

Craig Sapich at 200 yards  
with the Eliminator 111.

# RANGE-AIM-SHOOT!

BY SCOTT TRAILL



## THE BRILLIANT BURRIS ELIMINATOR 111

Burriss range finding scopes have been around for a while now, I first remember seeing them in NZ around 2005/06.

**The originals had a built in range** finder, combined with the Burris ballistic plex reticule. The idea being you could range the target using the scope then use the reticule to apply hold over on the target, giving correct elevation for the shot. The system worked well but had its limitations, mainly due to the distances you could accurately shoot to using hold over and the distance the scope could range to.

In 2007 Burris introduced the Eliminator, which was an advanced version of the original. The reticule incorporated 38 LED dots on the vertical crosshair, one of which would light up to give the correct aiming point when the laser read the range. The Eliminator also compensated for the angle of the shot and by all accounts worked well when used inside its limitations. The Eliminator had a useable range of around 500 yards, mainly due to the range of the laser and the inability of the 38 LEDs to give a precise enough aiming point past this range.

In 2012 Burris released the

Eliminator III with an improved ballistic programme, a 96 dot LED reticule and a 1200 yard range. It comes in either 3.5x-10x, 4x-12x or 4x-16x magnification with 40, 42 or 50mm objective lens. This issue I'll be testing the 4x-16x x 50 mm model supplied by Beretta NZ. Also supplied by Beretta was a Tikka T3 stainless fluted Hunter rifle chambered in 7 mm Rem mag, perfect to put the scope through its paces. So let's take a look at the rifle and calibre, and then a detailed look at the scope.

### THE RIFLE

Tikka T3s need no introduction in this country; they have a well deserved reputation for superb out-of-the-box accuracy and a great trigger. I still think they are one of the best value for money rifles available in NZ at the moment.

This model Tikka is a bit different to the regular T3s in that it has a walnut stock and a fluted barrel, both features that will attract some people. It features a standard stainless T3

action and cold-hammer-forged stainless fluted barrel (6 flutes). Barrel length is 24", standard on T3 magnums, with a four groove, R/H twist of 1-9.5", about right for a 7mm Rem mag.

The bolt is a two-lug design with a standard Sako extractor and push rod ejector giving reliable extraction and ejection. As with all T3s, the bolt was very slick in the raceway. T3s use one length action size for all calibres, changing only magazine lengths, bolt stops, and bolt head sizes between calibres. This can give them quite a long action size for some of the shorter calibres, but on the other hand makes them great for re-barrelling or re-chambering to longer calibres later on, or using a long action magazine on a short action calibre so you can really seat your bullets out if you want to.

The Hunter model is supplied in an oiled walnut stock with attractive cut checkering and black rubber butt plate. Length of pull is 14" and the pistol grip has a comfortable palm swell. A generous channel ensures that the

barrel is fully floating for its entire length. Although this particular barrel wasn't perfectly centred in the channel it was still fully floating. The usual Tikka plastic floor plate and semi-flush fitting, three shot, detachable magazine completed the stock.

Tikkas are fitted with very good triggers that are easily adjusted. This one was supplied with a let-off of 3lb 13oz. A simple turn of the weight screw and a drop of lube to the sear surfaces brought it down to 1lb 14oz; nice.

The 7mm Remington magnum is an excellent hard hitting long range calibre and really comes into its own when used with a high BC bullet around the 160 grain weight. It would be perfect to test the Eliminator III with.

### THE SCOPE

So what does this scope do that others can't? In a nutshell the Eliminator III determines the distance to your target, factors in your trajectory and illuminates the perfect holdover. It also gives you a calculated hold-off for

wind using windage dots, very important for any type of long range shooting.

Before I could do any shooting, I had to fit the Eliminator to the Tikka. This turned out to be a simple process as the scope features its own integral mounting system designed to fit Weaver or Picatinny rails. The Tikka had the standard 17mm dovetail but Beretta had thoughtfully provided a set of Weaver bases which I secured to the rifle and then mounted the Eliminator on, a five minute job. The nice thing about this system is that you only have to worry about eye relief and not scope cant, as that is already taken care of.

