

The Lynx LX3 2.5-15x50 Hunter.



Lynx's LX3s looking good!

By KOOS BARNARD

Lynx Optics South Africa, with Michael Rogers at the helm, is one company that listens to its customers and regularly introduces new riflescopes or upgrades existing models. Earlier this year Lynx introduced three new LX3-models; two of which cater for the hunting market and one that will warm the hearts of those taking part in tactical shooting competitions.

THE SCOPES

The two hunting scopes are a 3-12x56 and a 2.5-15x50, both fitted with the SA Hunters' reticle of which the centre-cross can illuminate. The other scope

Lynx did it again with their latest offering of riflescopes.



ABOVE: LX3 3-12x56 Hunter.
MAIN PICTURE: This is what the LX3 2.5-15x50 Tactical looks like on my .30-06. Notice the uncapped tactical-type turrets.



is called the Tactical because it sports tactical-type adjustment turrets and a special RF (range finding) reticle. At its centre is a floating dot and circle. Below the reticle, at the bottom of the sight picture is a set of range-finding bars.

Both the SA Hunter models have red illumination while that of the Tactical model is green. The reticles are all set in the second focal plane. The ranging scales/hash marks of the glass-etched reticles are calibrated at the scopes' maximum magnification.

The 3-12x56's parallax is set at 150m while the other two models' can be adjusted from 35m to beyond infinity. On the 2.5-15x50 SA Hunter model and the Tactical, the parallax and reticle switch/adjustments are integrated into a single turret or focus wheel, located in the usual place on the left-hand side of the saddle. In the 3-12x56 Hunter with its fixed parallax tactical the side turret acts as an illuminator switch only. On all three models the illumination has 10 brightness settings with an off position between each setting. The illumination is powered by a single CR2032 battery.

All three the models have European-style, quick-focus eyepieces and 30mm main tubes. These Lynxs sport durable, attractive, satin black,

hard anodized finishes. The two 2.5-15x models weigh 780g and the 3-12x56, 721g.

The LX3 models feature improved optics (low-dispersion glass) and thus provide better clarity and sharpness than the LX2 models. LX3s also have a wider field of view. The clarity of the scopes and especially the light-gathering ability of the 3-12x56 model are impressive. The clarity and the sharpness of the optics are for all practical purposes on a par with that of much more expensive European riflescope models.

THE TESTS

We wanted to use at least one of the scopes on a hunt but things did not work out as planned, so we had to stick to shooting range tests. I did, however, use the 3-12x56 at night to look over a herd of blesbuck on the farm of Johannes Schoeman near Verkykerskop. After mounting the scope on my .30-06, I proceeded by shooting at steel gongs up to distances of 350m on Johannes' shooting range.

I am sure many of our readers are familiar with the tried and tested SA Hunters' crosshair with its set of hash marks or bars for aiming off at longer distances. It also has additional marks on the horizontal legs of the reticle to allow users to aim off for crosswinds. This well-thought-out design works very well for a



TOP: With a set parallax (at 150m) the 3-12x56 Hunter only has an illuminator switch on the left-hand side of the saddle.

ABOVE: The 2.5-15x50 Hunter model comes with standard, capped turrets and an integral, side-mounted illuminator switch and parallax adjustment wheel. The Tactical model has the same illuminator parallax adjustment system.

number of calibres out to 450m. I have been using a Lynx with this reticle for some years now with great success for hunting and for competition shooting. Curious to see how well the illu-

minated centre-cross works at night, we set off in search for blesbuck at about 9pm.

Unfortunately I suffer from astigmatism in my shooting eye and because I had a laser sight-correction operation on both eyes, my night vision is not perfect. Even with the illumination at low settings the centre-cross looked a bit fuzzy and slightly too thick for me. A small illuminated centre-dot works better for my eyes nowadays. The size and thickness of the centre-cross did not bother Johannes, it worked just fine for him but he commented that he actually prefers to shoot without using illumination on a crosshair. After spending more than 30 minutes looking/aiming at blesbuck at ranges of up to about 250m we concluded that those with good night vision will find »



I really liked the turrets of the tactical 2.5-15x50 model. The big and bold lettering on the turrets make it easy for older eyes to read the adjustment values, especially under bad lighting conditions.

» the illuminated centre-cross quite handy.

With the set parallax (at 150m) I found the scope slightly blurry at ranges between 75 and 100m when the magnification is turned up to 12x. At ranges closer than 75 you need to turn the magnification down because the scope blurs too much at its highest setting. Beyond 200m the sight picture was also ever so slightly blurry but not enough to bother or hamper accurate shooting.

The 3-12x56 has a total windage and elevation adjustment range of 60MOA. Click value is $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA at 100 yards or 7.2mm at 100m. I did a box test and a so-called “tall test” (vertical adjustment only) with all three the scopes and found the adjustments to be precise and repeatable.

GOOD CLARITY

After returning from Verkykerskop I also tested the two 2.5-15x50 models on the shooting range out to a distance of 300m. I was again impressed with the clarity of the scopes, the generous amount of eye relief and the wide field of view. I must say that I prefer the 2.5-15x models to the 3-12x56. I also particularly enjoyed the very positive and audible clicks of the Tactical model's turrets. Like the 3-12x56, the 2.5-15x50 has the standard capped, “hunter-style turrets” with a pop-up zero mark facility. The 2.5-15x50 Tactical has a zero stop function on the elevation adjustment. The instruction booklet accompanying the scope tells exactly how to make it work.

