

“ KAHLES HELIA TI-25 THERMAL MONOCULAR

The Kahles Helia TI-25 thermal monocular bucks the trend of increasing functionality, with features like video/still recording and wi-fi connectivity disregarded. The Austrian company have added their name and reputation to this simple unit with just four controls: screen focus within the eyecup, image focus on the objective lens and two buttons controlling functions with a combination of short and long presses.

A USB-C cable is supplied, with a red-to-green LED indicating when charging is complete. An eight-hour runtime is listed, depending on use and temperature; I found a more realistic six hours in winter. A long hold on the rear button turns on the screen, with further presses rotating through white, black and red hot colour palates. Short presses on the front button control 1x, 2x or 4x digital zoom of the base 1.7x optical magnification from the f1.0, 25mm objective lens.

A long hold on the front button enters menu mode, offering five screen brightness options and five more contrast settings. FFC and AL options are for automated screen refresh for the sub-35mK 384x288, 17µm vanadium sensor. The 50Hz refresh

rate of the OLED screen provides smooth image rendition and I thought the colour palettes were particularly rich texture-wise, delivering above-average image recognition.

Metering control is superb, with large cold areas such as the sky causing little interruption to the exposure of the foreground when skimming skylines. The last option is auto off for when the unit is laid aside or is hanging on your chest from the supplied neoprene neck strap. This saves battery life and minimises the amount the unit lights up your face after dark.

Kahles advertise the unit as waterproof, although no specific IP rating is listed. It's functional between -20° and +50°, with dimensions of 198mm long by 68/63mm width/height, allowing the hand to reach easily onto the controls. Warranty is three years, which seems comparable to the market competition and the overall weight is 430g.

Twin underside anchor points encourage the unit to remain flat against your chest when slung around your neck and it is truly ambidextrous using either eye. I found the internal gyroscopic sensor fast to initiate and reliable in gauging orientation. The

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TI-25 RRP £1,830
TI-35 RRP £2,070



ABOVE: Underside charging port and twin sling studs keep the unit flat onto your chest

ocular lens lives up to the Kahles reputation with superb clarity and consistent focus from all positions. I never found myself unfocused on the screen with slight eye movement within the rectangular cup.

Field of view is broad, with a 26m span at 100m on base 1x digital/1.7x optical magnification. Money spent on the Helia buys core functionality, and although it is Chinese made, it certainly seems to align with the Kahles name for premium optics. Although many will bemoan the lack of video, a lot of hunters will be drawn to its simple intuitive functionality. [RS](#)

BELOW: Two control buttons reflect the core functionality with minimal complication



PICTURES: CHRIS PARKIN

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

Objective lens:	25mm, f1.0
Sensor resolution (pixels):	384x288; 17µm
Sensor type:	Vanadium oxide uncooled
Thermal sensitivity – NETD (mK):	<35
Display resolution (pixels):	1024x768
Display frame rate (Hz):	50
Display type:	OLED
Field of view (°):	14.88x11.19
Field of view (m/100m):	26
Optical magnification:	1.7
Digital zoom:	1x, 2x, 4x
Battery type:	Rechargeable Li-ion battery
Battery life (hr):	Up to 8
Operating temperature (°C):	-20/+50
Length x width x height (mm):	198x68x63
Weight (g):	430
Waterproof:	Yes
Boot-up time (s):	2
Automatic standby:	Yes
Colour modes:	White hot, black hot, red only
Warranty:	3 years
Accessories included:	Objective lens cover, carrying strap with quick release fastener, neoprene protective cover, USB-C charging cable