From here you go into setup mode and choose whether you want to work in yards or metres, and then select the correct trajectory table for your calibre and bullet combination. This is a fairly detailed but easy procedure and is explained very clearly in the owner's manual. Basically all the ballistic tables are selected based on drop at 750 yards when zeroed at 100 yards. This applies whether working in yards or metres.

The scope also allows you to compensate for altitude every 1000 feet, and alters the ballistic curve to match, providing you have done your inputs correctly. I simply entered the drop number straight out of the Burris cartridge calibre list at a sea level altitude. Once you have chosen yards or metres and selected a trajectory table you are ready to go shooting, after first zeroing at 100 yards (not metres).

For optimum accuracy Burris recommend verifying point of impact by shooting a group at 750 yards and adjusting the drop number by a digit or two to match real world performance if necessary. They also suggest that if you can't cover your group at 750 yards with a dinner plate then your rifle does not have the accuracy required to be ethically shooting at animals at this range. If you are not a long range hunter just zero at 100 yards and then at the maximum range you like to shoot, say 300 yards and check the point of impact.

As well as giving a ranging and hold over calculation automatically, the Eliminator III also gives a windage offset number which allows you to hold off for wind using the windage dots on the reticule. The windage offset number applies to a 10mph



crosswind at 90 degrees. You make your own calculations from there depending on actual wind speed to get a correct windage offset number. This is probably the most difficult part of using the Eliminator and required a bit of time and a calculator. A point to note is that the windage dot values do not change, regardless of the scope's power setting, which is handy. With practice you could probably become quite effective at using the windage dots without any calculations. Or just dial with the windage turret like I would be tempted to do.

Ok, so how does this all come

together, how does it work?

It's as simple as this:

1. Fit the scope to the rifle
2. Enter the setup mode, choose yards or metres, then pick your trajectory table
3. Zero your rifle at 100 yards, and you are ready to go hunting
4. Place the centre of the crosshair on the target and press the range finding button. The range will appear as well as an orange dot on the vertical crosshair. Place the dot on the target and fire.

Of course wind and any refinement to the trajectory table that you want to do will complicate this, but that's the

basics of it.

The Eliminator is supplied with handy stick-on labels that let you record your drop number for different altitudes, and are designed to stick on the side of the scope. An elevation and windage turret are located in the usual place, and the Eliminator also has a parallax adjustment ring over the objective lens. The turrets themselves are re-settable to zero, so if you ever have a battery or electronics failure you can dial manually.

Now that I had my head around how everything worked it was time to go zero and shoot. »

## For my own long range shooting I'm in the Stone Age - targets are ranged with a separate range finder and the elevation correction and windage dialled manually into the turrets from a printed drop chart.

### » Up Close



## » TESTFIRE BURRIS ELIMINATOR III AND TIKKA T3



The Eliminator 111 looked great on the Tikka.

24mm 3-shot group with Winchester Power Point factory ammo.

BELOW 22mm 3-shot group with Winchester XP3 factory ammo.

### SHOOTING THE BURRIS ELIMINATOR III

For my own long range shooting I'm in the Stone Age, targets are ranged with a separate range finder and the elevation correction and windage dialed manually into the turrets from a printed drop chart. The system works well and I was very interested to see how the new Eliminator technology would compare.

First up was a zero at 100 yards using two factory loads, Winchester 150gn Power Point and Winchester 160gn XP3. I shot the Power Point first for a three shot group into 24mm, then the XP3 which grouped at a pleasing 22mm. I adjusted the 1/8" adjustable click turrets to bring the group onto point of aim, and then fired two more shots to confirm the zero. The XP3 was a heavier bullet than the Power Point with a higher BC so I chose to use that for my trajectory table input.

The drop number for this was 131 so my input data looked like this: Y1 131 51 (yards, drop number, BC). The drop number of 131 refers to a drop of 131 inches at 750 yards for this bullet. Done - time to extend the range.

