



# HUNTING MAGIC MOMENTS

STRAIGHT-PULL BOLT ACTION HELIX

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## HUNTING MAGIC MOMENTS

**120 years young.  
Merkel and the hunting magic moments.**

We are celebrating a milestone birthday. It has been 120 years since the Merkel Brothers founded a manufacture to produce fine hunting guns here in Suhl. The brand Merkel was born.

The old weapons city of Suhl still has worldwide renown and the hunting rifle manufacturer Merkel stands for this expertise as the last large scale brand of the city. For centuries, Suhl – and at the foremost point of this gunsmithing tradition Merkel – stands for the combination of tradition and innovation, for ideas which often result from the classic principles of gunsmithing.

Our Helix has been designed in this spirit and has developed brilliantly since 2010. The contender became the innovation leader. This is underlined by us this year with a new model, the Helix Speedster. The Speedstock is a new stock concept: It offers the advantages of a thumbhole stock when precision shooting from a rested position – and prevents its disadvantages when shooting and reloading freely and quickly. This is exactly what the Helix has been primarily designed for and this is why we deemed it inappropriate to mill a simple and for reloading non-ergonomic hole into the stock of our most modern gun. Instead, we have – practically speaking – redeveloped the thumbhole stock. Let yourself be surprised and have fun reading and testing.

Continuing magic moments while hunting wishes

Your

OLAF SAUER  
Managing Director  
Merkel Jagd- und Sportwaffen GmbH



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## HUNTING TYPES



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Bill Gorman (middle) hunting roebuck in Rumania.

# OUTDOOR AND ETHICS

## Bill Gormans hunting show on us television

Interview: Marc Millenet    Fotos: L.L.Bean Guide to the Outdoors

**Bill Gorman operates the TV format „L. L. bean Guide to the Outdoors“ in the US. The 56 year old talks about hunting and fishing in the popular show of the Outdoor Channel - and all the other things you can do outside in the wild. And although there are a lot of alternatives in the United States, Bills choice is a Helix - and also other guns from Merkel. An interview with someone who lives and loves the hunt.**

### HOW AND WHY DID YOU START HUNTING?

**Bill Gorman:** I am 54 years old and I have been hunting from the age of sixteen. Hunting, fishing and the general outdoors is literally part of my DNA. My great grandfather and founder of L. L.Bean, Inc. was an avid hunter/fisherman and focused on the enjoyment of the outdoors. He promoted a lifestyle that was focused on nature and its conservation.

### WHO IS THE TYPICAL VIEWER/CONSUMER OF YOUR SHOW?

**Bill Gorman:** Our viewers love the traditional outdoor sports. They

include novice to expert hunters and those who just enjoy a sense of adventure. They enjoying watching each episode and learning about the rifle and gear that I select for each hunt! My Helix for example is the best overall hunting rifle for smaller game size animals and a perfect choice for monster elk, moose and eland size animals. A close follower is my Merkel KR-1. My Double Rifle Merkel in. 470 NE is just incredible, when hunting dangerous game!

### WHAT DO YOUR VIEWERS WANT TO SEE?

**Bill Gorman:** Real action, whether successful or not. If I miss a shot, they want to see it and learn what went wrong. I strive to inspire viewers to get them outdoors. I hope to be thought of them as a trusted guide. We show sincere people, no ego, no foolishness, just individuals and families alike sharing a passion!

### WHAT IS THE MESSAGE YOU WISH TO SEND?

**Bill Gorman:** The L. L.Bean show is focused on natural conservation





Bill Gorman while test firing his Helix: "I like rifles, as long as they are shooting accurately, possess durability and are dependable."

and ethical hunting. We respect the wildlife and understand the health of the animal population and their habitat depends on the hunter. Hunters in the USA put \$50 billion back into the economy annually which provides for habitat growth and sustainability. By only taking animals that are mature, we allow the younger animals to grow stronger and reproduce, thus providing a healthy habitat and sustainable animal population. When the bag is laid out, I take enough for myself, family, friends and co-workers. But after 15-18 hunts a year, there is also some left over, that we donate to people in need.

#### WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE HELIX AND HOW DOES IT COMPARE TO THE US MARKET?

**Bill Gorman:** First and foremost I enjoy all rifles as long as they are accurate, able to hold up to extreme use and reliable. For me the Merkel Helix is my rifle of choice for several reasons: Accuracy and consistency, easy to disassemble/reassemble without losing scope alignment, light weight for extreme hunts and barrel coatings that withstand extreme conditions and use, without the need for constant cleaning. My Helix accompanies me from hunt to hunt and clean or not, it hits! When I chose a rifle, I check for several characteristics. Where most modern firearms are quality driven, there are several personal preferences that drew me to Merkel Rifles. I like the balance of the Helix and the stock design which transfers recoil consistently and less sharp. The most innovative and unique feature of the Helix is the bolt. It allows the shooter to reload without moving the head from the scope, because the bolt stays in the housing. Interchangeable barrels and ease of use are incredible, allowing to use different calibers depending on the situation, whether I am hunting big game, small game or just shooting targets. Finally, a trigger that has a fresh snap versus a long draw and set to a weight ideal for shooting game or target and most importantly a hand cocking safety that prevents

accidental discharge. I have fired many guns from European and USA manufacturers but for hunting as stated above, I chose the Helix rifle because it fits my particular shooting style the best.

#### WHAT IS THE RECIPE FOR A SUCCESSFUL SHOW?

**Bill Gorman:** This is a difficult question, as there are numerous attributes that make up a successful show. While it is important to make the show engaging and exciting, I find it vital to present a solid, environmental/conservational message and to demonstrate my respect for the game. Throughout the storyline I try to convey to the viewer, what's happening with the species, their habitat, and how we are hunting in an ethical and humane way.



#### YOUR PASSIONS ARE HUNTING, MOTORCYCLES AND HELICOPTERS, WHAT ARE THE SIMILARITIES?

**Bill Gorman:** I'm a person that follows his passions and I have quite a few. Beyond hunting, I especially enjoy motorcycles and helicopters. The similarity that stands out most is the outdoor connection. When hunting I might be on a mountain, enjoying a sunrise, watching animals or just enjoying the view, sounds and smells that make up the outdoors. I get a very similar sensation when riding my Harley down a country road or flying a helicopter over the countryside. ■

#### WATCH ENTIRE EPISODES AT:

<http://outdoorchannel.com/llbean-guide-to-the-outdoors>







# GLOBETROTTER

The Helix on tour



1

Release the safety-function  
and press the button to remove the fore-end.



Over the past few years, hunting has changed enormously. People travel more – meaning hunting is also possible on holiday or during business trips. Small trunks, narrow hotel elevators, passing through turnstiles and also on the way to your own hunting ground, it's often an advantage to have a rifle that can be quickly disassembled and transported in a compact case. Or, thanks to interchangeable barrels, is suitable for different hunting conditions.

**With its unique, simple Take-Down system, the HELIX was not only developed for hunting, but also for travelling.**





Remove the barrel together with the bolt head.



2

Push the barrel lever forward to release the barrel clamp.



Ready to go: the Helix carrying case can fit an extra barrel, an scope and various pieces of equipment.





BOREAS



# PURE ERGONOMICS

## HELIX SPEEDSTER: THE NEWLY DEFINED THUMBHOLE STOCK



**The Helix Speedster combines the fast straight-pull action of the Helix with a thumbhole stock development which bypasses all ergonomic disadvantages of the classic thumbhole constructs. As an "encore" the new model comes with an automatically height adjustable cheek-piece with memory function and many intelligent details.**

Undisputed: the classic thumbhole stock has its advantages wherever a rested or leaned precision shot is taken. This type of hunting from the hide will possibly keep shaping day-to-day hunting – however when stalking or on a driven hunt, the classical thumbhole stock does not really offer advantages. Just the hand-cocking can be tricky for the joints of the fingers. And the threading of the thumb into the hole cost valuable time and precision. "Ergonomics work different," says Lutz Morgenroth, Technical Director at Merkel: "The usual thumbhole stock definitely contradicts the speciality of the Helix. It's preference is the fast shot and the driven hunt – and this is where the thumb-hole stock has ergonomic disadvantages.

The solution is an opened thumbhole stock. Merkel calls it the SpeedStock – and uses this to combine two classic stock principle into an ergonomic and fast novelty. The ergonomics of the stock leads hand and thumb as if on rails – while reloading and also back towards the shooting position. Also the cocking lever is can be operated from the open Omega-Grip without strain. When shooting, the stock system makes use of the



relaxed, non-contorted shooting position with the thumb in the steep Omega-pistolgrip. Merkel has perfected their stock design even further: the height adjustable cheek-piece of the Alpinist models has been automated for the SpeedStock. The Memory CheekPiece allows for a

reproducible shooting position on the cheek. A spring-loaded mechanism with individually adjustable memory function pushes the stock comb freely and silently into the previously adjusted position at the push of a button. The stock length is also easily adjustable to the hunters and their clothing. For this, Merkel offers butt-plate carriers in three different lengths, which can be exchanged without tools in regards to the respective season. The stock is fixed to the system via an eccentrically controlled connector in the pistol grip. This elegant solution makes sure, that there are no screw holes in the

handling area, as this is often disturbing in standard thumbhole stocks. The new stock is equipped with comfortable button-release sling swivels and the pistol grip offers enough space to carry a bore-snake inside – which is included in every Speedster.





