

OPTICS TRADE

Hunting Riflescopes

March, 2020

HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- The most common type of riflescopes;
- The biggest riflescope category on the www.optics-trade.eu website;
- Found in nearly every sports optics manufacturer's offer;
- There are different types but there are some characteristics that many of them share.



TUBE DIAMETER

- 30 and 25.4 mm – most common
- 34 mm – rare ([Schmidt & Bender Polar T96](#))
- 36 mm – rare ([Zeiss Victory V8](#), [Blaser Infinity](#))
- 40 mm – [Swarovski dS](#) only (in 2020)

- [Tube diameter](#) does not affect the light transmission rate of a riflescope

MOUNTING SOLUTIONS — RING AND RAIL MOUNTS

- Both ring and rail mounting options are available;
- Rail mounting only available with certain middle-class and premium hunting riflescopes;
- Four rail mounting standards:
 - LM rail;
 - Zeiss ZM/VM rail;
 - Swarovski SR rail;
 - Schmidt & Bender Convex rail.



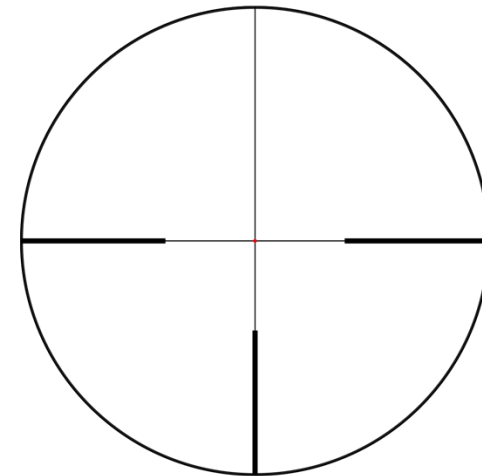
TURRETS IN HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- Low-profile, capped turrets;
- A [BDC turret](#) is optional with some premium hunting riflescopes.



RETICLES IN HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- Hunting-oriented reticles – no holdovers or hash marks, simple to use;
- SFP configuration is much more popular (only a few hunting riflescopes such as Blaser Infinity have the reticle in the first focal plane);
- FFP hunting riflescopes were used in the past, now they are gradually dying out;
- Illuminated central dot.



MAGNIFICATION IN HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- Fixed or **variable**;
- A few decades ago, fixed magnification riflescopes were more popular, now it is the other way around;
- England, Scotland, South Africa – many hunters from these countries still prefer fixed magnification riflescopes;
- Entry-level – 4x–6x zoom factor;
- Middle-class, premium – 6x–8x zoom factor.

PARALLAX IN HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- Fixed at 100 m;
- If max. magnification is above 12x, an adjustable parallax feature is added.



PREMIUM HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- [Zeiss](#), [Swarovski](#), [Leica](#), [Schmidt & Bender](#), [Kahles](#), [Blaser](#) – manufacturers of premium hunting riflescopes;
- Features of premium hunting riflescopes:
 - Illuminated reticle, a finely adjustable central dot is common;
 - 6x zoom factor or greater;
 - An option of purchasing a BDC turret;
 - SFP configuration (Blaser Infinity riflescopes are an exception);
 - Exceptional field of view;
 - Impressive resolution;
 - High light transmission rate;
 - Difficult to choose the best – each riflescope has its own strong points.

MIDDLE-CLASS HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- Most are **made in Japan**, some in Europe;
- A great price to performance ratio;
- Their popularity has risen considerably in the last few years.

SUBCATEGORIES OF HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- All-round hunting riflescopes;
- Riflescopes for driven hunts;
- Riflescopes for stalking;
- Riflescopes for mountain hunting;
- Low-light hunting riflescopes;
- Long-range hunting riflescopes.





OPTICS TRADE