

Kahles K1050 Scope



Back in my younger days when I first developed an interest in hunting with a firearm, I often heard fox shooters refer to their Kahles scope, usually an 8 x 56 fixed power on a rifle chambered in .222 Remington or sometimes the newer .17 Remington.

These optics were considered the ultimate for spotlight shooting this valuable pest, but did you know that Kahles is the oldest manufacturer of rifle scopes in the World, starting in 1898?

Times have changed, and there is plenty of competition in the high end scope market but the name Kahles is still right up there for discerning shooters who require high quality optics on their rifles.

The scope under review is designated as a K1050 and is considered a good choice for competition work such as F Class, Fly Shooting and long range benchrest. Weighing in at 890 grams and an overall length of 40cm, it won't add unnecessary bulk to your outfit. For the short range benchrest shooters it would sit well on a heavy benchrest rifle, but may be a little too heavy for the lighter classes.

From a technical point of view, the K1050 has a magnification range of ten to fifty powers with an objective lens diameter of 56mm. The field of view (taken at 91.43 meters) is 2651 to 548mm, and the eye relief is a generous 95mm. The adjustment 'clicks' are audible and rated at 1/8 MoA, which is the norm for target type scopes. The parallax adjustment extends from 8 meters to infinity. The tube diameter is 30mm and buyers should choose mounts of a suitable height for the bell housing to clear your barrel, etc. On this scope, the double dot reticule is situated

LEFT: The adjustment dials are large and finger friendly, but the power ring and parallax require a little more effort. The red and white central pillar displays are an innovative and handy addition.



in the second focal plane, and is not illuminated on this model. Diopter compensation runs from +2 to -3.5 dpt.

Taking the K1050 out of the box reveals the all metal construction, the only exception being a rubber eyepiece on the rear focussing ring. This can be very handy when shooting a hard kicking calibre! The matte black finish is flawless and would look good on any rifle. Immediately noticeable is the absence of a parallax adjustment knob, usually found on the left side of a scope. Kahles have a patented system which places a parallax adjusting ring integrated into the elevation turret (see photo).

It is quite firm to use, but once used to it works extremely well, and you can use either hand to adjust it. The power adjustment is also quite stiff to move, and requires a firm grip to shift it. Kahles claim that their maximum power as listed is a true value – in this case 50X.

Another clever and handy feature of the K1050 is hidden in the adjustment knobs. What appears to be a red dot actually extends out of the turret as the adjustments are wound out. At one full turn of the adjuster, another colour appears, and another full turn shows the original red colour again, and this is repeated. Four full turns is the limit of vertical adjustment which equates to 55 MoA - horizontal adjustment is 41.3 MoA.

I was quite keen to mount this scope onto one of my rifles and test it under range or outdoor conditions. As can be seen from the photos, I chose my Stolle Panda benchrest rifle – with this scope on board it would slot into the heavy benchrest rifle class, which allows for up to 6.123 kg. The double dot



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Mounted in standard height Stolle rings on a Stolle Panda BR rifle, the K 1050 reveals its long range potential with excellent clarity at maximum.

The 1050 magnification. Is an impressive piece of optical hardware.

There is an option to fit an elevation speed dial to the K1050.

reticule is not of a type that would normally be used in short range benchrest competition, but no matter – I usually use a crosshair and dot. The distance on target between the dots at 100 meters is 2.91cm.

The day on the range could not have been more perfect with light winds and near clear skies. The clarity of this scope is quite amazing, right up to 50x in light mirage. I would have no hesitation using this power in a serious match even in heavier mirage which is usually the curse of high powered scopes.

At 200 meters, bullet holes stood out and even the occasional insect that landed on the target could be identified. At 500 meters on a fly shooting range the definition was excellent and despite some light mirage the target was clear. At 1000 meters the clarity was still there, but the mirage was now a real factor on the day.

I feel that any scope would have struggled a bit in that situation. The parallax adjustment was not as critical as some scopes, which is a blessing when finding that perfect setting for a known distance.

As one of my usual scope checks, I 'walked' the scope around a target (with the adjustments), firing shots and then returning to the starting point found that it was spot on. At this end of the market I would expect nothing less.

Conclusions

This is a very well made scope from a respected manufacturer. In fact, it was difficult to fault the product on review. Possibly the only issue will be the price, which I am advised would be around \$3500, but as I always say, shop around. There are a number of high end scopes all competing for your dollar now and it really comes down to which scope suits you best. Good quality optical equipment is never cheap. On the off chance you needs warranty service, you have ten years from the date of purchase to make your claim.

Kahles Scopes are manufactured in Austria and distributed in Australia since January 1st 2018 by Swarovski Optic. ■