. 9**

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Sights on at 500 yards. Sights are 3.00 inches above bore.
Angle of Departure = 0.21 deg. (Firing angle = 0 deg.)

Range (yds)	50	100	150	200	250	300	350	400	450	500
Traj. (in.)	3.3	8.3	12.2	14.8	16.1	16.0	14.4	11.2	6.5	0.0
Traj. (MOA)	6.2	8.0	7.8	7.1	6.2	5.1	3.9	2.7	1.4	0.0
Range (yds)	550	600	650	700	750	800	850	900	900	1000
Traj. (in.)	-8.2	-18.4	-30.5	-44.6	-61.0	-79.7	-101	-124	-151	-180
Traj. (MOA)	-1.4	-2.9	-4.5	-6.1	-7.8	-9.5	-11.3	-13.2	-15.1	-17.2
Range (yds)	1050	1100	1150	1200	1250	1300	1350	1400	1450	1500
Traj. (in.)	-212	-247	-286	-328	-374	-424	-477	-535	-598	-665
Traj. (MOA)	-19.3	-21.5	-23.7	-26.1	-28.6	-31.1	-33.8	-36.5	-39.4	-42.4
Range (yds)	1550	1600	1650	1700	1750	1800	1850	1900	1950	2000
Traj. (in.)	-738	-816	-899	-989	-1085	-1187	-1295	-1411	-1533	-1662
Traj. (MOA)	-45.5	-48.7	-52.1	-55.6	-59.2	-63.0	-66.9	-70.9	-75.1	-79.4
Range (yds)	2050	2100	2150	2200	2250	2300	2350	2400	2450	2500
Traj. (in.)	-1799	-1942	-2093	-2252	-2418	-2592	-2774	-2965	-3163	-3370
Traj. (MOA)	-83.8	-88.3	-93.0	-97.8	-102.6	-107.6	-112.8	-118.0	-123.3	-128.7

FIG. 5

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NOTES _____

WORKSHEET

CALIBER	
TYPE OF BULLET	
BULLET WEIGHT	
EFFECTIVE BAL COEFF	
BAL. COEFF A STP	
COEFFICIENT OF FORM	
ALTITUDE	
TEMPERATURE	
ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE	

