

What We Would Buy

We recommend the Bushnell Lytespeed 400. This unit has a track record of accuracy, reliability, and dependability found at a price that makes sense. Last year the unit was sold through both Cabela's and Gander Mountain for \$249.99, though a price increase of about \$25 is expected this year. If we were going to use a rangefinder unit primarily for extreme-distance target shooting, this unit's practical limits of 400 yards may be detrimental. However, even the very best shots who are big-game hunters rarely take shots at big game over the quarter-mile mark to avoid potential wounding.

The downside of the Lytespeed is supply. According to Bushnell, production of the Lytespeed 400 still lags far behind demand. If you try and buy a unit today, chances are you'll be placed on a back-order list that stretches about six months.

For short-range handgun and .22 shooters, the Brunton Laser 70 Rangefinder is also worth the money—but with a few reservations. While the unit performs excellently in a technological sense, making the changes we mentioned above, particularly the addition of rubber armoring and a neck strap, would make the unit much more attractive. Its performance under the extreme conditions of our musk ox hunt made us believers in the unit's technology and ability to perform under poor conditions.

While the Brunton Electronic Rangefinder binocular has several redeeming features and will provide accurate readings under very controlled conditions, it is not quick to use or reliable, we feel. Comparing stadiometry to laser technology is akin to comparing a Model T Ford to an F-150 pickup. Both will get you where you want to go, but the more modern version will do the job so much more reliably and efficiently. Choosing efficiency just makes sense to us.