# THE AHEAD-OF-ITS-TIME-STOCK

This synthetic stock is truly avant-garde: it uses the advantages of the thumbhole stock for precision shooting and avoids its disadvantages while hand-cocking and reloading. Furthermore there is a number of intelligent details. Giving shape to its style is the Memory CheekPiece at the butt stock. The stock's geometry with a straight comb on level with the barrel axis transfers the recoil power linearly into the shoulder. The Helix Speedster universally redefines the thumbhole stock: on driven hunts or while stalking – but also in the hide.

## 1 VARIABLE BUTT-PLATES

The dampening butt-plate can be detached without tool and swapped for a stock lengthening or stock shortening plate. Utilising this, the stock can be adjusted to different shooters and different clothing thickness throughout the seasons.

## 2 MEMORY CHEEK PIECE

The height adjustable cheek piece automatically extends at the push of a button, provides a reproducible, linear shooting position. The previously adjusted height can be fixed thanks to a memory function – after the hunt, the cheek piece is pushed back into the stock.

## 3 OMEGA-GRIP

Top opened – this is the riddle's solution. Simple handling of the cocking lever without straining and reloading as if led on rails. And during the shot, the steep pistol grip ensures perfect ergonomics when pulling the trigger.

## 4 HIGH-TECH POLYMER

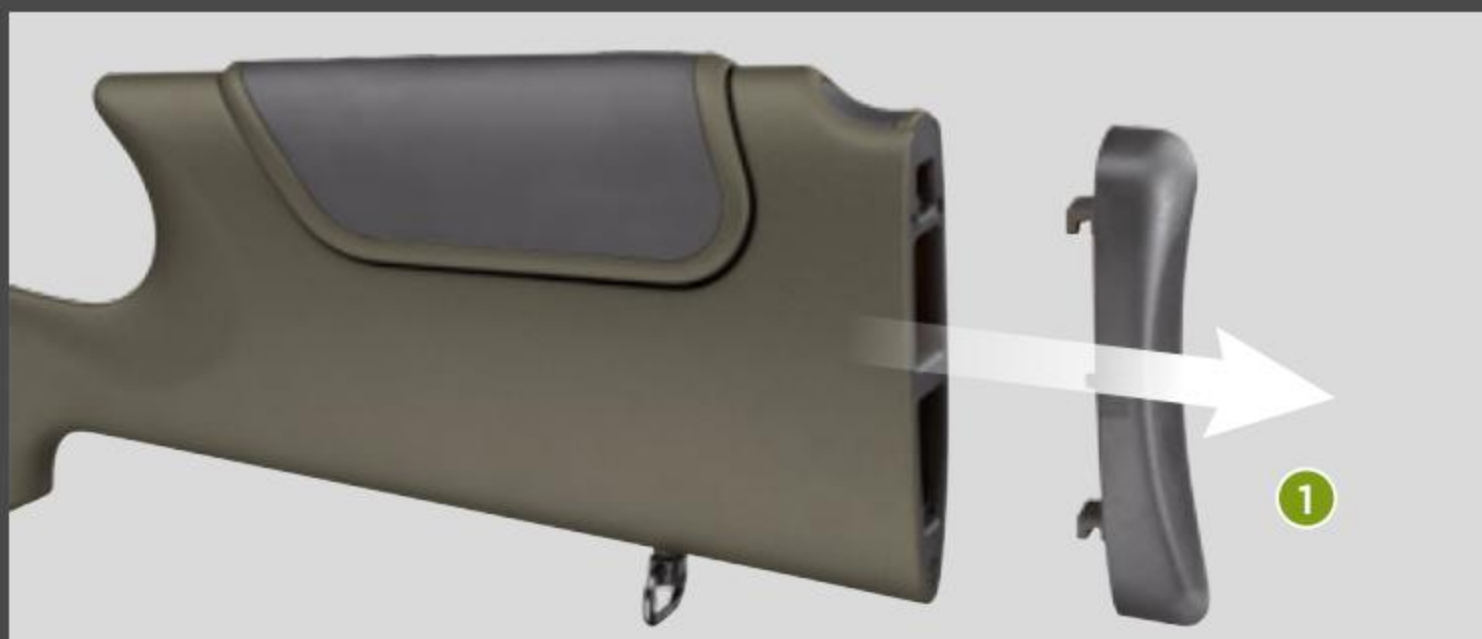
The stock is made from a high-tech polymer in a two-component process. Located on the pistol grip, fore-end and stock comb are anti-skidding soft-touch inlays. To ensure a better grip, the surface of the SpeedStock is grained.