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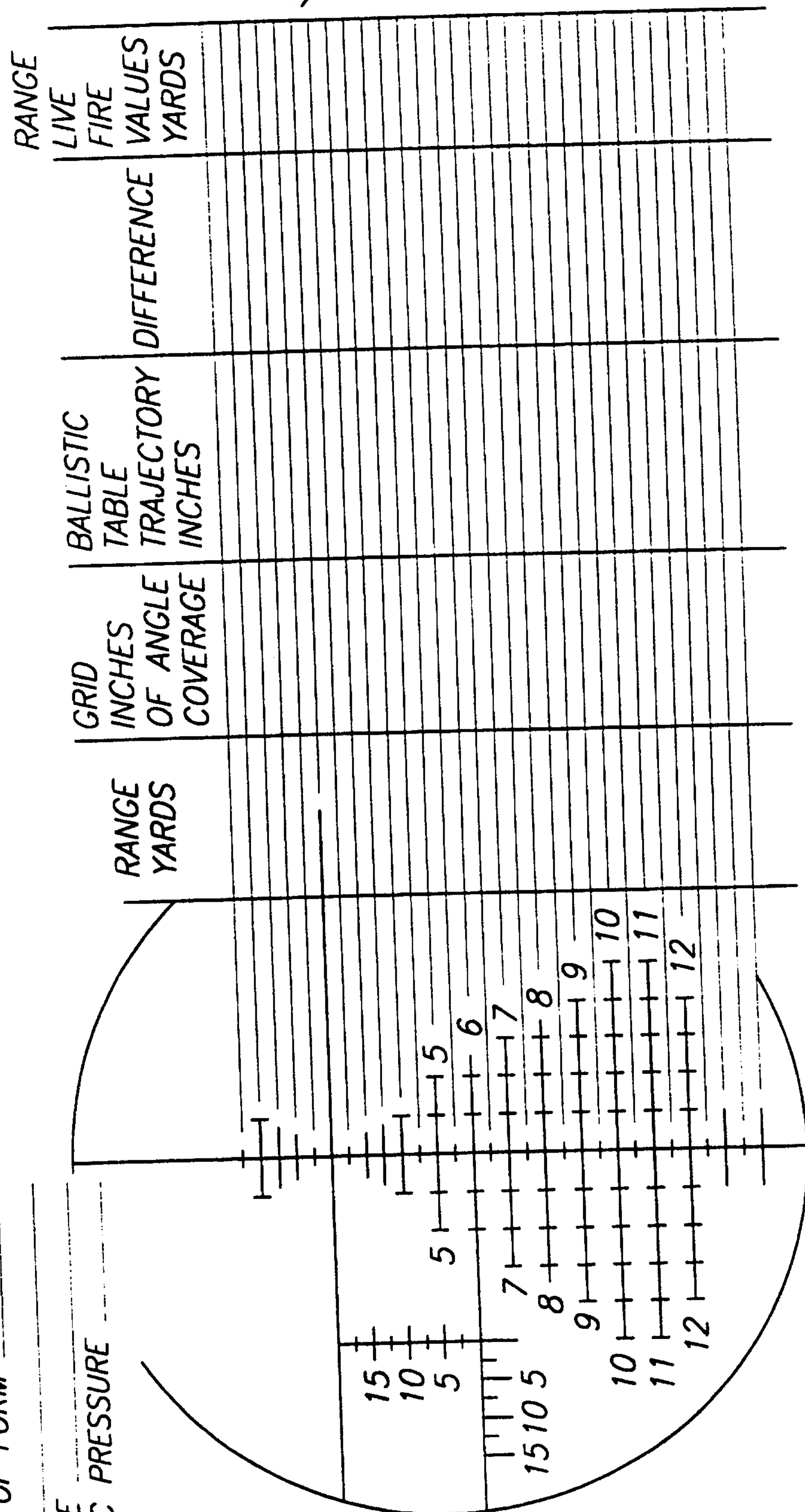


FIG. 6

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RANGE YARDS	GRID INCHES OF ANGLE COVERAGE	BALLISTIC TABLE TRAJECTORY INCHES	DIFFERENCE	LIVE FIRE VALUES YARDS
100	7.5	+8.3	1	
200	15	+16	+1.0	-0.2
300	10	+11.2	0	+1.2
400	0	0	-3.3	
500	151	-18.4	+1.5	
650	56.25	-61	+0.3	+4.7
800	106.25	-101.0	-8.5	+5.11
950	175	-180	-2.0	-5.0
1050	247.5	-247	0	-0.5
1150	330	-328	+1.0	+2.0
1250	422.5	-424	-4.5	+2.5
1350	525	-535	-18.0	-10.0
1450	675	-665	+10.0	-1.75
1550	736.25	-738	-16.0	
1600	800	-816		+8.5
1650	907.5	-899		
1700	1020	-989	+41	

