

OPTICS TRADE

Riflescopes for Long-range Hunting

March, 2020

LONG-RANGE HUNTING

- Rapidly gaining in popularity;
- Several Youtube channels ([THLR.NO](#), [EuLRH](#)) have attracted a considerable number of followers;
- A riflescope is a **must-have**;
- Often takes place in the **alpine regions** (chamois hunt).



LONG-RANGE HUNTING THROUGH TIME

- In the past, high-velocity calibers such as 6.5x68 and 6x62 Freres were used, combined with a riflescope with magnification power up to 12x;
- Hunters typically used rifles zeroed at 200 m;
- At the turn of the century, some hunters, mostly American, started using **tactical rifles and riflescopes** for long-range hunting;
- European hunters prefer using **a hunting long-range riflescope** because of the hunting culture in Europe (for this reason, the optics manufacturers started producing them).

HUNTING ETHICS

- Shooting at an animal far away must be in accordance with the principles of the **ethical hunt**;
- A long-distance shot is only acceptable if the shooter is well-trained for it;
- The hunter has to be 100% sure of his or her **capabilities** and have a vast **knowledge of ballistics**.



COMMON FEATURES OF LONG-RANGE HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- High maximum magnification power (16x or more);
- Objective lens diameter of around 44 mm;
- Adjustable parallax;
- Optionally available with a BDC turret;
- Thin reticle;
- Illuminated reticle (not a crucial feature).



LONG-RANGE HUNTING RIFLESCOPES WITH AN INTEGRATED LASER RANGEFINDER

- **Swarovski LRS 3–12x50** – one of the first riflescopes of this type, introduced in 1997;
- **Zeiss Diarange 2.5–10x50** and **3–12x56** followed soon after;
- Other optics manufacturers recognized the potential and started producing their own LRF-riflescopes ([Nikon](#), [Bushnell](#), [Burris](#));
- Burris [Eliminator](#) – a very popular series; in 2020, the fourth generation was launched;
- [Swarovski dS 5–25x52](#), an advanced LRF-riflescope launched in 2017.

BDC TURRETS IN RIFLESCOPES FOR LONG-RANGE HUNTING

- An **ideal accessory** for long-range hunting;
- Uncapped, similar to a tactical turret at first sight;
- It features numbers that indicate at which position the riflescope is zeroed at a certain distance (1 – 100 m, 2 – 200 m, 3 – 300 m, etc.);
- Kahles introduced the first turret of this type – **multiZero**.
- Two main types – the first type comes with **several rings**, each compatible with a ballistic trajectory of a certain caliber or group of calibers; the second type comes with **adjustable markings** for various distances;

BDC TURRETS IN RIFLESCOPES FOR LONG-RANGE HUNTING

- Single-turn;
- Equipped with a Zero Stop mechanism;
- They are commonly equipped with a locking function.



BALLISTIC RETICLES IN LONG-RANGE HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

- These reticles are similar to tactical ones (holdover lines under the center of the reticle);
- Usually in the second focal plane – the subtensions change with the increase or decrease in magnification, resulting in limited usefulness;
- We advise against the use of such reticles as the user can only benefit from them if they are in the first focal plane;
- A **standard hunting reticle combined with a BDC turret** is the best choice by far.

THE MOST POPULAR HIGH-QUALITY LONG-RANGE HUNTING RIFLESCOPES

The standard ones

- Zeiss Victory V8 4.8–35x56
- Schmidt & Bender Exos 3–21x50
- Swarovski Z8i 3.5–28x50
- Leica ER 6.5–26x56
- Leupold VX-5HD 7–35x56

The ones with a laser rangefinder

- Swarovski dS 5–25x52
- Burris Eliminator 4–16x50



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