

# FULL FRONTAL

Mark Ripley takes a break - sort of! - from his foxing stories to test a brilliant little NV add-on from Scott Country. How will the Pulsar F155 perform in the field?

I hate instruction manuals. I'm very much a 'figure it out as I go' kinda bloke, so I wasn't impressed when I took a thick instruction booklet out of the Pulsar F155 box. However, I was pleasantly surprised to find that only the first 28 pages are in English, before the same instructions are repeated in various other languages. This shows what a simple NV unit this is to use, and what is making it such a success!

For anyone unfamiliar with the new digital NV add-on, it's a compact, easy-to-use add-on which attaches to the front of your normal day scope in a second, instantly converting it to a 200-yard-capable night sight with no need to rezero, for not much more than a thousand pounds! Interested?

I, for one, was immediately interested and couldn't wait to get my

grubby little mitts on a unit from Scott Country for review. OK, just to put things in perspective, this isn't on the same level as a Drone Pro, Archer or any other dedicated NV scope. If you're looking for a dedicated night scope, this unit probably isn't for you.

However, if you're looking for an add-on that you can drop in your pocket to head out for a fox after a day's stalking, swap between different rifles, or simply to shoot the odd fox after dark without messing with your day scope, then this unit could be just what you're looking for.

Depending on weather conditions, the unit boasts a useable maximum foxing range of around 150-200 yards with its supplied infrared illuminator, or around 200-250 yards using something like a PBIR.

Essentially, the F155 displays a digital screen at the back of the unit which is then viewed through your day scope on an ideal magnification of between 6x and 8x... any more and the picture becomes a little too grainy on a further target.

For this review, I opted to mainly use it with my Nightforce 5.5-22 x 50, using the 5.5 mag to acquire my target before tweaking up the mag to around 8x for a shot.

The unit weighs around 800g which, being over the middle of the rifle, didn't overly affect the balance of the rifle.

I found that by mounting the PBIR on a figure-of-eight-style bracket on top of my day scope, as well as using the optional supplied IR attached to the side of the unit, I can get the most from the F155.

**BELOW: Mark uses the F155 to extend his foxing foray**





For closer shots, I can use one of the three power settings for the supplied IR out to 150 yards, then for longer shots, I can flick on the PBIR.

The unit has a remote control switch to attach to your stock which allows you to switch IR brightness, scroll through menu settings and stop/start video and audio recording to the unit's built-in memory.

As the scope's crosshairs and magnification is behind the F155 and

**ABOVE:** There are four buttons for controlling the unit, plus a fine focus wheel

**BELOW:** Fitting is via a bayonet-style adapter on the front of your day scope

its recording functions, recorded videos are at a set 1x magnification and your crosshairs won't be visible in the playback. It's rather like recording something on a smartphone or digital camera and putting your scope up to the screen on the back to aim with.

There are four buttons on the unit itself to work all the same basic functions as the remote, with the addition of a focus wheel to fine-tune the image depending on the range you are shooting. I did find that on a long scope such as the Nightforce from a prone position, this was a bit of a stretch to easily reach, although presented no real issue on more standard length day scopes such as my .223's MTC Viper.

Like most of Pulsar's latest units, the F155 incorporates the new 3.7 volt Lithium-ion battery pack, giving it a runtime of around nine hours, so more than enough for even the longest foxing outings!

It is also compatible with Pulsar's Stream Vision app, allowing other people to wirelessly view what you're seeing, or rather, what the unit is seeing (remember the 1x mag and lack of crosshairs mentioned above) on a smartphone or tablet.

Like all night vision units using an IR, viewing ranges will be limited in fog or rain, although the F155 has no issue in being out in the elements, as it is fully waterproof.

Mounting the add-on is an absolute doddle and requires minimal scope clearance over the barrel to be attached. Fitting the F155 is done via a bayonet-style adapter ring, which is pre-fitted to your day scope using a quick release locking lever securing it firmly in place. The F155 locks in with a quick quarter turn into the adaptor.

The whole unit comes supplied with a compact carry case (about the size of a camera case) as well as a battery, charger, instructions and remote.

The adapter ring is sold separately – you just need to select the size of your objective lens. Each adapter kit comes with a range of bushes to fit to any model of scope with the given objective lens diameter.

That pretty much covers the set-up, but how does it stack up in the real world out on the foxes?

Using a thermal spotter to locate my targets, I've been able to shoot a number of foxes from 50 yards out to around 220 yards and identify quarry out to 300 yards or more.

Shooting at around 200 yards, I would have liked just a little more magnification or a sharper image, but to be fair that's still pretty good going, and how often do you need to shoot much further at night? Let's not forget we are talking about an add-on here!

The unit is ideally suited to ranges out to around 120 yards or so, making it perfect for foxing over bait



**FROM  
DAWN TILL DUSK**

If you shoot lots of foxes at dawn and dusk, like Mark, the F155 is a great add-on as you won't be needing a dedicated night scope and it won't affect the zero on your day scope.



**“THE F155 HAS PROVED ITS WORTH TO ME ON  
A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS NOW”**

sites and equally awesome for rimfire rabbit control.

I tend to shoot a lot of foxes at dawn and dusk so I'm invariably out a bit before light or a bit after, meaning this little unit is perfect to carry with me when I don't need a dedicated night scope.

I took the F155 out with me the other evening after a fox that had regularly been seen just before dusk, skirting the edge of the lambing field.

the hedge line away from me. I gave it a little mouse squeak to draw it out of cover to confirm it was a fox, and not a badger. The glowing shape dashed straight out onto the edge of the field. Looking through the F155, I could see clearly that it was a fox, even without the IR. I gave it a little squeak again and it began to trot curiously into the field. Once it got to around 70 yards it seemed to sense all was not well and slowed to a stop, giving me the perfect



## “LOOKING THROUGH THE F155, I COULD SEE CLEARLY THAT IT WAS A FOX, EVEN WITHOUT THE IR”

Normally on a dusk sit out I would only use my day scope and stay until I could no longer see to shoot, but this particular eve I decided that, as I had this unit with me, I'd give it another hour after dark if nothing showed.

After tucking myself into a bit of cover on the corner of the lambing field I set up and scanned the surrounding fields with the binos, and ranged a few closer objects for reference after dark. Before long the shadows began to lengthen and the light began to fade. Soon it was too dark to see much, so I swapped binoculars for thermal spotter and attached the F155. It wasn't long after that the thermal picked up something moving purposefully along

chance of a shot straight into the bib. The crack from the .260 was quickly answered by the familiar thump of a solid hit, flopping the fox over on its side. This proved to be the same fox I'd seen around the field, but with my early success I thought I'd give it another half hour in case anything else showed.

Within five minutes a second fox appeared, following the exact same path as the first! This time I didn't need to call and the fox inquisitively followed the same route out into the field and straight over to sniff the first fox. I was already tracking it in the scope and the moment it paused, I took up the trigger slack.

**ABOVE: Image quality is impressive**

Nothing happened. I checked the safety before feeling for the recess on the back of the bolt. Bigger! I hadn't chambered a fresh round after shooting the first fox!

The hunting gods smiled on me and I was able to quietly cycle the bolt while the unsuspecting fox sniffed its dead mate. A second crack rang out and the fox reeled back and dashed 10 yards with its tail in the air, before running in a half circle and collapsing.

The F155 has proved its worth to me on a number of occasions now, to the point where I decided I didn't want to give it back! I've ended up buying this unit myself now, so if that doesn't prove its worth, nothing will! [RS](#)

**BELOW: The built-in IR is fine for shots out to 150 yards**



**RRP:**  
£989.95  
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