The day itself was quite wet, with a fairly consistent rain soaking the rifle and scope, but wind was non-existent. My first target was a 10" gong at 400 yards; the Burris Eliminator III ranged it on the first go and illuminated its calculated aim point on the reticule. I centred this on the gong and was rewarded with a first-round central hit. The whole process took about 5 seconds. The furthest gong was

at 668 yards; again I ranged it with the Burris Eliminator III and got a second first-round hit, slightly low but still a hit on a 10" gong.

My next four shots also connected so, with only entering the data in the manual and with a quick 100 yard zero, I was able to record first-round hits out to 668 yards with the Eliminator III using a factory rifle with factory ammunition - very, very impressive. Like I tell people, it doesn't matter what the rifle is, it's just the launching platform for the bullet and only needs to hold around MOA for long range hunting accuracy. The important bit is the optic.

I took the Tikka and Burris on a goat shooting mission the following weekend with my partner where we used it to great effect out to 480 yards. The wind was really screaming that day so no extremely long range shots were attempted. Most shots were just point and shoot on 4X, but my partner's shot at 480 yards was well done, with the Eliminator III calculating the trajectory perfectly and the wind dialed into the windage turret.

### CONCLUSION

Overall I was impressed with this rifle/scope combination. The Tikka held no real surprises, being superbly accurate and as well finished as I would expect. No problems there, a great rifle in a great calibre.

The Burris Eliminator III is a physically large optic and, at 26oz, is no lightweight. I expected the optics to be inferior to other

scopes which weren't full of electronics, but once again there were no problems there with the images being crisp and clear and in fact superior in my opinion to other quality brands that I've tested. It was no Zeiss or Swarovski, but certainly good enough. The crosshair and LED aiming marks are fairly fine and would be no problem on deer sized game out to its maximum range, but extreme range varminters may struggle with small targets out past 500 yards. With over 4000 different trajectory tables available, the Eliminator III can handle virtually any calibre and bullet combination.

My friend Alex has been using an Eliminator III for a year or so now on his .243AI for varminting. He rates it highly and uses it out to 500+ yards on rabbits and deer with no problems.

It certainly performed well throughout my testing and I was impressed with its ability to let me record first-round hits out to 668 yards with just simple unconfirmed inputs straight from the manual. The mounting system is foolproof and seems solid, there was no loss of zero or movement during any of the testing considering the T3 in 7mm Rem mag is a fairly hard recoiling rifle.

When used correctly the Eliminator III speeds up the whole long range shooting process although, as with any long range shooting, the wind is still the killer and needs to be taken into account the same as with any other scope. **R&R**

### » Results



### » Specs

#### TIKKA T3

**CALIBRE:** 7 mm Rem mag  
**ACTION:** bolt action, stainless  
**BARREL:** hammer forged, 1-9.5" twist, fluted.  
**BARREL LENGTH:** 24 3/8" (620mm)  
**OVERALL LENGTH:** 44 3/4" (1135mm)  
**WEIGHT:** 7lbs (3.2kg)  
**TRIGGER:** adjustable  
**MAGAZINE:** 3 shot detachable  
**STOCK:** Walnut  
**RRP:** \$1799

#### BURRIS ELIMINATOR 111

**TYPE:** laser range finding rifle scope  
**MAGNIFICATION:** 3.5x -10x, 4x-12x, 4x-16x (tested)  
**OBJECTIVE LENS DIAMETER:** 40mm, 42mm, 50mm (tested)  
**FOCUSING RANGE:** 50yards to infinity  
**EXT PUPIL:** 12.5mm-3.1mm  
**FIELD OF VIEW @ 100 YARDS:** 25.7 feet  
**COATING:** fully multi-coated  
**LENGTH:** 154.75"  
**WEIGHT:** 26oz  
**CONSTRUCTION:** aluminium main tube  
**RRP:** \$2499

[www.burrisoptics.com/eliminatorIII.html](http://www.burrisoptics.com/eliminatorIII.html)