

DOPE BAG

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Data and Comment

New S&K Insta-Mount

Scope mount fits
M14 and M1A rifles

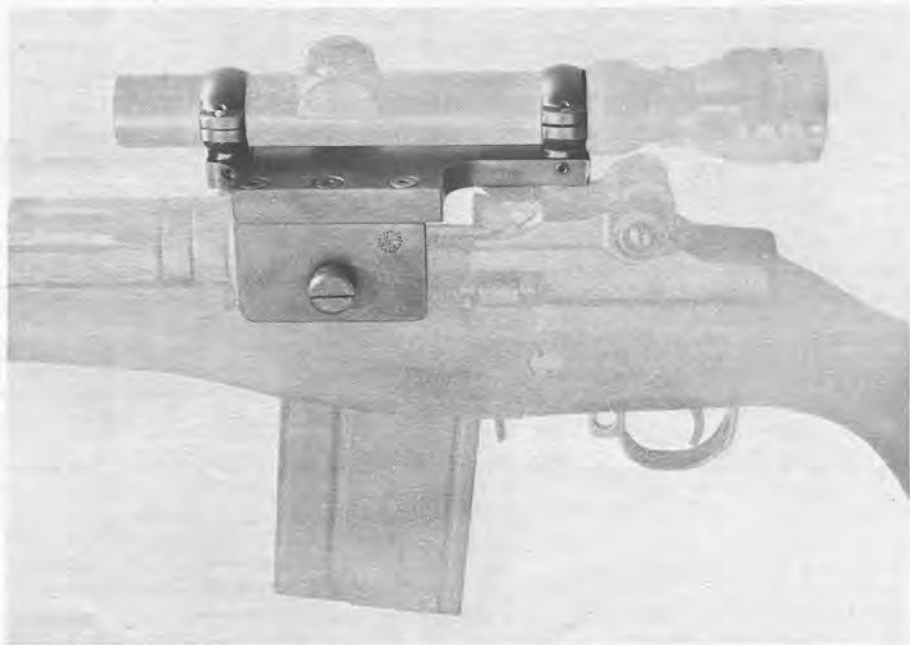
About 10 years ago, S&K Manufacturing Co. started to produce telescope sight mounts for surplus military rifles. These mounts were called Insta-Mounts since they featured quick easy installation without drilling and tapping. Insta-Mounts for many models of rifles were introduced over the years, and the latest one is for the U.S. M14 rifle and its commercial variant, the M1A.

Fastened to the left side of the rifle receiver by a single large bolt, the mount has an L-shaped, lightweight alloy base with black anodized finish. One-inch scope rings furnished with the mount are blued steel. Although the base is lightweight alloy, total weight of the mount with scope rings, bolt, and washer is 10 ozs. This considerable weight is due chiefly to the large-size thick plates of the mount base.

The sideplate of the mount base has rails that engage positioning grooves on the rifle receiver, and the bolt is screwed into the receiver hole provided for the military scope mount. Knurling on the bolt head and a large slot to fit a quarter or similar-size coin facilitate installation. After the sideplate is installed, the top plate is fastened to the sideplate with three flat-head cap screws.

Each scope ring is held to the mount base by two opposed, cone-point set screws. Two hex keys and instructions for installation are furnished.

The Insta-Mount is well made and finished, and is a proper fit on the receiver of the M1A cal. 7.62 mm. NATO rifle used by *The American Rifleman* Technical Staff in evaluating the mount. It is also



S&K Insta-Mount on M1A rifle.

easy to install. However, it positions the telescope sight so that its center is approximately $\frac{1}{8}$ " to the right of the bore center line. But this offset did not prove of any practical disadvantage during firing tests since it was compensated for easily by making a small windage adjustment in the scope. The manufacturer stated that Insta-Mounts of this model produced in the future will not have this fault.

In firing several five-shot groups with the scope mounted on the rifle and using full-power factory loads, the mount did not become loose and the point of impact remained constant. Also, the mount did not interfere with ejection of fired cases. However, the high line of sight (scope

center approximately 2" above bore center line) made it necessary to hold the head so that the face did not receive full support from the stock. A lace-on leather cheek pad would be useful to give the effect of a raised comb and provide proper face support.

Simple, sturdy, and featuring fast, easy installation, the Insta-Mount for the M14 and M1A rifles is well-suited for its intended purpose.

Manufactured by: S&K Manufacturing Co., P.O. Box 247, Pittsfield, Pa. 16340. Two hex keys and installation instructions furnished. Price: With satin-finished rings, \$42; with high-gloss finished rings, \$44, plus approximately 80¢ for postage.