

# Trail Camera Review 3/2009

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Trail camera: **DLC Covert II Assassin Scouting Camera**

For me trail cameras need to work, PERIOD, and without going into the full “science & technology” behind this trail camera, I want to give you a straight forward-hands on review of the **DLC Covert II Assassin** that we can easily understand. Us rednecks can’t always comprehend science & technology but we sure as heck know when something works or does not work, and that is important. ***Note: I sell trail cameras and this and all my reviews are not slanted in any way. This is an honest, straight horsepower review on this unit and I stand behind it purely out of my experience with the product, nothing more***

## Intro:

With the advances in technology, it is easy to see how *size does matter* and when you pick up one of the **New DLC Covert II Assassin** trail camera for the first time, you’ll understand why. For the first time, big is not necessarily better and this tiny scouting camera packs just as big a wallop as any of the “BIG” trail cameras on the market today. I will start by going through some of the basic and important features with this little Covert II.

## Out of the box:

Right out of the box, this thing is tiny and it fits in the palm of your hand. It measures out at 5.1” high x 3.1” wide x 1.9” thick and weighs in less than 1lb (without batteries). The case is heavy duty plastic dipped in camouflage for easy concealment. It hinges in 2 sections that are secured by 2 nice pull clamps. A rubber seal is mounted between the case connection points to ensure no water leakage. There is a threaded insert located on the bottom of the case that can be used on a tripod mount or any of the new screw in style tree mounts with universal swivel adjust ball. Built into the back of the case are 2 nice slots for strapping to a tree (strap included). The camera can operate on 4 AA batteries but accepts up to 8 AA batteries for extended life. With 8 new batteries you can expect to get over 4,000 images or 120 minutes of day or night time video clips for the life of those batteries. There is an external power port located on the bottom of the case for expanding the power source if desired. The camera is Infra Red, which means color pictures by day and black and white at night. Color pictures can be adjusted from 3 megapixels to 5 megapixels. The night time images are 1.3 megapixels. Trigger speed is right at 1.2 seconds. 24 LED illuminators reach out to about 35-40 feet for nighttime pictures. The camera settings are controlled by a blue screen LCD remote that plugs into the camera. Once you save the settings on the remote, the camera is programmed and will not change until you do so by use of the remote. The Camera accepts up to a 2gig standard SD memory card (included) and the slot is conveniently located inside the case and underneath the battery compartment. The on/off switch is also located next to the SD memory card slot. The camera comes with a 2 gig SD memory card, USB

cable, TV cable and strap for attaching to a tree and an easy to follow user manual. The strap is easy to operate and the buckle holds securely.

### **Getting it ready:**

I found this unit to be extremely easy to setup right out of the box. First, you make sure the on/off switch is in the off position. Load your batteries and insert the supplied 2 gig SD memory card that is included with the unit. Plug in the remote and turn the power on. The batteries from the camera will power the remote on and you will hear a quick double beep to confirm connectivity. From this point, you follow the manual for programming the camera. You can adjust the megapixels, set the clock, set the delay, etc. Once you have the settings you want, simply hit "OK" and the unit is ready. The manual easily walks you through the setup process. Be sure to format the card while going through the settings. Unplug the remote, close the case and lock it down. The Covert is now doing a countdown to arm itself. Checking the camera could not be any easier. Simply bring along another blank SD memory card, open the camera case, and turn the unit off. Take the SD memory card out of the slot and replace with a new SD Card. Plug in your remote, turn the unit on and format the card. Unplug the remote, close the case and walk away. \*\* I highly recommend having 2 SD cards per camera.

### **Security:**

By itself on the tree, the camera is vulnerable to thieves with little to no protection. However, the security box that can be purchased in addition the camera **IS** the answer. The box is custom laser cut and weld-less. The box is powder coated and camouflaged slightly with a few hits of brown and green paint from the factory. Basically it is just enough to breakup its outline. You could easily get creative by hot-gluing sticks and plastic leaves to the case to further camouflage the deal. The case is a 2 piece design and the back portion of the box must be lag bolted to the tree. Once the camera is inserted into the box and turned on, the front section slides & locks in place and can accept 2 forms of security locks (python and standard lock). In short, in order for a thief to gain access to this box, they are going to be there for a very, very long time making some serious noise and will ultimately have to cut the tree down to gain access to the box. This security box is a huge deterrent to thieves and by far, the best out there.

### **Images:**

I found the images to be very, very good. Both night and day images are very impressive and very clear. One thing you need to know about **ALL** infrared cameras is that night time images can be blurry if the subject is moving fast. This is the nature of the beast with ALL Infrared cameras. However, night time standing still pictures are outstanding! Like any Infrared camera at night, one can see the "red glow" from out to 20 feet or so. But I have found that the red glow does not spook deer as much as it just grabs their attention. Deer have stayed for picture after picture. I have found this to be true with all IR cameras I own. The video feature is VERY NICE!! Unlike most cameras, this Covert II can be set to take up to 1 minute of both daytime and nighttime video. I find this to be an excellent feature on both scrapes and classic signpost rubs that get hit every year. No more limit to 10 second video clips! Hands down, this little Covert II provides image and video quality that can hang with any camera on the

market. Let's face it, when using trail cameras, we are not trying to win a Pulitzer Prize.....we are **scouting!** And after seeing the Covert II images, they go beyond scouting quality.

**Warranty/Customer Service:**

Warranty and Customer Support/Service is just as important to me as functionality of a trail camera. All DLC Coverts come with a 1 year manufacturers warranty and a warranty card is supplied. Should the unit fail within that time frame, simply call DLC to get a return authorization number, box of the unit and send it back to them. Once they receive it, they will ship out a new replacement unit ASAP. Turnaround is very fast.

**MSRP:**

The DLC Covert II retails for \$249.99. The security box retails for \$34.99. As a professional Land Manager, obtaining trail camera images for population census and buck identification are vitally important. I depend on cameras that will produce the images and perform as the manufacturer says. DLC Covert II has met those needs and I could not be happier with their performance. If you have been dealing with larger, bulkier cameras with marginal battery life, then take a look at this little unit.

**Rating/Conclusion:**

After 3 solid months of taking picture after picture-video after video, my 3 DLC Covert II Assassins have been flawless. Not one issue and each time I check the cards they are full of images. Battery life has been excellent and picture quality has been first class. I simply cannot point out an issue with this camera and I give this a **5 star rating** at this time. Honestly, I have not found a common use problem, which is rare.