

Zeiss

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Conquest V6 3-18x50mm



The Zeiss name has been synonymous with quality European optics for years

Despite some issues with factories developing on opposite sides of the Berlin wall after WWII, they eventually got it all sorted and since the reunification in 1990, Zeiss have continued developing a wide range of optics for the hunter.

The Conquest line of rifle scopes and binoculars has been popular in New Zealand for some years, particularly the scopes with the Rapid Z series of ballistic reticles. These were the first reticles

with actual numbers alongside the hash marks so you didn't get confused which bar is for what range. The Conquests had a fairly standard for the time 3x zoom range, with the 3.5-10 and 4.5-14 being the most popular. Soon after though came the larger 5x and 6x zoom range scopes, with some even as high as 8x now. This higher zoom range really does mean you can have your cake and eat it too with ample field of view for fast shots in tight bush at the bottom end, but then plenty of magnification for the longer shots at the top end.

Zeiss have now followed suit with a 6x zoom range scope in their second focal plane, Conquest line. Available in

1.1-6x24, 2-12x50, 2.5-15x56, 3-18x50 and 5-30x50. They all have 30mm main tubes, but some have European metric 1 click = 1cm @100m adjustments, while the two at the higher magnification end have 1/4 MOA US style adjustments. The 3-18x50 is the best all-round for New Zealand hunting situations, and so that was the model Outdoor Sports the NZ Zeiss agents sent for review. It has 100 MOA of total elevation available, with 20 MOA per revolution. **The zero stop adjustment allows for all the up adjustment left after zeroing to be available**, as the turret climbs upwards as you wind in elevation. The other style of turret used by some other manufacturers which stays put vertically as you wind, while more compact and neat and tidy, is a lot harder to allow for more than one turn of elevation adjustment. The windage adjustment winds and is numbered both ways from the zero, which is a better system than just being numbered in one direction. The model we were sent has a duplex type reticle with the top thick section of the crosshair they call a 6. They also make a ZBR-2 and a ZMOA-2, which have 2 MOA hash marks for windage and elevation – the ZBR a Christmas tree type, and the ZMOA with hash marks on the standard crosshair. (The 5-30x50 has ZBR-1 and ZMOA-1 options with 1 MOA hash marks, and these would have been nice on the 3-18x50 too) The side focus is ungraduated, other than the 50 yard and infinity marks, and the eyepiece is the usual European fast focus. The eye relief proved to be a constant 90mm as per the specs.

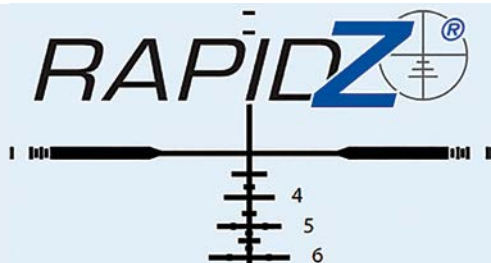
The Conquest V6 in Kaweka Sika country

Optically speaking, the V6 stacked up pretty good as you'd expect. Resolution and contrast were good, but more noticeable was that the flatness of field was very good - the image stayed in focus across the whole field of view, not essential in a scope but nice to have all the same. Its low light performance was also very good, with the 50mm objective and enhanced T* lens coatings allowing 92% light transmission according to Zeiss. All up the optical system which incorporates Fluoride Glass, and LotuTec® protective coatings provides a very pleasant viewing experience.

In the test jig the V6 proved to move true MOA – 10 clicks moved 10.5 inches at 100 yards. There was no noticeable reticle shift throughout the zoom range, and the reticle tracked



Prime eating summer Sika venison



The Rapid-Z logo, on a close up of the RZ 600 reticle that was the first of its type

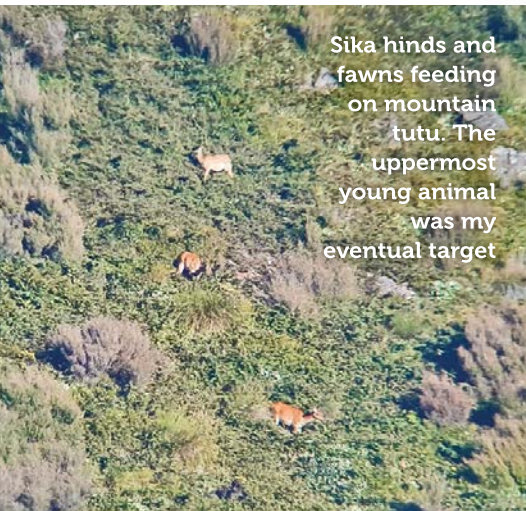
accurately around the test grid and returned to zero perfectly. We mounted the V6 in standard level Talley scope mounts on the Sauer 100XT in 7mm Remington Magnum testfired a couple of issues ago also from Outdoor Sports. The load of 73gn of 2225 behind a 168gn Berger Classic Hunter at a 20 thou jump really shoots in this rifle. After sighting in at 100 yards, we still had 47 MOA of up left - more than enough for any sort of longer range shot.

Set up and ready to go, I took the Sauer/Zeiss combo along on several of my walkabouts in the Kawekas. It's been a great summer feed wise on the range this year, with so many afternoon thunderstorms but still plenty of warm weather. This has given the animals plenty of feed options, and spread them out more than usual. Finding suitable meat animals has been quite difficult, with predominantly spikers and stags in velvet encountered, and some hinds and fawns. Eventually a suitable young hind without a fawn was found along with an older hind and fawn. After a stalk to close the gap to under 500 yards, the V6 was dialled up and the shot made. With a load of tender young Sika in the pack, the walk out was the usual labour of love!

Conclusion

The Conquest V6 is a welcome addition to the all range hunting scope options. It has pretty much all the features you could ask for, except I can't seem to find anywhere that Zeiss do custom BDCs/PBCs, calibrated in yards/metres for your specific load and atmospheric conditions – our favourite system these days. Kenton Industries in the USA do make them for the V6, and even do a two turn turret with a second set of yardages above the main set for the second revolution. But 20 MOA should be enough for most people. There isn't much room anyway for the second set, as the V6 turret only has a short plain section before the knurling/grip section starts. This turret seems to have been set up to use with a ballistic app/calculator or drop chart of some sort. **This system is the best for the longest ranges** where you are needing to allow for more variation in atmospheric conditions, Coriolis etc, but is far slower to use than a BDC/PBC for the majority of hunting. Of the reticle options, the ZMOA-1 would be my preference, as I would dial for range but hold for wind with the 1 MOA hash marks, so adjustments can be made quickly as conditions change.

Size wise the scope is not too big, and at 22 ounces about middle of the range weight wise. Optically while not in the same league as Zeiss' Victory series, it's still very good, and mechanically it was very sound. The 30mm tube adds a little weight and means you can't mount the scope as low, but does give you more "up" if you feel you need it. Horses for courses and depends on your intended usage.



Sika hinds and fawns feeding on mountain tutu. The uppermost young animal was my eventual target



Sika stags still in velvet

Objective Lens	50mm
Tube Diameter	30mm
Max Elevation	103 MOA
Click Value	1/4 MOA
FoV @ 100m	3x - 12.4m 18x - 2.1m
Water resistance	400 mbar
Weight	22oz/640g
Length	340mm
RRP	\$2999