



THE 3GT BLUF (BOTTOM LINE UP FRONT) SCOPE REVIEW FROM COMPETITION SHOOTERS

G'day shooters! Here at 3GT we are excited to present to you our first scope review from the first few NRL22 matches which were held in Brisbane recently. We take pride in our sport and love to encourage as many people as possible to participate in these matches.

Make no mistake, if you are new to the sport, it can be overwhelming where to start. Before you drop your hard-earned cash into any equipment, research is vital as many existing competitors will tell you. The aim of this review is to provide upfront commentary and ratings for scopes that were used in recent competitions to help you decide arguably the most vital piece of equipment you will ever buy for your rifle setup – the scope.

Six scopes are reviewed with the basic specifications that you need to know, and six key attributes which we feel are the most important to a competitive shooter:

1. Athlon Cronus BTR 4.5-29 x 56;
2. Kahles K 525 I 5-25 x 56;
3. Element Optics Helix 6-24 x 50;
4. Vortex Viper PST 4-16 x 50 (discontinued);
5. Burris 4.5-14 x 42 Fullfield E1; and
6. Vortex Viper PST Gen II 5-25 x 50.

If you have any further questions, pop into the store for a chat with our highly experienced staff! We'd love to help you successfully shoot in these competitions.

Sincerely,

The 3GT Team

15 March 2021

Star Rating Legend



Poor: Consider other options.



Acceptable: It will do, she'll be alright.



Good: Well balanced, can't go wrong.



Excellent: Second to none, great bang for your buck.



Highly Recommended: If you want the best, no compromise.

Caveat: This rating is in the context of precision shooting like PRS and NRL22 competitions

1. Athlon Cronus BTR 4.5-29 x 56

- 1) **What is it?** Athlon Cronus BTR 4.5 – 29 x 56 APRS1 FFP IR MIL MRAD Illuminated Reticle, Black
- 2) **What focal plane?** First Focal Plane
- 3) **What reticle?** APRS1 FFP IR MIL, glass etched, Christmas tree-style
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 34mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 4.5 – 29
- 6) **Click values?** 0.1 mil per click, 32 mil maximum elevation, 18 mil maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 365mm
- 8) **Weight?** 1014 grams
- 9) **RRP?** \$3349.00
- 10) **User comment:** Rugged and well made. Clear images throughout magnification range. Tactile adjustments with confident, audible clicks. Has a zero stop, waterproof, fog proof, shock proof and argon purged. Appears to be a quality, well made scope which is comparable to high end manufacturers like Swarovski with the features available on this price range. You can shoot into space with this much elevation.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★★★★★

Glass quality: ★★★★★☆

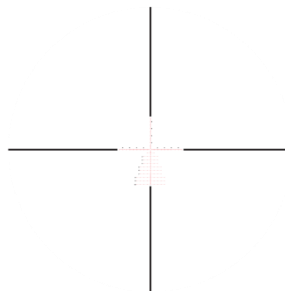
Adjustment range: ★★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★★

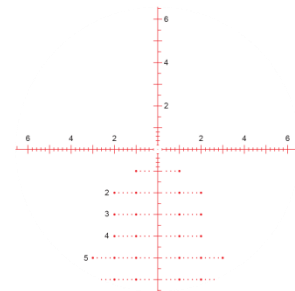
Weight: ★★★★★★

Value for money: ★★★★★★

Overall rating: ★★★★★★ **“It does everything that you need it to at a great price”**



APRS1 FFP IR MIL 4.5X



APRS1 FFP IR MIL 29X

2. Kahles K 525 I 5-25 x 56

- 1) **What is it?** Kahles K 525 I 5-25 x 56, SKMR3
- 2) **What focal plane?** First Focal Plane
- 3) **What reticle?** SKMR3, Christmas tree-style
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 34mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 5 – 25
- 6) **Click values?** 0.1 mil per click, 29 mil maximum elevation, 13 mil maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 377mm
- 8) **Weight?** 970 grams
- 9) **RRP?** \$4590.00
- 10) **User comment:** Crystal clear images as expected from a subsidiary company of Swarovski. Confidence-inspiring clicks when turning the knobs, holds zero even when mounted on different rifles (assuming you have quality scope rings and mounts). Has a zero stop and a 10 year warranty. Excellent elevation to maximise the use of your cartridge.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★★★★★

Glass quality: ★★★★★

Adjustment range: ★★★★★☆

Reliability: ★★★★★

Weight: ★★★★★☆

Value for money: ★★★★★☆

Overall rating: ★★★★★ **“Erotic. The final say in quality optics”**



3. Element Optics Helix 6-24 x 50

- 1) **What is it?** Element Optics Helix 6-24 x 50
- 2) **What focal plane?** First Focal Plane
- 3) **What reticle?** APR-1C, illuminated reticle
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 30mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 6 – 24
- 6) **Click values?** 0.1 mil per click, 18 mil maximum elevation, 11 mil maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 363mm
- 8) **Weight?** 737 grams
- 9) **RRP?** \$769.00
- 10) **User comment:** Fairly compact, lightweight design that has some top-end scope manufacturer features including zero stops, removable throw lever and tactile knob adjustments. Waterproof, fogproof, shockproof and nitrogen purged. While on the lower end of the price range, it is ideal on a budget or if you are starting out in precision rifle competitions and intend to upgrade later.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★★★★★

