

Vixen LVF 2.5-10x56

ILLUMINATED SCOPE



By Graeme Jemmeson



I reviewed a Vixen scope in the first issue of this magazine - the LVF 2.5-10x50 and felt at the time that it was as good a scope as I had ever used. After using it on many hunts since I wrote that review, I am pleased to say that my opinion hasn't changed in the slightest.

Since that review I have had the opportunity to compare the Vixen 2.5-10x56 against the 2.5-10x50, as well as many other top shelf scopes. Whilst comparing them from low light through until dark several things became apparent. At least one of those observations was quite unexpected, and that was the fact that the 2.5-10x56 Vixen performed noticeably better in very low light conditions than the 2.5-10x50 Vixen.

I also admit that a couple of other top line scopes with 56mm objective lenses performed equally well, but at considerably more than twice the price they simply reinforced Vixen's great value for money. When I say I didn't expect so much difference in low light performance, this is something of a double-edged sword.

Firstly the 2.5-10x50 has brilliant low light performance anyway, and secondly, I just didn't think that 6mm of extra objective lens diameter could make that much difference but in this case it clearly does.

LENSES & OPTICAL QUALITY

Vixen riflescopes have the highest quality glass lenses that are fully multi coated with four specialized coating's to maximize light transmission, clarity, sharpness and definition. In the case of the Vixen 2.5-10x56, that large 56mm objective lens lets in a lot of light giving a full 7mm of light at the exit pupil of the scope at 8x, which is the most the human eye can take in and use.

Magnification also helps with definition in low light, but only if there is enough light available for your eye to work. That is where the big 56mm objective lens makes a noticeable difference in the amount of light transmitted to the eye. When very high quality optical

glass is used in a lens, it makes a huge difference to sharpness and resolution – in fact so much that the image can appear to 'jump off the page'. These days even medium priced scopes have quite good lenses but the difference is still very apparent when they are compared directly to scopes with top quality lenses. When combined with high quality coatings, high quality lenses enable you to see what cannot be seen through lesser quality scopes. When conditions become more difficult - i.e. in low light - poor atmospheric conditions such as smoke haze, drizzle or rain, top quality optics shine through and allow you to see clearly. These are also the times when big trophy deer are often moving around.

SCOPE BODY

Vixen's 2.5-10x56 is built inside a one piece 30mm tube of special anodised aluminium alloy which is expanded at the objective end to house the 56mm objective lens. The turret bases for the elevation windage and the parallax adjustment are in the middle. The ocular housing incorporates the magnification adjustment ring and the diopter adjustment which is on the end closest to your eye. The diopter adjustment enables fast focusing for

It was 10.30am on September 22nd when this young stag cautiously made his way up the side of a spur towards the gully head. Employing knowledge learnt on the Hunt Smart course, Sandro De Luca was sitting in a carefully chosen position. After waiting for several hours this young stag suddenly ghosted into view. When he stopped to snuff the air, the Vixen's reticle settled on his chest and the Browning 375 H&H barked, sending a 200gn GS Custom through his lungs. After an 80m run the stag expired.



each user's individual eyesight. In the middle, and on top of the ocular bell is the battery holder and the 'on - off' switch and brightness adjustment dial for the red dot.

The body of this scope is as solid and rigid as anything I have seen and is the ideal chassis to protect and hold all those high quality lenses in perfect alignment through a lifetime of heavy recoil and those inevitable thumps and bumps.

CAPS, RINGS & DIALS

All the dials and adjusters on the Vixen scope are finely knurled to give good grip under all conditions. These are perfectly executed and of the highest quality as is the fit and finish of every part on the scope.

Another quality feature of Vixen rifle scopes is their extremely long eye relief of about 102 mm. This means that you should never get hit in the eye by the scope under heavy recoil, no

matter what rifle you shoot. Starting at the ocular housing, the first ring is the diopter adjustment, next is the switch for the red dot as previously mentioned. I will discuss more about this later.

Then comes the magnification adjustment ring - this is clearly marked from 2.5 through to 10 and has a raised section that coincides with the 2.5 X position. This makes it simple to check by feel what magnification you are set on without looking. In the middle of the main tube we then have *three turrets*, one left, one right and one on top. The left one allows you to remove parallax error from 20m to infinity, for precision shooting at any range.

The other turrets are for elevation and windage adjustment. They have large finger adjustable dials which are clearly marked from 0-11 with each graduation divided into four. One click is equal to 7mm at 100m or ¼ inch at 100 yards. Each full number represents one inch at 100 yards or 1MOA. Now for the really good bit. Once the rifle is zeroed this dial can be lifted and returned to its zero mark. This enables you to use other settings for different loads. You simply note the new setting - i.e. 2 -1 right, 3-2 high and return to the zero setting for your normal load.

You can also dial up elevation for long range shooting if you know your trajectories for the load and projectile used. If a target is at 400 yards and your projectile shoots - for example - 24 inches low at that range, simply dial up six full numbers and hold exactly where you want to hit - providing **there is no wind of course!**

I know that on many lesser scopes you cannot rely on elevation and windage adjustments being that accurate or repeatable, but on all Vixen scopes I have used, fitted or tested, they have been exact and this 2.5-10x56 was no exception. When I did my standard 40 clicks down, across, up and back, the reticle performed a perfect 10 inch square, and returned precisely to the starting point on my collimator. It also

shot the same square on paper. It is equally precise when changing the magnification. You can wind up and down from 2.5 to 10 power and anywhere in between until the cows come home, and the centre of the reticle never moves off the exact spot it is on.