4

HELIX SPEEDSTER STANDARD





# THEME: Ergonomics

## CONCENTRATED RELOADING

Closed system: during rapid bolt action firing, nothing comes near the eye!



## BOLT HANDLE

The bolt handle is located directly above the trigger.





## GENUINE STRAIGHT-PULL

True linear rapid bolt action.  
Short distance because of transmission.



# INTUITIVE !!



When firing, the sequence of movements must come from the muscle memory - i.e. must have become second nature to the shooter. An intuitive rifle is an important precondition for successful shooting and safety of use. This is where the Helix sets standards.





A full-page photograph of a woman, Bettina Schmidt, in a winter hunting setting. She is wearing a dark brown jacket, dark cargo pants, and an orange cap with the 'RX.HELIX' logo. She is holding a black and wood rifle with a scope, aiming it forward. The background is a snowy forest with bare trees.

# LADY DS

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## HUNTRESS STOCKS

Text: Holger Siegel

Photograph: Thomas Lange

BETTINA SCHMIDT, 2014-2015 HUNTING QUEEN OF  
BAYERISCHER JAGDVERBAND (BAVARIAN HUNTING ASSOCIATION) WITH HER HELIX LADY DS.





Bettina Schmidt with the try gun - Ronald Schmidt, master stock maker at Merkel, takes measurements.

# THE WOMEN'S RIFLE

## Stocks produced for huntresses - the Helix Lady DS

**Hunting rifles are often made to standard dimensions. And, despite an increasing number of huntresses, standard still means... for men. Merkel is heading in a new direction. Instead of just shortening the stocks, the rifles have been adjusted to the female body. Lady stocks have been designed for both the Helix and the K3 single shot rifle.**

It started with a realisation: "90 percent of huntresses go into their shooting positions differently to their male counterparts," according to master stock maker, Ronald Schmidt, who is managing the "Lady DS" project at Merkel. While men bend their heads over the stock in the shooting position and search for the sight line in the front third, the majority of women position themselves much more upright on the back part of the stock. The clear drop is made for men. When this "male" stock is held by a woman, the buttplate clearly protrudes upwards.

Ronald Schmidt explains: "We suddenly realised that the correct shooting position doesn't necessarily exist, instead there is just a typical male shooting position for which there is a stock and a typical female shooting position, for which there is no stock. We have developed this stock." Lady DS rifles enable the eye to come close to the sight line and the cheek to come close to the stock, even when the position is taken further back as it is typical for women. "And suddenly, the buttplate was where it should be, in the shoulder with no protrusion," says master stock maker Schmidt.

