

# Vixen Rifle Scopes



The European experience from Japan. Complete with illuminated red dot reticles which the Europeans seem to be embracing whole heartedly, as the Vixen company in their line of scopes available in Australia has illuminated reticles. It is interesting that only their 2.5-10x50 and 56 models are available with the German No 4 reticle (a  $\frac{3}{4}$  sniper reticle). The 1.5-6x42 has a duplex and the 5-20x50 has a mil dot reticle. Neither of these reticles are what could be deemed "standard" as they contain a modification I have not seen before. The vertical wire above the cross intersection is decidedly thicker, almost like an inverted post, although it is not as thick as the heavy part of the reticle.

The scopes received for review are all 30mm tubes. The smallest is the 1.5-6x42, next is the 2.5-10x50 with saddle focus on the left hand side of the turret block, and the strictly target / varmint 5-20x50. The illuminated reticle battery box and control switch is mounted on the top of the ocular housing with my favourite thing to hate, non-lockable diopta fast focus on all models. The two smaller scopes have rather large but normal reticle adjustment turrets while the 5-20x50 has specialty target turrets which have protective caps. This scope also has saddle



*(Left) The 1.5-6x42 on the Ruger .338 Federal with the bunny shot off the shoulder.*

*(Above) The three rifles used in the Vixen test. Top to bottom, 700 Remington in 6mm BR with the 5-20x50 and what I have been calling a black stock but it is an iridescent green. The old Green gun with the 2.5- 10x50 and the little Ruger with the 1.5-6x42 at the bottom.*

focus in a third turret on the left hand side of the turret block. The turret adjusting knobs on the two smaller scopes can be zeroed to any desired setting on the scale. The knurled adjustment knob is pulled up to disengage the adjustment spindle to allow the scale to be zeroed. The 5-20 however can be zeroed but the spline on the turret does not line up exactly with the scale on the turret.

The 2.5-10x50 was mounted on the Green gun and the 5-20x50 was mounted on the Black bench gun and were shot alternatively to allow cooling. Both scopes were checked for parallax and the scales are not quite true with zero parallax. This check is done by placing the rifle on the sand bags and aimed at the target at whatever distance it is 50 yards, 100 yards or 156.25 yards and without touching the rifle look through the scope and move your eye. If the reticle moves on the target the scope has parallax and needs adjustment. When the reticle stands absolutely still when you move your eye there is zero parallax. The 2.5-10x50 gave a 0.481" 5 shot group on 10 power and an even better 0.348" 5 shot group on 2.5 power. I always choose to shoot a group on a corner bull on these low powers as I use the bull above or below and to the left or right to aid in maintaining a static hold. This is done because invariably the single wire will let me see a bull where the junction will not.

The round the target test 8 clicks were chosen as that should give 2" as each click is rated at 0.25" at 100 yards or 7mm





(Above) The 5-20x50 test target shot with the 700 Remington in 6mm BR. Perhaps the 6 shots consisting of 2 shots each on the highest, lowest and middle power all going into 0.365" says it all. The round the target test of 64 clicks to give an almost perfect result. The group shot on 5 power ain't half bad either! (Right) The 2.5-10x50 test target with the sort of results some of the expensive scope manufacturers would be envious of. The very slight shift in the 2 x 5-shot groups from 10 to 2.5 power is more than likely the method I use to obtain a reasonable hold on the low power. The reticle intersection covers over 2" at 100 yards so it is very difficult to keep a consistent hold on the aiming mark. I use in this case the top bull and the left hand bull to help me centre the cross in the same place shot to shot as the bulls can be just seen either side and above and below of a single wire.

(Below) The author fitting the Vixen scopes using a Buffalo River cleaning aid as a cradle. This is the bench the test targets were shot from.



at 100 metres (written on the turret). As can be seen on the target the vertical is almost exactly 2" and the horizontal is just a fraction over the 2". The 4 shots of the first 2 shots and the last 2 shots went into 0.365" after 32 clicks of adjustment. The power change test gave the sort of result that can be relied on 100% in the field. The one shot that sort of spoiled an otherwise super group could be blamed on the lack of target acquisition as the cross junction covers about 3" at 100 yards on 2.5 power and so a reliable hold is difficult at best. We still managed to get all 6 shots under 0.74" with 5 of them going into 0.4" which translates into some pretty special performance for a dedicated hunting scope.

