

SNIPER 2015

GUNS&AMMO

SNIPER

ANATOMY
OF A
SNIPER

29

ESSENTIAL
TRAITS

13
OPTICS
10
RIFLES
EXAMINED

NEMO

OMEN RECON

.300 WIN. MAG.

LEADING THE TEAM • OPTICS EXPLAINED • PROOF RESEARCH • NEMO • PRINTED IN U.S.A.

USA/CANADA \$8.99
DISPLAY UNTIL 8/3/2015



STAFF REPORT PHOTOS BY MARK FINGAR

KAHLES 6-24x56i

KAHLES REDESIGNED ITS 6-24x56MM
AND INCLUDED SOME NEW RETICLES.

Our first experience with Kahles scopes came when we looked at its 1-6X for review in one of our other publications. We really liked what we saw. The image quality was exceptional, and the reticle design made a lot of sense, so we began to explore various Kahles models. Up until this experience, we didn't know a lot about the company or its products.

Once we looked at and through the 6-24x56mm, we became even bigger Kahles fans. The magnification range and objective-lens size mean the scope does very well competing against similar products in this highly competitive category, and the company qualifies as one of the flagships competing for top honors among premium scope manufacturers. We've spent quite a bit of time looking through this scope and talking with Kahles

representatives, getting the details on what makes this scope different. We think the 6-24x56i offers incredible performance when measured by any and all standards.

OPTICAL REDESIGN

Kahles redesigned the optical package in the 6-24X this year, taking advantage of manufacturing and design advances that have occurred over the past few years. While it is not disclosing the details of what has been

done, Kahles will say that it has improved its resolution over previous models and is confident in its ability to offer the best resolution on the market. (Resolution is defined and measured by the Daus method that states that perfect resolution from a 56mm objective lens is 2.04 angular seconds.)

There's no way to boil down optical performance to one simple number, because every set of eyes works a little differently than the next.

However, we're excited about the improvements on the 6-24X. We liked the overall design before the resolution was amped up, and we like it even more now.

The 4X erector assembly and the length of the 6-24X make this a scope that's easy on light. The 4X erector assembly requires less movement of the lenses in that assembly across the scope's magnification range. The longer those internal lenses have to move, the higher the



A new optical package improves performance on an already strong product. The redesigned turrets offer superior ergonomics over older models.



probability that they won't be exactly where they need to be, and image quality suffers.

The length means that the lenses don't have to work as hard to manipulate the light, yielding better image quality. It also gives the scope a great depth of field requiring fewer parallax adjustments, which makes the shooter's life easier. All in all, the Kahles 6-24X is set up for success right from the start.

A couple of features that we like are the maintube and materials selection for the internals. The maintube is machined from one chunk

of billet aluminum and then stress-relieved prior to assembly. This process ensures that the crosshairs won't move if the scope sits in a position where the sun hits it on one side. Many scopes will have migrating crosshairs if the sun shines on one side for too long. The uneven heat causes the tube to warp, so the crosshairs move toward the heat source.

Kahles uses only hardened steel and aluminum in its scopes. There is no brass or plastic present. Hardened steel is used on the turret internals and the gimble that anchors the back of the

erector tube to the maintube. That gimble has to allow uninterrupted movement of the erector, can never bind and gets smacked hard every time the rifle fires.

It's a critical component that quickly degrades the scope's performance once it becomes damaged or worn. Many manufacturers will use aluminum because it's easier to machine, but it doesn't hold up as well.

The steel in the turrets wears better than aluminum or brass when we dial a lot and also handles recoil better than other materials. It's not uncommon to see brass

in the turrets, because it's inexpensive, thermally stable and easy to work with. It also deforms much more readily than hardened steel.

NEW RETICLES

Also new for this year is the SKMR and MOAK reticles offered in the 6-24x56. The SKMR reticles were designed with heavy input from Shannon Kay and are two of the best reticles available for both competitive and tactical shooters. If it's possible to get us away from the H-59 and Tremor-3, these reticles will do it.

The SKMR reticles have an open center with a small dot in the middle for precision work as well as .2-mil subtension along the horizontal crosshair for precise wind holds. The vertical crosshair subtends in .5-mil increments because most will be dialing for elevation anyway.

The MOAK favors all those MOA-based shooters, who happen to outnumber the mil-based shooters. Each minute subtends clearly on both the horizontal and vertical crosshairs. The MOAK also has the same interrupted center with a small dot for precision work.

Between the new reticles and improved optical performance, the 6-24x56i promises to make a highly competitive scope demographic even more so. Thanks to the top-mounted parallax adjustment, we can also expect a left-mounted windage knob later this year. This will require some re-training, but it finally gives us a scope optimized for right-handed shooters. **SNIPER**



KAHLES 6-24x56i	
Magnification Range	6-24X
Objective Size	56mm
Tube Diameter	34mm
Elevation Adjustment	.25 MOA per click, .1 mil available
Windage	.25 MOA per click, .1 mil available
Reticle	MOAK
Length	16 in.
Weight	33.5 oz.
Eye Relief	3.24 – 3.53 in.
Eye Relief Threshold	.28
MSRP	\$3,299
Manufacturer	Kahles 888-479-5666 kahlesscopes.com

The length and magnification range are two of the reasons the 6-24X performs so well. This is Kahles' flagship scope does very well when compared to its peers.

The SKMR reticle is ideal for either tactical or competitive use. Its uncluttered view will be comforting to many. The .2-mil subtension along the horizontal crosshair, along with the .1-mil subtension sections, make it easy to have precise wind holds and exact measurements.

