

The Safari Sling



& Swivel

By Neil Hair



I had seen the Safari Sling on Secrets of the Sambar website but paid little attention to it as an option that suited me. Because of my birth date I may be regarded as a bit of a dinosaur around the hunting scene and as the saying goes “It can be hard to change a dinosaur’s ways”.

I was talking to Errol about the hunt smart training add and promo video and asked him what the idea of the extra-long sling was. He went on to give me the full workings and endless advantages of the Safari Sling. Maybe dinosaurs are hard to change because they are very sceptical of new gadgets.

The only way Errol thought he was going to convert me was to send me home with one to review. Along with the sling, he also asked if I could review the safari swivel studs.

Following the instructions on the packaging was easy and to mount on my Tikka T3 was simple and quick. I found the feel of the rifle being carried around the front and resting on my stomach strange at first, very strange. One thing I needed to change was the height I carried my binoculars on my chest. My binoculars needed to sit a touch higher on my chest. This allowed the rifle to be carried below the binoculars unhindered. This is the intended way to carry a rifle using the safari sling and one of several advantages that the sling provides.

I looked at reviewing this product as being relatively simple. Just attach the sling to a rifle and see how it worked in the field. I wasn’t happy though to just go for one hunt and see what I thought.

I attached the Safari Sling to my Tikka 30-06, a rifle I have been using for some years and have carried with a conventional sling on many hunts. I also tried it on my Winchester 308 and Sauer in 300 Win Mag. I used it hunting a variety of Sambar and Fallow habitats.

► **Wonnangatta River;** high dry and very steep gully heads. Long stalk from the river to the tops often in the pre-dawn darkness to get above the deer.

► **Moroka;** lush river flats and thick snow gum gullies. Open alpine meadows with lots of dead fall.

► **Omeo;** Open and very steep hills that turn into semi open sub-alpine bush.

► **Low country;** Forest that can be challenging to find a way around the thick stuff; and

► **Farm fringe;** both stalking the boundary and sitting in ambush.

After hunting with the Safari Sling for several months I switched back to my old sling but quickly discovered that I had become so used to the Safari Sling that my conventional sling felt uncomfortable and it pushed my day pack strap off my shoulder, plus my rifle kept slipping off my shoulder requiring constant adjustment and it took much longer to shoulder it.

So on my next hunt it was back to the Safari Sling and I am now sold on its advantages. The two inch wide webbing allows the rifles weight to be carried in comfort and hands free.

The Safari Sling is uniquely designed with reinforced webbing on the butt end. As you mount the rifle the sling simply falls to the rear allowing unhampered mounting of the rifle. On the forend, the webbing falls to the side out of the way. The design is functional and simple, making the Safari Sling practical in the field.

Perhaps the biggest advantage of the Safari Sling is that the rifle is not carried with the barrel pointing skywards, moving about where it can easily be seen by sambar, as well as catching on branches. Plus, unlike a conventional sling, the Safari Sling doesn’t require precious seconds and lots of movement to shoulder the rifle. This is another vitally important difference as this degree of movement can spook a sambar into the next watershed well before you can shoulder your rifle.

Right: Field testing the Safari Sling in the high country with Jess. On this occasion we are in the head of a large open gully that feeds the Moroka River.





What I liked;

- ▶ Distributes rifle weight evenly across both shoulders so you can hunt longer as you tire less.
- ▶ Both hands are free to hold your binoculars which is essential if you are to eliminate hand shake.
- ▶ Easily adjusted to any length.
- ▶ Compared to a conventional sling, the rifle can be shouldered quickly and with much less movement so you don't spook deer.
- ▶ If a deer jumps from its bed the rifle can be shouldered much faster and with less movement than a conventional sling.
- ▶ Great in rain as your rifle can be carried under the front of your jacket.
- ▶ Well made from long lasting material plus it's inexpensive – true value for money.

What I didn't like;

- ▶ Not much...

Above: Jess and I after a hunt made successful by the many advantages of the Safari Sling.



I think if you give the Safari Sling a go - like me - you will quickly fall in love with it. They are not another gimmick but definitely give you the advantage when hunting sambar and other wary game.



When walking under low branches or with other hunters hold the rifle at the front sling mount and bush the rifle down to the side of your body. This movement is easy and points the barrel in a safe direction.



I always glass ahead of my impact zone so that I find undisturbed deer which are motionless checking me out before I enter their flight zone. The Safari Sling enables me to use both hands to eliminate bino shake so that I can spot the deer.



As the rifle is shouldered the butt automatically lifts out of the rear loop and then slips back into it when the rifle is lowered.



The rifle shoulders smoothly from the Safari Sling with unbelievably less movement than is required to shoulder a rifle carried in a conventional sling. Safari Slings are so superior that they make conventional slings obsolete.

SAFARI SLING & Swivels

The 2 inch wide strap enhances comfort and hands-free carry. Allows you to shoot from the carry position. Simply raise your rifle in one smooth movement and fire. Strong 100% synthetic webbing won't rot. Sling length adjusts easily with one hand.

The Safari Sling comes without swivels. If you have a Tikka or Sako rifle swivels are required due to the very narrow opening in the original swivels.

Safari Rifle Sling \$69.90 inc. postage
(available in Realtree Camo or Black & Grey).

The Safari Swivel \$30.00 inc. postage
designed to compliment the Safari Rifle Sling
(available in Blue or Stainless).

ONLINE - You can pay with Credit Card online. www.sambardeer.com (Mastercard or VISA).

OFFLINE - You can pay via Direct Deposit (bank transfer) or send a Cheque or Australia Post Money Order.

E & L Mason, BSB: 704230, Acc #: 100316245 (Don't forget to reference your deposit with your name and to flick us your mailing address.