

Bistoli

Talon All-Grip bipod feet

by Brad Allen



The Harris bipod with Talon feet being shot from the bench. The rubber-backed carpet square allowed the Talon feet sufficient grip on the concrete surface.

Even though I have had a bit to do with supports over the years, I've never come across anything quite like the Bistoli Talon All-Grip bipod feet. These replacement feet are a specialty item, designed by Teznik Pty Ltd of Sydney, to fit both Harris and Atlas bipods, for precision long-range prone shooting.

With necessity being the mother of invention, Nick from Teznik advises that the spike feet are his firm's own design, after experiencing the standard rubber feet on most bipods which tended to slide, sink and move too much while attempting to maintain a firm prone shooting position behind heavy-recoiling rifles. The replacement spike feet remedy this situation by providing a much more stable and secure platform for the rifle, that virtually eliminates the problems associated with the original rubber feet.

Nick is a long-range shooting disciple and reckons that it was difficult to 'load up' conventional rubber-footed bipods and keep the constant stable pressure on them needed to take accurate distance shots. However, once

the bipod was fitted with the Talon All-Grip bipod spikes, that problem was gone, allowing the shooter to apply the necessary pressure and follow-through that was required for stable target acquisition and accurate long-range shooting. This was done by reducing muzzle jump and vastly increasing the probability of a 'first shot hit', which is what accurate, long-range shooting is all about.

The Talon feet are well-made, precision-engineered with CNC machinery from a single billet of 6061-grade aluminium, finished with matte black, hard anodising on the exterior surfaces to further combat corrosion and enhance durability. They are 40mm in diameter, with the long central spike measuring 30mm. There are a further 10 8mm-long (very sharp) spikes around the edge of the base, with five 8mm holes drilled through the base to enhance grip on soft surfaces and limit weight.

The Talon feet were supplied for testing, already fitted to a Harris bipod, but as luck would have it, my son Macen had a standard Harris bipod with the original 30mm rubber

A close-up view of the Talon All-Grip replacement bipod foot, next to the standard Harris rubber bipod foot for comparison. Yes, they are as sharp as they look!



feet fitted to his Winchester All-Weather .270 with Leupold VX-III 3.5-10 CDS scope, so we were able to do a comparison of the original and the Talon feet.

For the test, we chose to shoot the rifle at steel targets both prone and from the bench at ranges out to 500m. So, what was the outcome? On soft ground, the Talon feet definitely gave the rifle more support, with far less unwanted movement than the standard rubber feet. Shooting from the bench, it was necessary to cover the concrete surface with a piece of rubber-backed carpet to stop the rifle sliding on the hard/smooth exterior, but with the carpet, the bipod once again performed very well. One thing for sure, I definitely would not use the Talon feet on a bipod from a vehicle while spotlighting, as the roof or bonnet would never be quite the same again!

The Talon bipod feet work exceptionally well for their intended purpose of long-range shooting with the current crop of high-spec set-up rifles, especially from the prone position. The extra diameter of the Talon feet,

combined with the long central spike and shorter spikes around the edge, substantially increase grip, contributing to the exceptional steadiness while aiming the rifle. By long-range shooting standards, our 500m range session may not have been a true test of the Talon's ability, but as promised, it did provide a very steady and secure shooting platform.

Talon All-Grip bipod feet are a specialty piece of kit and are definitely not for everyone. However, if you are into the long-range shooting scene, from the prone or other improvised positions, or if you are a hunter who would like to increase your shooting accuracy beyond the usual 200 to 300m, or for law enforcement or military purposes, where a secure shooting platform for special operations is required, the Talon All-Grip bipod feet may be just what the doctor ordered.

Bistoli Talon All-Grip replacement bipod feet are distributed by Teznic Pty Ltd and retail for around \$60. For more information, ask your local gunshop or visit www.teznic.com.au ■