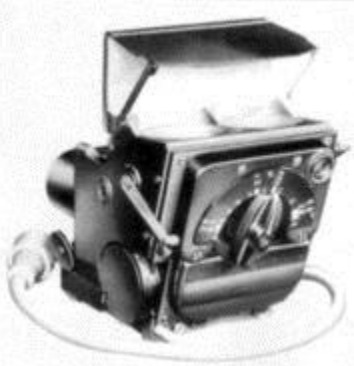


Gyro gunsight



The Ferranti *Gyro Sight Mk IIc*

A **gyro gunsight** is a type of [gunsight](#) in which target lead (the amount of aim-off in front of a moving target) and bullet drop are allowed-for automatically, the sight incorporating a [gyroscopic](#) mechanism that computes the necessary [deflections](#) required to ensure a hit on the target. The sight was developed during the [Second World War](#) for [aircraft](#) use during [aerial combat](#).

The sight features both a fixed and a moving graticule, the fixed one signifying the direction the guns are pointing (in effect, the same as a 'normal', non-gyro, sight), the moving one the *corrected* aiming point. Providing the pilot/gunner uses the correct *moving* graticule then a hit on the target is highly likely.

History



The Ferranti *Gyro Sight Mk I*. The pilot/gunner had to look through the tube at the top of the sight, a drawback corrected in the later *Mark II*

After tests with two experimental sights which had begun in [1939](#), the first production gyro gunsight was the [British](#) *Mark I Gyro Sight* (left), developed at [Farnborough](#) in [1941](#), and prototypes of which were tested in a [Supermarine Spitfire](#) and the turret of a [Boulton Paul Defiant](#) in the early part of that year. With the successful conclusion of these tests the sight was put into production by [Ferranti](#), the first limited-production versions being available by the spring of 1941, with the sights being first used operationally against [Luftwaffe](#) raids on Britain in July the same year. The sight had a number of drawbacks however, including requiring the pilot/gunner to look through a small aperture, so production was postponed and work started on an improved sight which would incorporate a normal [reflector](#) system instead. This new sight became the *Mark II Gyro Sight*, which was first tested in late 1943 with production examples becoming available later in the same year.

The *Mark II* was also subsequently produced in the [US](#) as the *K-14* ([USAAF](#)) and *Mk18* ([Navy](#))

The [radar](#)-aimed [AGLT Village Inn](#) tail turret incorporated a Mark II Gyro Sight and this turret was fitted to some [Lancaster](#) bombers towards the end of [World War II](#).

[edit] External link

- [A fuller explanation of the gyro gunsight](#)



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