

## Red Dot Vs Iron Sights: Which Is The Better Sighting System For You...



Hello, RDshooters here once again...

If you've just bought your first AR 15, you may be asking yourself:

*Do I need to have a red dot sight or...*

*...are iron sights good enough for my rifle?*

Well, today I'm going to give you a comparison of the two sighting systems.

I've broken the information up in to 4 easy to understand categories for you....

1. Speed
2. Accuracy

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

3. Weight
4. Reliability

So follow along, and I'll tell you if you should be using a red dot (reflex sight) or iron sights on your rifle...

## Red Dot Vs Iron Sights: Which Is Faster?



To begin, iron sights have been around a long time, and...

...there are many people who have become extremely skilled at using them.

They've practiced so much that every time they present their rifle, their sights are automatically lined up and they're ready to shoot.

These individuals are incredibly talented and quick shooters. However...

...they would probably be even quicker with an optic.

In terms of speed, the comparison between reflex sights and iron sights isn't even close.

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---



Optics are much, much faster!

This has been proven in both the military and especially, by civilian competition shooters.

In shooting competitions where speed is critically important...

...the fastest times are being recorded by rifles (and in fact pistols) that use reflex sights.

Now, of course a professional shooter using iron sights would probably be faster than the average joe using an optic, but...

...with a little bit of practice, that average joe can shoot much quicker with their reflex sight than with irons.

I'll be honest with you. I love iron sights, and I can shoot them well. But...

...optics are pretty much always faster than irons.

## Red Dot Vs Iron Sights: Which Is More Accurate...



## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---



...Well, NEITHER!

In my humble opinion, the accuracy is on the shooter. However...

...let me explain why reflex sights can be much more precise than iron sights.

First, when you're using iron sights, a portion of your target is going to be blocked by the front sight post.

With that said, you do have the option of installing a thinner front sight post on your gun, and this will help you aim more precisely. But...

...some of your target, especially the bottom half, will still be covered up by the sight post.

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---



When you're shooting with a reflex sight, there is obviously no post to obstruct your vision.

You're able to see much more of your target and really dial in your aim.

Now, this advantage could be minimized if you have an optic with a really large sized dot on it.

So, I only use and recommend sights with 1 MOA (Minute Of Angle), 2 MOA, or 3 MOA sized dots.

To me, anything larger than 3 MOA unnecessarily covers up too much of your target, and your aiming precision suffers.

Additionally, with iron sights you need to really focus on the alignment between your front and rear sight.

If you're not consistently lining them up with a perfect sight picture, your accuracy will tend to be poor.

With reflex sights, there is no alignment. You just look through the lens and place the dot over your target.

This can definitely aid the shooter's overall speed, but it will often times allow them to shoot more accurately as well.

In the end, an optic simplifies the whole aiming process much more than iron sights because...

...you can see more of your target and focus less (or actually not at all!) on sight alignment.

## Red Dot Vs Iron Sights: Who Has The Weight Advantage?

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---



Shaving off ounces from a rifle can be advantageous for various reasons, and...

...it's a commonly know fact that iron sights are much lighter than optics...Or is it?

Let's get a little bit nerdy and crunch the numbers.

### Good Ol' Iron Sights

There are many variations of iron sights for AR 15s, and your rifle could come in any of the following conditions:

- With a fixed front sight and detachable carry handle which includes the rear sight
- With a fixed front sight and a flip up rear sight
- With no sights but picatinny rail for the front and rear sight
- With a flip up front sight and a flip up rear sight



## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

In addition, your iron sights may be made of different materials such as:

- Steel
- Aluminum
- Polymer

Now, a carry handle will add about 9 ounces to your gun.

But if you're running flip up sights, they should be weighing in at around 2-3 ounces.

It ranges depending on the manufacturer and on the material being used, but a good set of irons should be within that range.



## Red Dot Sights

Just as will iron sights, there are many variations and manufacturers of reflex sights...

...and this makes it a little difficult to pin down the numbers.

If you go with a bigger sized optic, expect it to weigh about 9 ounces or more. However...

...if you go with a micro-sized sight such as the [Holosun HS503c](#) or the [Aimpoint T2 Micro](#) (two sights I recommend here)...

...then it should weigh in anywhere from 3.5 to 4.5 ounces, which I think is pretty respectable.

## What Conclusions Can We Draw About The Weights...

...Well, iron sights are lighter than red dots...but not by much!

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

First, I think you should avoid a carry handle because in this day and age it just adds unnecessary weight.

The same can be said for some older styles of large reflex sights. However...

...if you go with a micro red dot, it's just going to be an ounce or two heavier than using iron sights.

That's pretty remarkable!

And it's because optics technology is continuing to progress, and us consumers are getting smaller and lighter sights.

## Red Dot Vs Iron Sights: Which Is More Reliable?



Ok, the edge here has to go to iron sights, but let me explain...

Iron sights don't:

- Run On Batteries
- Have A Lens
- Break When They Get Knocked Or Dropped (Usually)



## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

However, today there are some incredibly reliable and durable reflex sights available.

The sights I recommend on this website are all tough, waterproof (to varying degrees), and extremely reliable.

They also have long battery life with some that can last for 2 years or more!

But with that said, they do still run on batteries, and that is a valid concern when you're looking for ULTRA reliability.

### So What Should You Do...



...EASY! You should run flip up iron sights (only your rear sight if you have a fixed front sight) along with your optic!

These are called Back Up Iron Sights or BUIS.

## Red Dot Shooters

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

Using Back Up Iron Sights can give you all the benefits of a reflex sight (your primary sight), but at the same time the increased security of knowing...

...that if your battery were to die or your electronic sight failed, your rifle would still be ready to go.

You do take on a few extra ounces of weight, but BUIS gives you the best of both worlds!

## So In The End, Here's How The Comparison Breaks Down...

1. Which system is faster? RED DOT
2. Which is more precise? RED DOT
3. Which is lighter weight? IRON SIGHTS (only slightly compared to micro optics)
4. Which is more reliable? IRON SIGHTS

Therefore, which should you put on your gun?

BOTH! Use an optic as your main sight and Back Up Iron Sights (BUIS) in support.

**Now, if you don't have an optic for your rifle yet and you're looking to find a respected one...**



Then I highly recommend you look in to the Holosun HS503c...

I think it is by far the best red dot sight for the money, and...

...if you're interested, you should check out my full review by clicking the link below:

==> [Read Full Review of Holosun HS503c Here](#)

Farewell, and have fun at the range!

## **Red Dot Shooters**

A PRACTICAL Guide To The World's Best Red Dot Sights!

<http://reddotshooters.com>

---

-RDshooters