

DCLW

Deros Compact Light Weight Tripod

By Tony Gimmellie

Well just when I thought I had found the best option in tripods Alamo Four Star proves me wrong. As mentioned in my last article about the Deros Long Range Tripod (DLR) about the versatility and the many ways that the unit can be used in applications for Military, Law Enforcement and hunting. Alamo shows us they are not done listening to the end user and people in the field doing the dirty work.

Alamo just released the DCLW, which stands for the Deros Compact Light Weight tripod unit. This new tripod takes in consideration every aspect of shooting and above all is small, light weight and easily pack able for general field use and duty call outs.

As I stated before I have know Mark Deros for a while and he is always looking to improve his products. When I first talked with Mark about his Long Range tripod system, I had mention that weight of his current DLR tripod was just way to much for the mobile military sniper to pack on a sniper operation. I had mentioned to him that if he could get the unit smaller, lighter and compact, and offer the same quality, and durability that he would be hitting a home run. I went on to explain to Mark as snipers the need for a quality lightweight tripod in what we do. Tripods are being used in the sniper field as shooting and optical platforms for numerous types of weapons and optics. I explained to him about how \$20 Wal Mart cheap tripods are currently being used and they were unreliable and broke and had to be replaced more then we actually got to use them.

Well some time has passed and as he has been working on other products and ideas I get the call that he had been working on what I had mentioned to him with a few guys in the local area and he had pictures of the prototype and that the first run of the DCLW units was in the works and he would be getting one out to me to test and run it through its paces. Less then 2 weeks goes by and I come home from work around 2300 hours and I find a box on my doorstep from Alamo Four Star. I knew it was my eagerly awaited tripod unit. I was tired but just had to open it up and see what this new piece of gear looked like and how it worked. Well I take it down in the gunroom to open it up and as I pull it out of the box I also got a room full of Styrofoam peanuts everywhere. Not only did I pull out the most incredible tripod unit I have ever put my hands on but I also caught the tail end of the Styrofoam peanut practical joke that they set up for me. Got to love a guy with a sense of humor.

The next day I get home from work early and now its time to start running this new tripod through its paces and make sure it would do everything I could ever want it to do when employed in a tactical situation. I went ahead and looked over the unit and inspected the workmanship, which I found to be sold and very impressive. Every detail was taken into consideration was taken into account. The complete unit is CNC machined from 6061T

Aluminum. It weighs 3 pounds 11 ounces and it is hard anodized. The unit is 21 inches in length for easy packing. I was able to pack it into the large pocket of my drag bag, inside my Eberlee stock gunslinger, and into a large Alice pack with no problems. The DCLW will adjust in height up to 31 inches tall. This allows the user to be able to use the unit in a sitting to a high kneeling position if needed. The unique head unit on this tripod is flexibility and versatile. The head will rotate 360 degrees on a smooth free path. The head assembly also tilts up and down 95 degrees to allow it to be used for shooting extreme angles up or down and it can be locked into place to maintain a desired angle if need be with the flick of the locking level. The fore end will accept any rifle stock up to 3 inches in width and can also be ordered with an optional clamping attachment that allows the user to clamp the rifle into the tripod.

The First thing I did was to drop it completely flat to test out how it would feel in the prone position. I like to be as low as possible in my prone position and when I got behind the DCLW it was absolutely perfect for me in the prone shooting position. I then continued thru multiple shooting positions strong and weak sided and in varying heights and found the tripod to be ideal in all applications. As we all know position shooting takes many hours of practice and dedication to master and be proficient with. Not to mention a shooter cannot spend long periods of times in these positions until their bodies become soar, tired, or cramped. With the DCLW the unit allows for a shooter to be able to set up and take those position shots with little to no effort at all.

Being that the head assembly rotates 360 degrees I immediately noticed that this system would be ideal for tracking and shooting of moving targets. The head assembly's smooth unrestricted free movement is something I have never seen or used in a tripod system before and the benefits and stability is unmatched.

As I stated before snipers have been using cheap Wal-Mart tripods in there training and during operations. I can tell you I have seen these cheap tripods fail many times. Of course they always fail when you need them the most. I can recall sniper students on graded stalks who just spent hours belly crawling into position to get that perfect shot off on a graded stalk event and they setup take there shot only to have the legs on that cheap tripod give way and expose the snipers position causing him to fail the exercise. I have seen shooters conducting live fire training and the recoil would blow the tripod over or once again collapse because of the weight of the rifle and recoil. Well the DCLW is the fix to this problem. I next went out to live fire test my unit and see if any of the above problems would come into play and ruin my day. I went ahead and shot it in varying positions and heights, I also got a chance to use it to shoot movers and a few other stages during a recent Sniper Match. I am happy to report that the DCLW past all the live fire testing as expected.

Another great aspect to the DCLW is it can be modified to mount and hold everything from Spotting scopes, binoculars, Laser Range finders and any other items you may have a need to use off a tripod unit.

You can purchase a complete tripod unit or if you have a tripod that you have become attached to and want to be able to enjoy what the DCLW offers you can order there DCLW option which is the head assembly only it weighs 1 pound 3 ounces and comes with the same features as the standard tripod head. The DCLW option will easily adapt and attach to your current tripod and you will be able to enjoy all the features that this shooting platform has to offer.

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