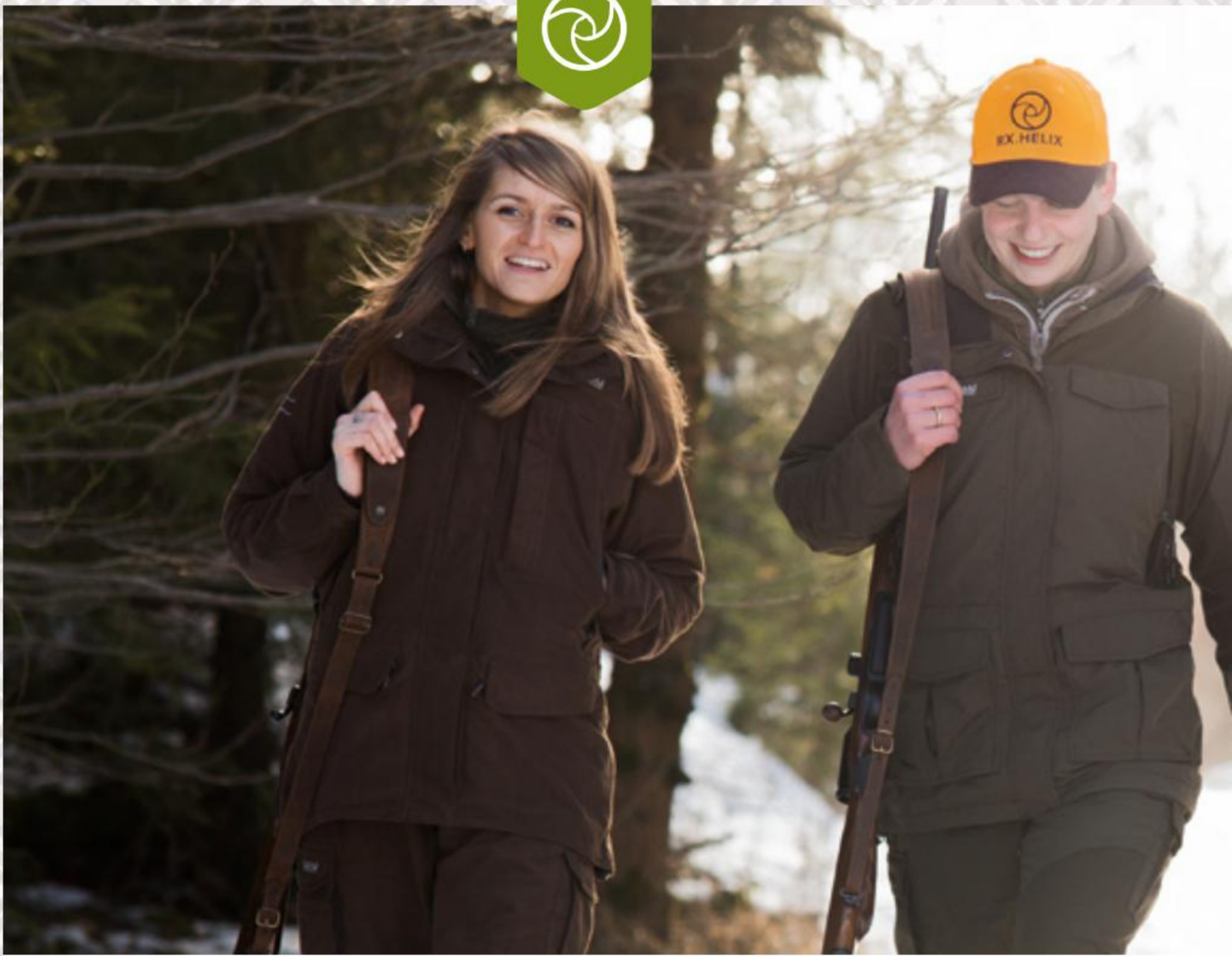
In order to perfect the effect, he combined the straight stock with a Monte Carlo cheekpiece. In doing so, the buttplate sits deeper than the comb. Using shortened stocks, a standard bolt can be hindering while fast repeating in shooting position. This is where the Helix shows off its special advantages. During rapid repeating, the bolt stays in the system casing because of the bolt transmission. This allows for a very straight and high stock top edge, which at the same time makes the recoil more controllable - and a short stock.

### SHORT BUT NOT AWKWARD

Further DS features are a steeper pistol grip to bring her fingers closer to the trigger and a buttplate with a great cushioning effect to absorb the recoil. The harmonious appearance of the stock and its proportions are maintained. "A stock that has been shortened using a saw, can easily appear awkward and the general appearance of the rifle suffers," says Mr Schmidt. ■







# THE INTUITIVE RIFLE

## The best Helix for the female body



Bettina Schmidt (née Frühwald) has been familiar with hunting since she was a child and regards her two-year honorary position as the hunting queen of the Bayerischer Jagdverband (Bavarian hunting association) (2014/2015) primarily as a way to cultivate the image of hunters. Bettina Schmidt, 31, has a Helix for personal use.

### HOW DOES THE RIFLE FEEL?

**Bettina Schmidt:** The Helix is a very intuitive rifle. You actually can't do anything wrong with it. Everything is in the correct place and the ergonomics are right. I want to be able to concentrate on hitting the target - not on other things.

