

Keep an eye out for the *Burriss* Fastfire 4

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The Burriss FastFire 4 is the latest iteration of this popular line of red dot sights. Burriss are known for manufacturing well-priced, value-line products that are ideally featured and reliable without breaking the bank. As such I was interested in checking out this latest offering.

As packaged, the FastFire 4 comes supplied with a Weaver/Picatinny-style mount, 2x #6x48 Torx socket head screws for fitment of the sight to the mount, a single 3V CRI 632 Lithium battery to power the unit, a Torx wrench, user guide, and a battery cover cum sight adjustment tool. The sight also boasts a removable weather shield to make it a closed emitter type red dot sight if desired, offering further protection against the elements.

The FastFire 4 is a multi-reticle reflex sight suitable for fitment to rifle, shotgun or pistol. It provides as a feature provision to toggle through (ironically) four different reticle options. Selections include a small 3 MOA red dot, an 11 MOA reticle that appears like a bright centre red dot surrounded by a thicker red ring reminiscent of an 'aperture sight' picture, the same 11 MOA reticle with an outer circle around it (kind of Eotech like)

and lastly a reticle with the 3 MOA centre dot in the larger outer circle with two horizontal wings. A button on the right side of the sight with each single press changes between the reticle options. This feature certainly adds great flexibility in the sight's application base on whichever role it is employed.

In the specifications, the magnification is listed as 1.07x so basically zero. The overall dimensions have the unit as 48.2mm in length and 25.4mm, an inch, in both height and base width. The sight window has generous dimensions at 29mm x 18.75mm, making it larger than many of its contemporaries. Elevation and windage adjustment range is also substantial at 90 MOA top to bottom, left to right. Recoil resistance is quoted to 1000g, and the sight has an operating temperature range of -25 degrees to +55 degrees, slightly more in storage: -40 to +70. The unit weighs just over an ounce at 45.3 grams.

The piece has four brightness settings comprising an automatic setting that adjusts based on ambient light conditions detected via a small sensor visible on the front edge of the base below the main lens and three manually selected settings low, medium and high.



The Burriss FastFire 4 is a truly versatile red dot, shown fitted with the Weaver base and weather shield.

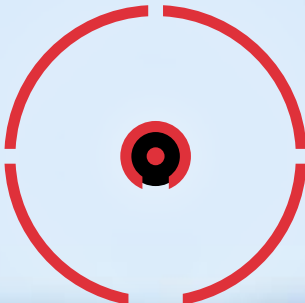
Settings are selected by using a button located on the left of the sight base. Battery life is stated to be as much as a plentiful 26,000 hours on the medium setting and to further conserve the battery there is an auto 'Off' feature that turns power off after eight hours. It's also worth noting that the battery compartment is top mounted, meaning it is accessible without removing the sight from the gun that might then require resighting.


The weather shield is quite a novel idea; I've reviewed enclosed red dot sights in the past, such as the Aimpoint Acro, but never a convertible, where you can install or remove the top as

Adding to its versatility, the Burriss FastFire 4 has four selectable reticle options that can be toggled through using the RHS button.


3 MOA.


11 MOA.


11 MOA
and Circle.


3 MOA
and Circle.

you please. Enclosed emitters do have their advantages, as open designs are in effect open to the elements, so it is possible for dust, debris, weather and more to collect in the shroud pocket just behind the lens.

In reality, for most target shooters who operate on clean ranges on sunny days or indoors for that matter, this might not mean much but if you were utilising the sight on a hunting rifle, shotgun or for law enforcement in a tactical sense where conditions can be a lot more variable, the ability to run with the emitter enclosed is quite a good idea. The weather shield is easy to fit, as it pops on and is held in position via two tiny screws that can be installed using the provided tools.

So, enough talk - let's go to testing. The sight had been provided by the Burris Australian agent Beretta Australia, not so coincidentally as Burris was acquired by Beretta Holdings in 2002 and is part of the Beretta family of companies. As I would be testing the FastFire 4 for *Australian and New Zealand Handgun* magazine, Beretta also sent up a lovely Beretta M9A4 to fit it on to for the review.

