



ZEROING YOUR OPTIC

POINT OF AIM = POINT OF IMPACT

Tips For Zeroing Your Optic:

There's more than one way to skin a cat, the same can be said for zeroing your thermal optic. Today we'll go over a few tips and tricks we've learned along the way, as well as the basics for getting your thermal ready for action.



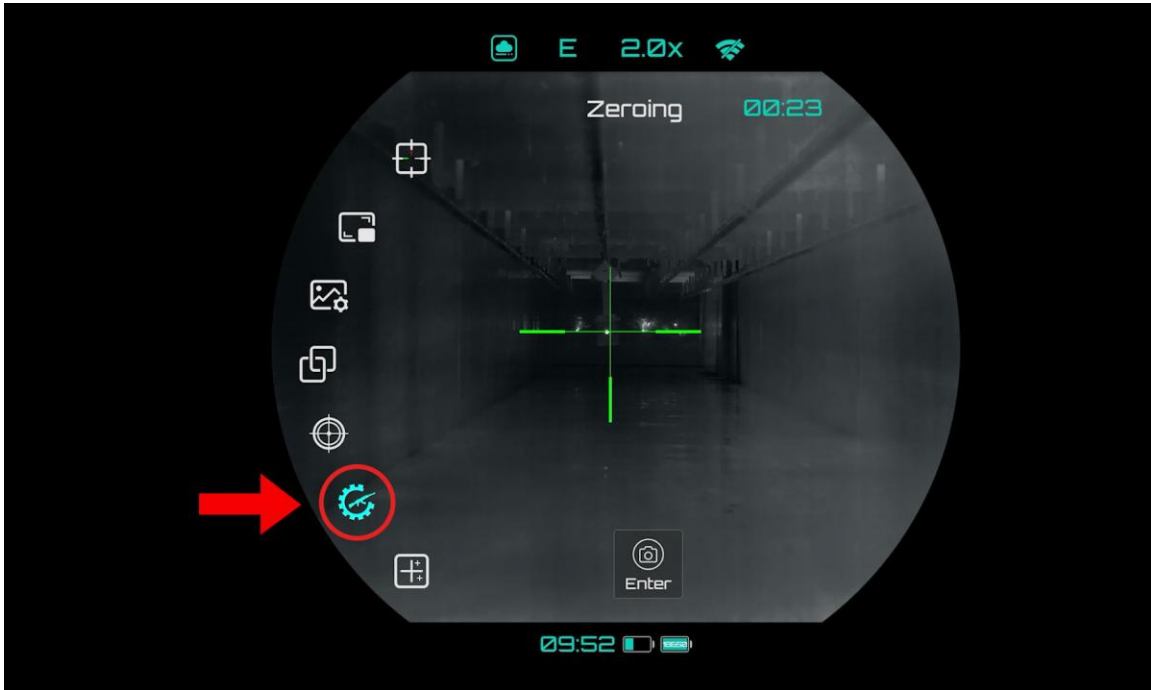
DO I HAVE TO USE THERMAL TARGETS?

DO I HAVE TO HAVE A THERMAL TARGET TO ZERO MY SCOPE?

While we recommend using the thermal targets that come with most of the RIX thermal scopes, they're not the only method you can use to get your optic zeroed. Here are some household objects you've probably got in the shed or in the 'random item drawer' that can be useful in getting you ready for **night-time activities**.