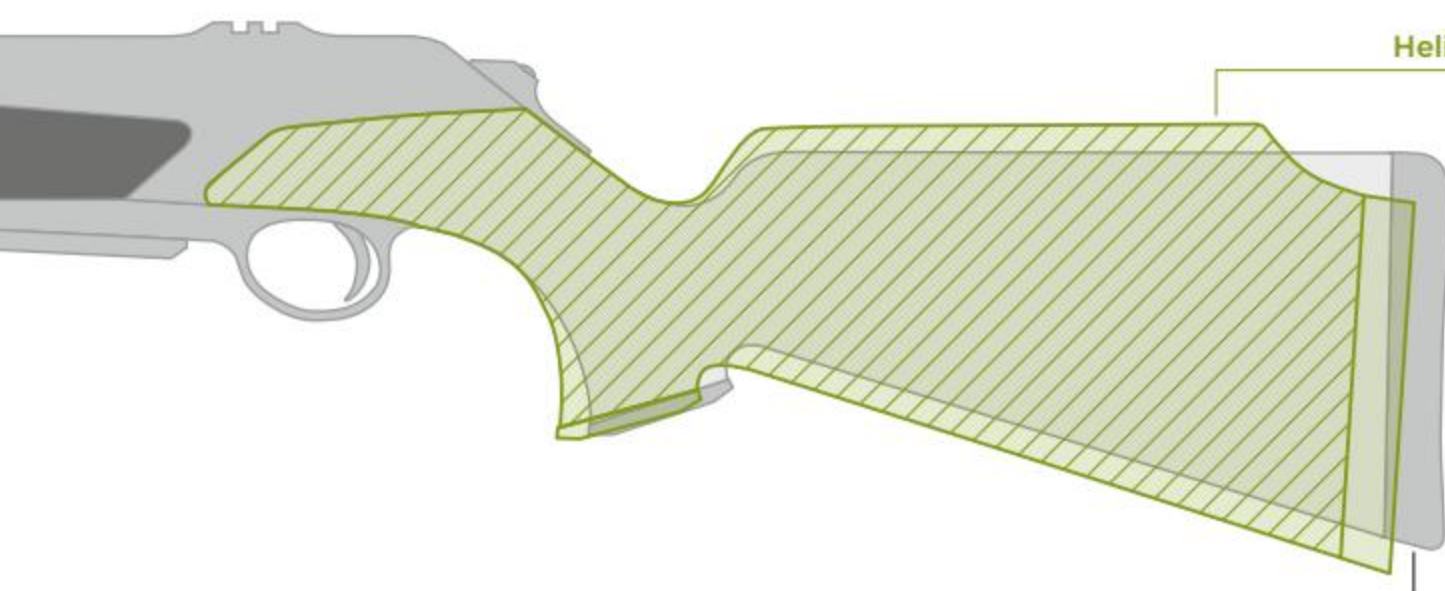
### HAVE YOU EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER RIFLES?

**Bettina Schmidt:** I also still have a classic rifle. But the Helix suits me better. It has a manual cocking lever, a bolt transmission and now also this stock specially for women. It's modern, it does the job.

### HAVE YOU TRIED THE NEW LADY DS STOCKS?

**Bettina Schmidt:** A massive difference. It matches this rifle's intuitive and fast overall concept. You get into the shooting position and hit the target more quickly and more safely. The stock accommodates the female body.





Helix Lady DS custom-made stock

Helix standard stock

#### WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WOMEN AND MEN WHEN THEY ARE HUNTING?

**Bettina Schmidt:** Well, apart from the stocks? ... (she laughs) ... I think that in some situations women hunt more level-headedly. I am sometimes also rather more cautious. Otherwise I think that the sexes hunt in an equally target-orientated manner. There are also extremes in the case of both sexes. Ultimately respect for game should unite us.

#### WHAT QUALIFACTIONS DO YOU NEED TO BECOME ROYALTY?

**Bettina Schmidt:** You become royalty by birth... (she laughs again). You become hunting queen by sending an application, attending selection interviews and awaiting a decision by the jury. Hunting is a male domain and in this honourable office you generate a lot of interest. You are in the spotlight, you are being watched and sometimes you are also under stress. I enjoyed it - it was a good thing to be a woman promoting hunting.

**BETTINA SCHMIDT IM FILM:**  
[http://youtu.be/M\\_XLB7izRnk](http://youtu.be/M_XLB7izRnk)







# ELK TEST

THE LARGEST DEER IN THE WORLD

THE ELK (ALCES ALCES)



# JOHAN PERSSON

## — Professional Hunter —

For Johan Persson moose hunting is hunting with a barking dog. The classical jāmthund, the dog of the region, is a spitz. Johan's favourite companion is a she-dog called Snöa (means „Snow“). During moose hunt she wears a location beacon collar. When she takes a wide sweep to stalk an elk, the hunter is informed of her whereabouts. Moose hunting is teamwork – by giving voice and pointing, dogs provide the hunter with valuable information.



## WEST-JÄMTLAND | SWEDEN



Only a handful of people live here: Medstugan is a small, lovingly restored hunting lodge in the middle of 15,000 hectares of wilderness in north-western Sweden. The Swedish steel, timber and mining magnate Carl Fredrik Liljevalch had the lodge built between 1896 and 1897. As he was a great friend of nature and founding father of several natural history museums he decreed in his last will and testament that the surrounding landscape be left untouched. The region which is very sparsely populated anyway – three people live here per square kilometre which is for example one seventy-fifth of the population distribution in Germany – is a guarantee for elemental hunting in the wilderness. Members of the aristocracy, kings and renowned big game hunters from many countries can be found on the guest list of this estate.



## — JOHAN PERSSON —

Studied economics before he came to professional hunting **AGE:** 52 **LIVES:** in Sweden, West-Jämtland **TYPICAL GAME OF THE REGION:** Elk (also called Moose), Ptarmigan, Capercaillie (Wood Grouse) **PREFERRED WAY OF HUNTING:** Preferably with friends, betimes gladly alone **CONTACT:** [www.fjelljakt.se](http://www.fjelljakt.se)

WATCH THE VIDEO WITH  
JOHAN PERSSON:  
<https://youtu.be/ZetumZRJRFE>







From the helicopter to infinite vastness:  
diverse nature far away from every road.

