



# Vixen LVF 1-6x24 - Illuminated Scope

by Scott Wilson

High quality optics whether they be binoculars or riflescopes are paramount when hunting sambar as you are most likely to see deer at dusk and dawn when light is extremely low. Low light can make positive identification of your target – especially the precise aiming point - and assessing trophy potential extremely difficult. That is unless your binoculars and rifle scope are bright - that is they transmit a high level of light to your pupil.

Something I have learnt over the last 15 years is that using high quality gear does give you an edge. But like a lot of other hunters, I usually have a budget that dictates how much I can spend on equipment. The person who only hunts occasionally may not be able to justify spending big dollars, whilst those of us who live and breathe hunting simply buy the very best we can afford.

Errol Mason - the distributor of Vixen rifle scopes - sent me the Vixen 1-6x24 scope for review on the Remington 7600 pump in .35 Whelen that he had also asked me to review. When I first handled the scope I could instantly tell that this Japanese made scope was robust and extremely well made. The 30mm anodised tube is made from high grade aluminium alloy and the overall weight suggests that the tube has reasonably thick walls. Apart from the ocular housing, this scope has a straight tube with no objective bell. Normally, this would mean that in low light it would be quite dull and not nearly as bright as a scope with a larger objective lens. But this proved not to be the case. In fact we were pleasantly surprised to discover just how bright this scope proved to be in low light.

We mounted it on Josh Mazurek's Remington 7600 pump rifle in low 30mm Leupold QRW rings. Low mounts provide a solid cheek weld – an essential ingredient for accurate shooting – but especially for fast offhand shooting which this outfit was to be used for. These mounts also gave Josh the option of quickly removing the scope and using the open sights if needed, as they enable the scope to retain its zero if removed and replaced.



Josh Mazurek and his companion Mischief with another sambar stag taken with the Remington 7600 and Vixen LVF 1-6 x 24 illuminated red dot scope. This scope has brilliantly sharp optics and an extremely wide field of view. Its superb Duplex reticle also features an illuminated red dot which can be used at any time of the day. Over 4 months of sambar hunting, Josh subjected this Vixen scope to some severe field testing during which he took 5 sambar stags with 7 shots. They included one very unusual trophy off Mischief - an 8 point 29 incher – plus an even 26 incher off the hounds. Little wonder Josh has named this "The lucky Charm Scope."

The 1 to 6 magnification range is perfect for a pump gun as normally you don't need or want a lot of magnification when hunting over hounds, a gun dog or walking-them-up. You can use it on 1 power for real tight country or at a bail up, or you can wind up to 6 for a longer shot. A feature of this scope is its extremely wide field of view so we mostly used it on 2.5 to 3 power as this gave us a very nice sight picture and very fast target acquisition.

This scope has another highly desirable feature that I have always been keen on – an illuminated small red dot in the centre of the cross hairs. A red dot gives a huge advantage in low light or when shooting at running deer because the glow draws the eye to the centre of the cross hairs thereby enabling a faster and better aimed shot. It's also a great aiming aid for anyone who's eyes are failing as it stands out clearly against a dark or scrubby background, plus it doesn't blur out like standard cross hairs.

Whilst the intensity is variable from off up to 10, we found that in normal daylight it really worked well at 7 to 8 brightness. Other than the red dot, the reticle is a standard duplex but the heavier bars are nice and black which I found also helped lead my eye to the centre of the scope. The illumination control is housed in a third turret on the left side of the scope. This also houses the 3V CR2032 battery which is commonly used in illuminated scopes. This battery is available from virtually anywhere.

First trip out Josh hunted a spot we frequently go to but didn't cut much fresh sign in the usual gullies. As the light was fading fast, he decided to drop down to the valley floor and walk an old logging track back to the car. With Mischief working in front of him Josh jumped a pair of small stags. Throwing up the Whelen, he easily picked up the larger one in the scope, placed the red dot where he wanted it and took the shot. The stag crumpled in full flight. The scope performed perfectly, especially considering it was virtually dark when he got to the stag and needed his headlamp

to break it down. Yes – Josh was very impressed with the low light performance of this Vixen 1-6 x 24.

Two weeks later it was the opening of hound hunting and Josh was eager to hear the music of hounds echoing through the mountains. Again the Vixen performed well with a small stag taken in a walking bail at a distance of just five metres!

Normally when stalking and hunting over Mischief - his Wirehaired Pointer – a Browning A-bolt in .300 WSM is Josh's choice. But to ensure he gave the Vixen a thorough workout - he used it when we headed bush on the 6th of June. We left one vehicle at the bottom and drove to the top of the main ridge. Then we dropped into a gully to hunt our way down to the bottom where we would come out onto some lush gully bottoms at the end of the day. After several hours we were about 300m off the bottom when Josh and Mischief stalked in on a very nice 29 inch stag which he took with one shot from 35 metres. We were starting to think that this scope was a good luck charm!

At one stage when hunting over the hounds Josh took a fairly hard fall while crossing a creek and unfortunately the gun took a pretty hard knock. Fearing the worst he checked the zero and found the point of aim had not moved even a

whisker! So there is definitely no issue with the robustness of this Vixen scope. Falls can and will happen so it gives you peace of mind when you know your equipment can stand up to the rigours of hunting. I firmly believe that money invested in high quality, robust equipment is money well spent.

In a nutshell the Vixen 1-6x24 illuminated scope has brilliantly sharp optics and an extremely wide field of view. Its superb Duplex reticle also features an illuminated red dot which can be used at any time of the day. Over four months of sambar hunting, Josh subjected this scope to some severe field testing during which he took 5 sambar stags with 7 shots. They included one very unusual trophy off Mischief - an 8 point 29 incher – plus a fine, even 26 incher off the hounds.

This thorough and severe field testing included several weekends hunting with hounds in pouring rain. This test proved that its robust build will stand up to the rigours of hound hunting in very wet weather. The only criticism Josh and I could find is that it may be a tad heavy for those who like their equipment to be as light as possible. However, rugged construction and the ability to take rough punishment may well be worth those few extra ounces.



The Vixen LVF 1-6 x 24 scope fitted to this Remington 7600 has a Duplex reticle and illuminated red dot. This is a huge advantage in low light or when shooting at running deer or boar because the red glow draws the eye to the centre, enabling a faster and better aimed shot. It's also fantastic for failing eyes as it stands out against a dark or scrubby background and it doesn't blur out like cross hairs. The intensity of the red dot is variable to suit low light or bright light.