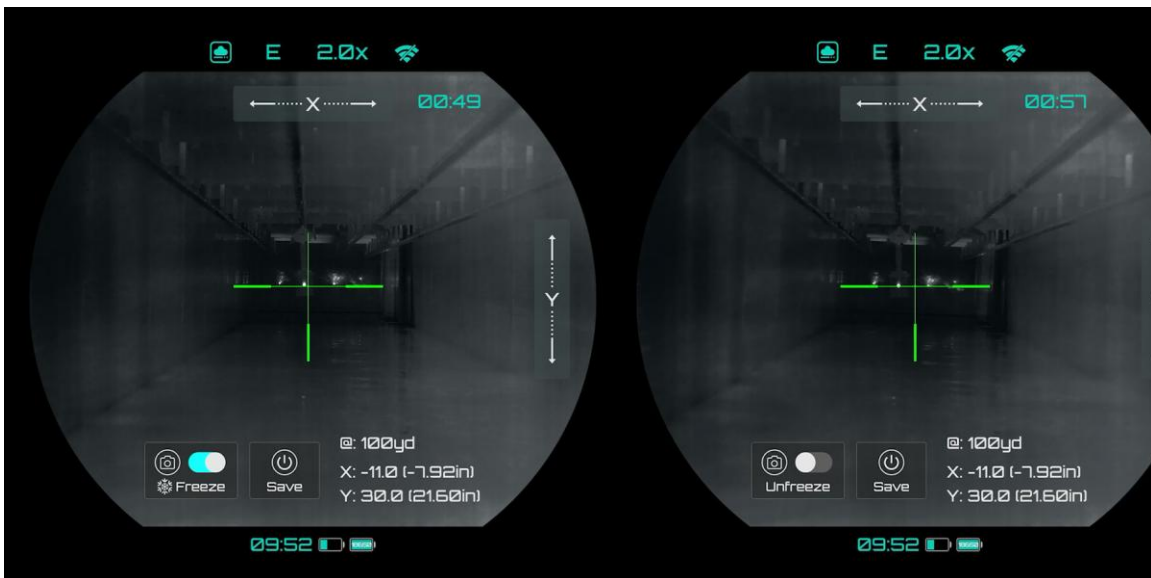
- **Aluminum HVAC Tape/Foil:** Apply aluminum tape or regular tin foil to cardboard. The metal reflects ambient heat, appearing bright on the screen.
- **Disposable Hand or Toe Warmers:** Taping a hand warmer ("Hot Hands") to a cardboard box provides a consistent, high-intensity heat spot.
- **Heated Metal Objects:** Use a torch, lighter, or even the sun to heat a metal object like a steel plate, shell casing, or large nail.
- **Hot Water Container:** A bottle of hot water placed in front of a target creates a clear thermal signature.
- **Aluminum Foil-Wrapped Items:** Wrapping a rock or stick in foil creates a distinct, cold-signature object if the ambient temperature is higher than the foil, or a hot signature if the sun is hitting it.
- **Yard Signs:** Plastic yard signs often have a different thermal signature than the ground, making them effective and sturdy targets.

Some of these options can vary between day-time and night-time use. For example, utilizing metals typically works better during the day as the sun-light will help you to heat the targets, whereas during night-time, without direct sunlight, you can rely on the disposable hand warmers to create the heat signature for you. **Black tape & black paint can also be used during the day as the color black absorbs the most heat. There are so many options!**



WHAT TO LOOK FOR IN YOUR SCOPES DEEPER MENU

Whether it be a knob to turn like on our LEAP series, or the triple line button with most of the other popular RIX units, **activating your deeper menu and finding the Zeroing option** (as circled in red above) **will be your first step**. For reference, the above pictured is from the menu of our LEAP series units.



FREEZE: WHAT IS THIS AND WHY DO I NEED IT?

The FREEZE option is present for those that like to bore-sight their optic. This function will also allow you to adjust your scope to where you want your zero to be, then adjust your X & Y axis to meet with your previous impact. If you're using a bolt-action rifle, you can pull the action out and look down the barrel to give yourself a relative starting point. This option will hold the reticle in place, essentially freezing the screen for when you're mounted on a tripod or bench rest you don't have to worry about bumping or losing your relative starting point. The icons will be present on screen to help you navigate your selections.



***TAKE YOUR SHOT WHEN READY, THEN ADJUST X & Y AXIS
ACCORDINGLY***

Each unit has either a button or knob to navigate menu options. In this case, manipulating the X & Y axis for the LEAP requires you to turn the corresponding knob. Units such as the STORM and DBH will have buttons for each axis. Once you've taken your first shot, check the area of impact and you can adjust each axis accordingly to bring your rifle to impact the area that your reticle is focused on. **In most cases, you'll start at 50 yards, then move your target out to 100 yards for the zero you'll be using most often in the field.**



SAVING YOUR ZERO

Once you've achieved your preferred zero for your optic, make sure to save your progress under the respective profile for the rifle you're currently using. **With each unit, you'll have the option for 5 different zero profiles (A-E). These profiles can be utilized for multiple distances, making it easy to go from 100 yard shots out past 1000 yards**, depending on your needs. Swapping zero profiles is as easy as going through the menu to select the profile you've saved for each distance.



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR DURING THE ZERO PROCESS

Now that you've zeroed your optic to the rifle you're using, it's time to enjoy the hunt. Some things to look out for during this process would be wind (**we recommend zeroing at an indoor range**) though you can get away with utilizing onboard options to link to a multitude of kestrel units through your RIX+ app that will adjust your ballistics accordingly with several RIX units. Another thing to watch out for is temperature. Not necessarily outdoor temperatures, but barrel temperature. **Heat causes metal expansion, changing bore diameter and stress points on the rifle, affecting accuracy and shifting the point of impact, this phenomenon is known as "Thermal Drift". It is generally best practice to let your barrel cool between shots to avoid this issue.**



TIME TO ENJOY YOUR INVESTMENT

The RIX team put a lot of effort into making the zeroing process for each optic as painless as possible. Though, for any optic and rifle owner, we know that it is necessary. **Once you've achieved your preferred zero for the range you have in mind, all that's left is to go out and enjoy your investment.**

HAPPY HUNTING!