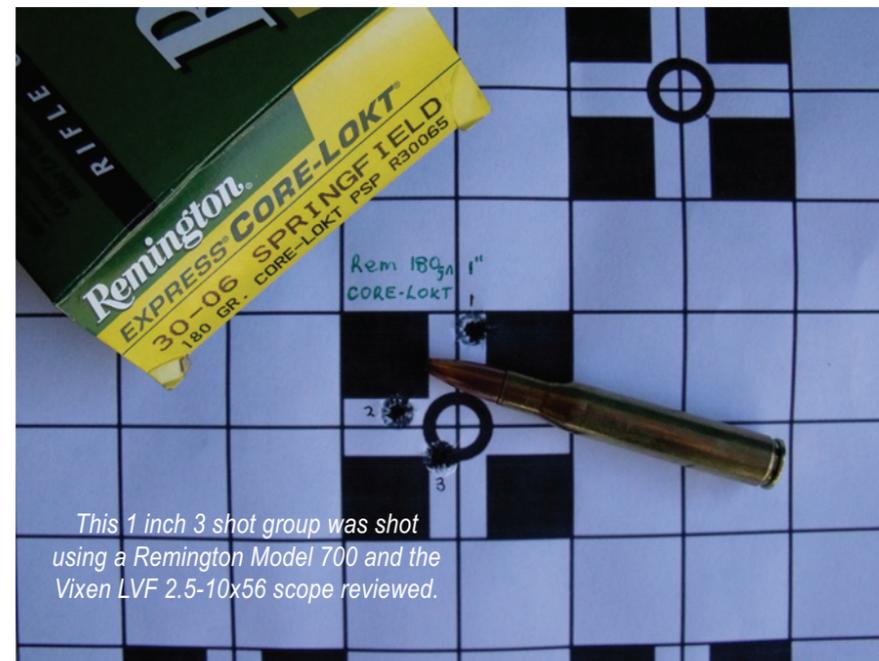
THE RETICLE & ITS RED DOT

The reticle is a German # 4 type with heavy side bars at the bottom and both sides. According to my eye the much finer centre cross hairs cover about 0.5 inch at 100yards on 10x and about 2 inches at 100yards on 2.5x.

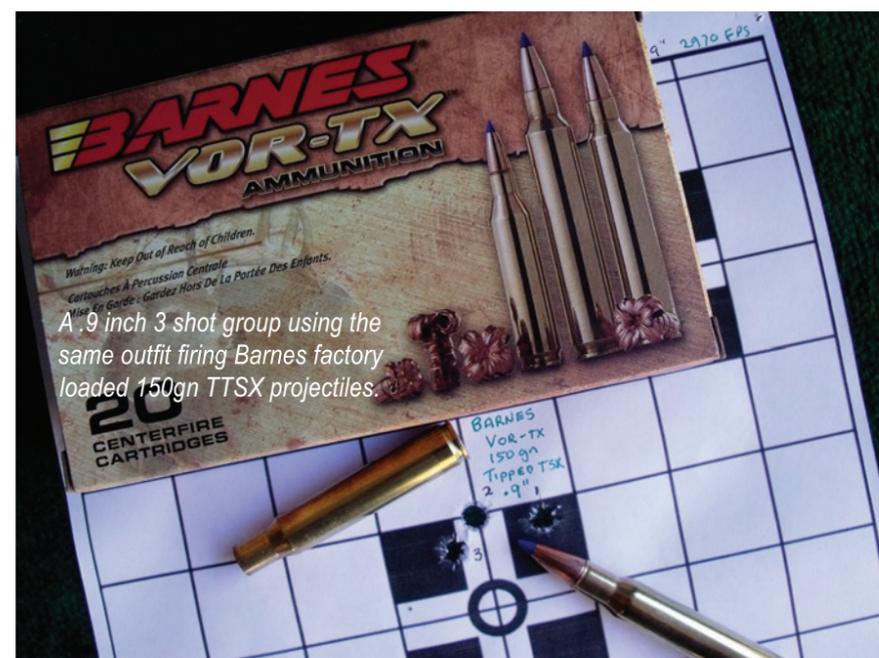
The reticle is glass etched and in the second focal plane so it gets thicker at lower power which is ideal. The red dot is simply a bright red pin prick of light in the centre of the cross. Its brightness is adjustable via the dial at the top of the ocular housing and can be adjusted for the brightest sunlight to the dimmest evening. This type of illumination is truly effective and makes rapid sight acquisition much easier and faster on low magnification for moving targets as well as giving a bright aiming point at times of low light or in dense bush and foliage where a standard reticle can get lost among branches.

I will at this point make an admission. After seeing the incredible low light performance of the Vixen 2.5-10x56 I bought one for myself to go on my sambar rifle that I use for my ambush hunting - sit and wait stuff in deep heavily shaded gullies from late in the day until dark. I decided to buy the vixen because at this time I was becoming a little frustrated as I had passed up several deer that I could see quite clearly with my Vixen Apex Pro 8x42 binoculars but when I looked through my 3-9x50 scope I just couldn't see clearly well enough to place the shot precisely where I wanted to. In addition, I was unable to see clearly enough to take the shot safely. Now if I can see the target clearly with the binoculars, I can also see clearly and shoot precisely and safely with the Vixen scope.

The 2.5-10x56 Vixen isn't the most compact scope - and it isn't the lightest - but there is a lot packed into it and it covers almost all bases in a hunting scope. It is beautifully made and of the highest quality so if you feel that your current scope is lacking at times, perhaps you should take a look at the entire Vixen range.



This 1 inch 3 shot group was shot using a Remington Model 700 and the Vixen LVF 2.5-10x56 scope reviewed.



A .9 inch 3 shot group using the same outfit firing Barnes factory loaded 150gr TTSX projectiles.