The two 2.5-15x models have a total reticle adjustment range of 35MOA, the Hunter sports $\frac{1}{4}$ MOA clicks and the Tactical 0.1 Mil clicks (one click moves the point of aim 1cm at 100m). Some will probably find 0.1 Mil adjustments too coarse for their liking for competition shooting but to me they are fine.

Scopes with 2.5-15x magnification are quite versatile because you can use them for close-range work in dense bush and for target shooting out to, say 450m or more. The SA

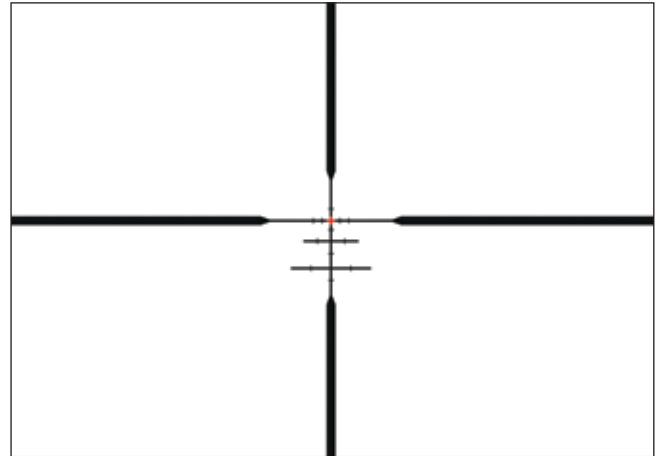
Hunters' reticle is bold enough to see well in bad light or even when the background is a little busy in dense bush (or you can use the crosshair's illuminator function) and is fine enough for many target shooting applications too. This reticle has become my favourite – I wish I could fit it to all my scopes.

On the range the scopes worked to perfection and, as mentioned before, their adjustments were precise and repeatable. I just wish Lynx would fit turrets that sport more positive clicks (like the Tactical's) on all their scopes. To me the standard turrets' clicks are a little too soft. On the other hand, the parallax focus rings turns a little too difficult for some people's liking. I do not mind though because as a walk and stalk hunter, I carry my rifles a lot more than I shoot them. With the rifle and often the scope rubbing against your shoulder or back for many kilometres, it is easy to accidentally adjust the parallax if the wheel turns too easily. It has happened to me with a number of scope brands.

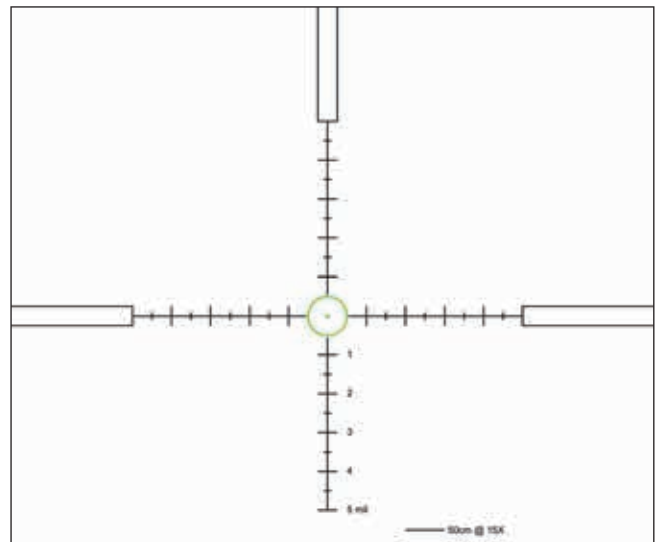
THE RF-TACTICAL RETICLE

Now, let's look at the RF-Tactical reticle. As mentioned, it has a floating centre-dot and circle (the latter has a diameter of 10cm at 100m) while the reticle's “legs” have hash marks with the graduations marked in 1 Mil and 0.5 Mil increments (10cm and 5cm). The set of range bars/ranging scale (inset at the bottom of the sight picture) is calibrated to range the 50cm, 33cm and 25m high tactical targets used in various popular tactical rifle and pistol shooting disciplines. The 50cm target can be ranged from 200m to 1 200m in 100m increments and the 33cm and 25cm high targets from 200m to 600m. In a pinch you can also use the scale to range gongs and even game animals but the scale of the range bars is not ideal for that. Remember that the range bars are calibrated to work at maximum magnification.

Although some might find the tactical crosshair a bit busy,



Lynx's tried and tested SA Hunters' reticle, designed by Hercules Louw. This reticle has become one of my favourites.



This is what the new RF-Tactical reticle looks like. I really enjoyed the floating centre-dot – it definitely works better for me than a normal crosshair. See the full reticle with the ranging scale (at the bottom of the sight picture) on Lynx's advertisement on page 19.

I quite like it and the floating dot is just perfect for my eyes. For precision shooting it works better for me than a standard-type crosshair. I have also found that the green illumination works better for my eyes than red. If I ever need to cull animals at night again I would definitely prefer a green illuminated floating dot. With my eye problems I think a modified SA Hunter reticle sporting floating dots instead of the standard hash marks will be just perfect (one can dream).

GOOD VALUE

I am really impressed with the

latest Lynx LX3 riflescopes. I think they offer extremely good value for money and what's more, Lynx's back-up service is excellent. We at SA JAGTER/HUNTER are certainly very happy to recommend them.

By the time you read this the new Lynx LX3s will be available at dealers nationwide.

* The suggested retail price for 3-12x56 Hunter is R9 995 and R12 141 for the 2.5-15x50 Hunter. Due to its more complex reticle and the target-type turrets the price of the 2.5-15x50 RF-Tactical is R12 398. Prices may differ from dealer to dealer, so shop around. ☺