FIG. 7

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FIG. 8A
FIG. 8B

FIG. 8

Hunting Shack 750 Gr AMAX Match .50 BMG (Calculated using Ingalls' table)									
Bullet Weight750 grains									
Sectional Density0.429									
Effective Bal. Coeff0.750									
Cross wind10.0 m.p.h.									
Atmospheric pressure ...30.00 in.									
Bullet Caliber0.500									
Coefficient of Form0.571									
Bal. Coeff at STP0.750									
Altitude0 Ft.									
Temperature60.0 F									
Range yards	Velocity f.p.s.	Energy ft.-lb.	Momentum lb.-sec.	Mx. Ord. in.	Defl. in.	Drop in.	Lead in./mph	Time sec.	
0	2800	13054.6	9.3247	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.000	
50	2736	12468.5	9.1130	0.1	0.1	0.6	1.0	0.054	
100	2674	11903.1	8.9040	0.6	0.4	2.3	1.9	0.110	
150	2612	11357.7	8.6976	1.3	1.0	5.2	2.9	0.166	
200	2551	10833.0	8.4943	2.4	1.8	9.4	4.0	0.225	
250	2491	10329.2	8.2945	3.9	2.8	15.0	5.0	0.284	
300	2432	9845.5	8.0979	5.7	4.1	21.9	6.1	0.345	
350	2374	9381.1	7.9046	8.0	5.7	30.4	7.2	0.407	
400	2317	8935.5	7.7146	10.7	7.5	40.3	8.3	0.471	
450	2260	8508.0	7.5278	13.9	9.6	51.9	9.5	0.537	
500	2205	8098.0	7.3442	17.6	12.0	65.2	10.6	0.604	
550	2151	7705.0	7.1637	21.8	14.7	80.2	11.8	0.673	
600	2098	7328.3	6.9864	26.7	17.7	97.2	13.1	0.744	
650	2046	6967.3	6.8122	32.1	21.1	116.1	14.4	0.816	
700	1994	6621.6	6.6410	38.2	24.7	137.1	15.7	0.890	
750	1944	6290.6	6.4729	45.1	28.7	160.3	17.0	0.966	
800	1894	5973.7	6.3078	52.7	33.0	185.7	18.4	1.045	
850	1845	5670.5	6.1456	61.2	37.7	213.6	19.8	1.125	
900	1798	5380.5	5.9864	70.5	42.8	244.1	21.2	1.207	
950	1751	5104.6	5.8309	80.7	48.2	277.2	22.7	1.292	
1000	1705	4842.8	5.6794	92.0	54.1	313.2	24.3	1.379	
1050	1661	4594.5	5.5319	104.4	60.3	352.2	25.8	1.468	

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1100	1618	4358.9	5.3882	117.9	67.0	394.3	27.4	1.559
1150	1576	4135.4	5.2482	132.6	74.1	439.7	29.1	1.653
1200	1535	3923.3	5.1119	148.6	81.7	488.7	30.8	1.750
1250	1495	3722.1	4.9791	166.1	89.7	541.3	32.5	1.849
1300	1456	3531.3	4.8498	185.0	98.1	597.8	34.3	1.950
1350	1418	3350.2	4.7238	205.4	107.1	658.3	36.2	2.055
1400	1382	3178.4	4.6011	227.6	116.5	723.2	38.0	2.162
1450	1346	3016.8	4.4826	251.5	126.4	792.6	40.0	2.272
1500	1312	2867.1	4.3700	277.4	136.9	866.9	42.0	2.385
1550	1280	2728.4	4.2629	305.4	147.8	946.3	44.0	2.500
1600	1249	2599.4	4.1610	335.5	159.3	1031.1	46.1	2.619
1650	1220	2479.7	4.0640	367.9	171.2	1121.4	48.2	2.741
1700	1193	2371.7	3.9745	402.8	183.7	1217.7	50.4	2.865
1750	1169	2274.7	3.8924	440.2	196.6	1320.3	52.7	2.992
1800	1146	2187.0	3.8166	480.5	210.0	1429.2	54.9	3.122
1850	1125	2107.4	3.7465	523.7	223.8	1544.7	57.3	3.254
1900	1105	2034.6	3.6812	569.8	238.1	1666.9	59.6	3.388
1950	1087	1967.8	3.6203	618.7	252.7	1795.9	62.0	3.525
2000	1070	1906.2	3.5632	670.5	267.8	1931.9	64.5	3.664
2050	1054	1849.2	3.5095	725.3	283.2	2075.0	67.0	3.805
2100	1039	1796.3	3.4590	783.0	299.0	2225.5	69.5	3.949
2150	1024	1747.1	3.4112	843.8	315.2	2383.3	72.1	4.094
2200	1011	1701.0	3.3660	907.7	331.7	2548.7	74.7	4.242
2250	998	1657.9	3.3231	974.8	348.6	2721.9	77.3	4.391
2300	986	1617.5	3.2822	1045.0	365.8	2902.8	79.9	4.542
2350	974	1579.4	3.2433	1118.4	383.3	3091.8	82.6	4.695
2400	963	1543.4	3.2062	1195.0	401.2	3289.0	85.4	4.850
2450	952	1508.7	3.1699	1274.8	419.3	3494.2	88.1	5.007

FIG. 8B