Glass quality: ★★★★★

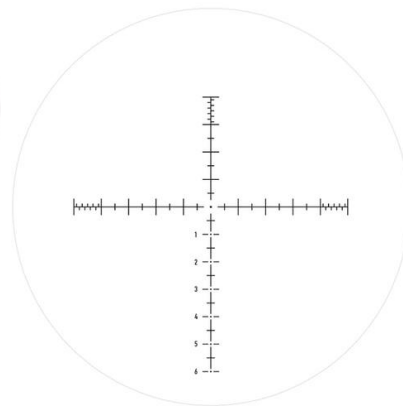
Adjustment range: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

Weight: ★★★★★

Value for money: ★★★★★

Overall rating: ★★★★★ **“For precision and hunting applications on a budget”**



4. Vortex Viper PST 4-16 x 50 (discontinued)

- 1) **What is it?** Vortex Viper PST 4-16 x 50
- 2) **What focal plane?** First Focal Plane
- 3) **What reticle?** EBR-1, MOA illuminated reticle
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 30mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 4 – 16
- 6) **Click values?** 1/4 MOA per click, 75 MOA maximum elevation, 75 MOA maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 347mm
- 8) **Weight?** 635 grams
- 9) **RRP?** Approximately \$900.00
- 10) **User comment:** This scope is well over eight years old, making it older than most of the scopes in this review, however it still holds its own in precision shooting. It tracks well and while it has no zero stops, it has shims to customise the adjustment range to your liking. It features an easy to understand reticle for fast target acquisition. It also has an ample amount of windage and elevation adjustment for most long-range shooting applications. This scope is discontinued in favour of Gen 2 models, you can still find it on Ebay and Amazon. Vortex’s lifetime warranty is one of the best on the market.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★★★★★

Glass quality: ★★★★★

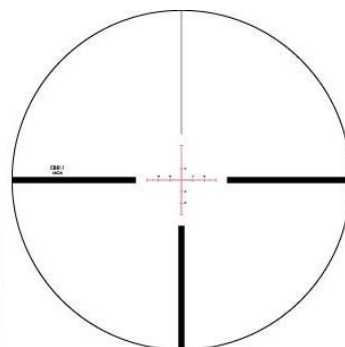
Adjustment range: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

Weight: ★★★★★

Value for money: ★★★★★

Overall rating: ★★★★★ *“Can perform surprisingly well against newer scopes”*



5. Burris 4.5-14 x 42 Fullfield E1

- 1) **What is it?** Burris 4.5-14 x 42 Fullfield E1
- 2) **What focal plane?** Second Focal Plane
- 3) **What reticle?** Fullfield E1 MOA, duplex type
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 25mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 4.5 – 14
- 6) **Click values?** 1/4 MOA per click, 40 MOA maximum elevation, 40 MOA maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 370mm
- 8) **Weight?** 434 grams
- 9) **RRP?** Approximately \$500.00
- 10) **User comment:** Ideal for shooting from the bench, can't ask for anything better. It is not the best for practical rifle shooting as magnification can be lacking at certain distances. However, it can hold 0.6 MOA at 50mm with factory ammo (.22LR) making it more than suitable for other applications such as hunting.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★☆☆☆☆

Glass quality: ★★☆☆☆

Adjustment range: ★★☆☆☆

Reliability: ★★☆☆☆

Weight: ★★☆☆☆

Value for money: ★★☆☆☆

Overall rating: ★★☆☆☆ **“Ideal for bench shooting”**



6. Vortex Viper PST Gen II 5-25 x 50

- 1) **What is it?** Vortex Viper PST Gen II 5-25 x 50
- 2) **What focal plane?** FFP
- 3) **What reticle?** EBR-7C, illuminated reticle
- 4) **Tube diameter?** 30mm
- 5) **Magnification?** 5 – 25
- 6) **Click values?** 0.1 Mil per click, 20 Mil maximum elevation, 10 MOA maximum windage
- 7) **Length?** 399mm
- 8) **Weight?** 885 grams
- 9) **RRP?** \$1840.00
- 10) **User comment:** Works well for NRL22 competitions and large bore calibres, good zoom levels. It is very robust and the turrets are very tactile. Scope has excellent glass for the price range and has features to appease even the most demanding of shooters. It also features zero stops.

3GT rating out of Five Stars in Key Attributes

Features: ★★★★★

Glass quality: ★★★★★

Adjustment range: ★★★★★

Reliability: ★★★★★

Weight: ★★★★★

Value for money: ★★★★★

Overall rating: ★★★★★ **“Recommend this 100%”**