The 5-20x50 was checked for parallax and a 5 shot group shot on 20 power - a 0.78" group resulted. After cooling, a 5 shot group on 5 power was shot for a very respectable 0.307" group. I have had this happen on numerous occasions and can only surmise as to the cause. Some of my mates reckon it's because I like 4 powers. Don't think so as I have had some pretty special groups with big power scopes in the past. The power change test turned in a fairly special result with the 6 shots fired with the power change ring set on maximum and minimum and mid power for 2 shots each all 6 went onto 0.365". The round the target





(Left) The turrets on the 2.5-10x50 showing the scales on all 3 turrets with the windage turret pulled out so the scale can be zeroed. Note the pencil line on the 5.5 scale on the vertical turret scale, this is so I can check if I get really out of whack result, I can go back and check that I have not made a mistake.

(Left below) The target turrets on the 5-20x50. Note the spline on the end of the spindle and the corresponding female spline in the adjusting turret. The retaining screw to the right of the turret. Also the pencil line to the left of the zero on the vertical turret.

(Below) The Vixen scopes use a 10-cent coin to adjust and change the batteries. Note the little + in the top of the battery cap so you can't get it wrong.



while they were nothing to skite about would prove to be more than acceptable out in the field.

The first day I spent some 40 plus kilometres on the bike in search of some pigs to no avail. I made the mistake of riding into a rather deep gilgai which still had about half a metre of water under the sedge (a water grass) and ended up with one very wet foot and mud all over. I happened to spot a silly bunny on my way home and decided to have a go at him although the 250gr bullets were a bit of a worry! Fortunately the range was not great and a one shot dispatch resulted from a free hand shot at about 20 yards. I was relieved to see total penetration.

In conclusion the results achieved with these 3 scopes would give any prospective customer confidence to try any

test was pretty close to perfect with 16 clicks chosen to give very close to the 2" stated with the first 2 and last 2 shots going into 0.47" after 64 clicks of adjustment.

Optically these scopes are at or very close to the top of the tree regardless of where it grows (Japan / Europe). The 5 to 20 power got a little critical over about 8 power but this is to be expected and is one of those compromises you have to have with up to 20 power inscribed on the power ring. The 2.5-10 was excellent in this regard and needed no adjustment to remain clear throughout their power range with the parallax set at, or just over, 100 yards. It would certainly not be to blame for a miss in the field if it were not absolutely parallax free. The little 1.5-6 was factory set and exhibited little or no parallax at 50 or 100 yards. Certainly not enough to blame for a miss in the field.

The 1.5-6x42 is the hunter of this crew although it has a little brother in the form of a 1-4x24 which would also be at home in the bush. This scope is my favourite except when I went to mount it on a little Mauser .30-06 carbine hunting rifle the main tube is too short and meant it could only be mounted on a .308 length action without some special off set mount bases to bring the rings closer together. This is where yet another small handicap came to light and that is unless you can use integral rings you have to use high rings because the power ring will foul on the base. Fortunately I have a Ruger .338 Federal which when combined with a set of Leupold low ring mounts gave me a perfect fit. I know that some people reading this will ask so why not use high rings, well that upsets the fit and makes the rifle / scope combination much slower to achieve a quick well aimed shot in the bush. I fired a couple of groups at 100 yards with some 250gr projectiles and



one of them as they all performed very well both on the target and in the field. Optically they were all very clear edge to edge and only the 5-20 got a little critical but that goes with the higher magnification. I tried them very late one afternoon almost on dark which is when short comings will be most evident. I have a couple of comparable European scopes here and I was unable to pick any clear difference. There is however quite a

difference in dollar value.

1.5-6x42: 540g (11lb 2oz), 285mm (11 1/4"), \$1050

2.5-10x50: 650g (11lb 6oz), 328mm (12.9"), \$1100

5-20x50: 800g (11lb 10oz), 352mm (13 7/7"), \$1480

Vixen scopes carry a 5 year warranty

Further information on Vixen Scopes:

[www.sambardeer.com](http://www.sambardeer.com) Ph: 03 51568278.