Out of the box the FastFire 4 came mounted on the Weaver/Picatinny base, but it was a simple matter to unscrew and remove it for fitment using, in this case, the necessary Beretta 92 adapter plate that was also supplied by Beretta Australia with the Beretta M9A4. The Burris



Burris FastFire 4, RHS profile.

FastFire 4 follows the same footprint as Doctor/Noblex standard, which is one of the most common footprints for red dot optics and as such there should be no issues with fitment to just about any optics-ready handgun on the market.

Once correctly torqued down, sighting-in was also made easy via the two readily accessible adjustment screws located top and right on the rear of the sight base. Click adjustments at 1 MOA for both windage and elevation were clear and precise. With the Beretta M9A4, which has standard height iron sights, there was no ability to co-witness with the FastFire 4 but once on paper it was all zeroed in fairly quickly.

I used this pairing over several range sessions as well as some dry practice and even a little IPSC competition out at SSAA St Marys Indoor Shooting Centre. I found

A predominant vertical white centre line draws the eye to the centre of the window on presentation.



the FastFire 4 to be a sight that not only looks good with its clean, stylish lines but is incredibly easy to use.

The large sight window provides more opportunity to pick up the dot quickly on presentation. A prominent white centreline on the back edge of the base also draws your eye to the middle of the screen, again aiding the aiming process. The buttons are large, accessible and intuitive to use. To be honest, some red dots I've tested can tend to be over complicated, where turning things on and off and changing modes near require some high level morse code type pressing of buttons to operate, but not so with the FastFire 4.



The Burris FastFire 4 atop a Beretta M9A4.

Two buttons

Left button: press and hold to turn on, press and hold to turn off. When on, single press to toggle through brightness modes. Done. Right button: press and hold to turn on. When on, press to toggle through reticle selection. Done. That's it. Two buttons. Nice and basic, easy to use.

Either button turns it on while the left turns it off. Otherwise, each button has one specific function: L = brightness, R = reticle. Only other thing to remember electronically is the low-battery warning function. It works as follows: when the battery power level falls to below four hours remaining, the reticle will blink twice every five seconds to let you know it's on the way out and you need to change it.

I did run into one small issue with fitment of the FastFire 4 on the Beretta M9A4, in that by a fraction of a hairs width there wasn't enough clearance between the rear sight blade and the

FastFire 4's sight base to enable fitment of the weather shield. It was that close I felt perhaps if I drifted the sight blade off for installation, I might be able to glide it back on once the weather shield was in position. However, I decided in practical terms it wouldn't be worth the bother.

Likewise, I'm pretty sure this issue was completely model specific; a different rear sight, a different sight base or 30 seconds with a Dremel tool would be the answer if you wanted this Pistol/Optic combination to work with the weather shield installed. So, not a fault at all, just a small reminder to check compatibility when you're buying.

Wanting to try the sight as a closed emitter, with the weather shield installed and I guess as demonstration of the versatility of the sight, I removed it from the M9A4, added the Weaver base and weather shield and mounted it back up on a Beretta Neos I have in the safe. A great mating on which it was just as at home.

At the time of writing, the Burris FastFire 4 has a recommended retail price in Australia of \$769 but expect a little change if you shop around. With pistol optics becoming more popular these days, the Burris FastFire 4 should prove popular for shooters looking for a red dot that is high on features and low on complication and all at a mid-range price. For more info visit berettaaustralia.com.au ■

With the weather shield installed, the Burris FastFire 4 becomes a closed emitter type red dot sight.



The weather shield is fixed in place with tiny hex screws (supplied).



Specifications

Make: Burris
Model: FastFire 4
Reticle: 4 x Multi (selectable)
Adjustment range: 90 MOA
Click value: 1 MOA
Dot colour: Red
Eye relief: Unlimited
Length: 48.2mm
Height: 25.4mm
Weight: 45.36g
Objective size: 29mm
Power source: 1x CR 1632 battery
Battery life: Up to 26,000 hours

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