# THIS IS MOOSE HUNTING

## Fantastic hunting grounds between the Taiga and the Mountains

Text: Holger Siegel Photographs: Philippe Jaeger, Thomas Lange, Bosse Fritzén, Michael Agel

There is the first scent of new snow in the air. In the brush a few metres in front of us the excited baying of the moosedog can be heard. And a snorting: Between trunks and branches we catch only a glimpse of his black-brown winter coat. This moose, annoyed by the barking creature, sprays clouds of steam into the moist forest air. Through the brush it is difficult to estimate how big he really is. The largest deer on earth – called elk or moose – has no serious natural enemies here on the border between Norway and Jämtland. It can grow up to 2.40 meters high and three metres long here – an imposing beast.

Sweden is not known for a large amount of hunting tourism, it is rather an insider tip says Johan Persson. In West- Jämtland he operates a 15,000 hectares hunting ground. In the middle of it: Medstugan which is a small, lovingly restored hunting lodge. Only a few people live here; roads or even paths are rare so it is not seldom that a helicopter sets hunting guests far out in the mountains. Off-road vehicles are in use only to bring home game and equipment. Ptarmigan and capercaillie are hunted here – and above all elk. Population of all three: bounteous. Persson is 50 and has been hunting since he was 11 years old. He studied economics and came to professional hunting by way of dog training. The jāmthund, the typical moosedog in this region, is a spitz. This breed barks 70 to 80 times per minute when hunting. Because Persson's dog Snöa sometimes searches wide in the mountains so as to corner the elk, she wears a radio collar with a location beacon. The main precaution is not to alarm the moose. Only after the dog has

the elk at bay with a rhythmic bark, the hunter follows up stalking with caution to get in shooting range. Moose can trot at a speed of up to 60 kilometres per hour – in difficult terrain that is definitely too fast for hunters. Hunting moose is not extremely dangerous – but in some cases you have to be

careful: Moose tend to lash out vehemently with their hooves when cornered – fatal accidents happen in this case. Especially elk cows are known to be dangerous when raising a calf.

In northern countries moose hunting has a long tradition. Swedish hunters prefer bolt action rifles – and in numerous households a Drilling still stands, many of them from Suhl. Persson carries a Helix with him. In a country where the number of guns a hunter is permitted to possess is limited, one learns to appreciate a universal, flexible rifle. A Helix with its robust synthetic stock can be reassembled within minutes with a premium wooden stock when

the finest quality weapons of the hunting guests at Medstugan are on show. Nothing more than an Allen key is required. In combination with the exchangeable barrels, the Helix offers a wide range of applications all-in-one.

Johan Persson values the elegant and flexible linear bolt action from Suhl: „The Helix is light, fast and accurate.“ When on long treks through the Swedish Taiga the Helix is his constant, uncomplicated attendant. For hunting moose he prefers a medium calibre (all 30 calibres) and a variable sight. „The art is to get as close as possible.“ Snöa and Johan, are masters in this art. ■



Johan Persson und Snöa.

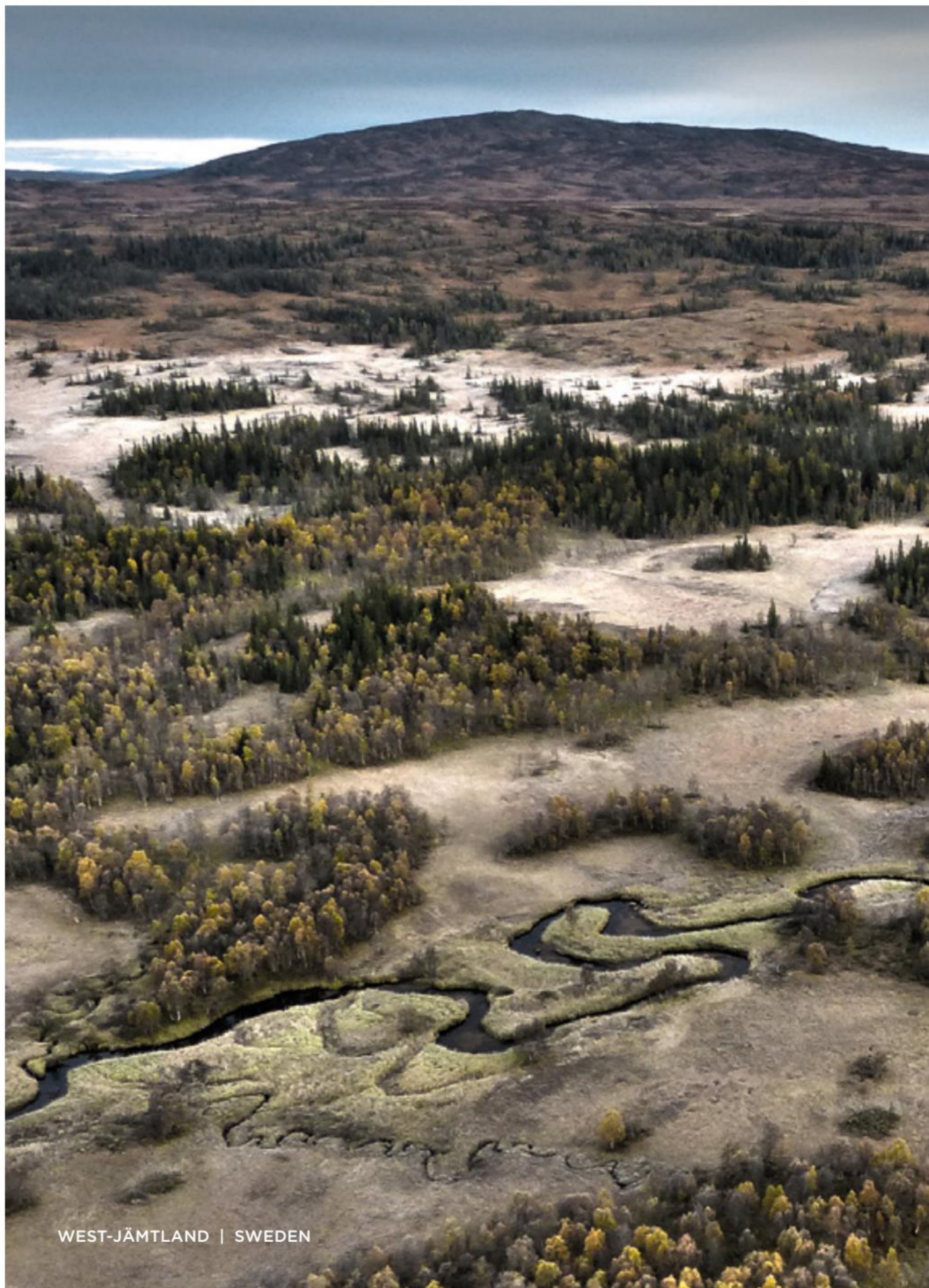




## CONVERTIBLE HELIX

- 1 MOUNTING ON THE PICATINNY RAIL**  
Exactly repeatable mounting – both while changing scope or after travelling.
- 2 WOODEN STOCK FOR A LUXURY FEEL**  
The wooden and synthetic stocks are easy to switch.
- 3 MANUAL COCKING LEVER ON THE STOCK WRIST**  
Safe to carry on long treks – the rifle is only cocked at the last second





WEST-JÄMTLAND | SWEDEN



An aerial photograph of a vast, rugged landscape. The foreground and middle ground are dominated by a wide, braided river system with light-colored sandbars and gravel. The river winds through a dense forest of evergreen and deciduous trees. In the background, rolling hills and mountains are visible under a cloudy sky. The overall scene is one of a wild, natural environment.

**“THE ART IS TO GET  
AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE.”**

**JOHAN PERSSON**





## CHANGING THE STOCK

The interchangeable stock is a popular option in countries such as Sweden where hunters are only allowed to own a certain number of rifles. You want to convert from a luxury rifle to a workhorse? No problem with the Helix: changing the Helix buttstock is easy – the wood or synthetic stock is attached to the system by a single hex-socket screw. The Allen key is inserted into the hex-socket screw via the rubber recoil pad. Mounting the stocks requires a certain amount of feeling: they must be screwed tightly, but without using force.



## THREE MOOSE CALIBRES

Excellent ammunition: RWS UNI. 308 Win., 30-06 Spring., 9.3x62

Although moose are not considered particularly hard to bring down, it is better to choose a larger-sized calibre. You will need about 50-60 rounds of ammunition for a moose hunt – some of which are intended for control shots on arrival.

Swedish hunting law specifies a minimum bullet weight of 10 grams with minimum energy of 2,000 joules at a distance of 100 metres. Also allowed are 9-gram bullets with correspondingly higher energy (at least 2,700 joules at 100 metres). And, most important of all: if the shot is not good, the calibre is of minor importance – if the aim is good, most calibres are appropriate.





**UP AND DOWNHILL:**  
SHOULDER STRAPS 2/3  
HIP STRAP 1/3



**EVEN TERRAIN:**  
SHOULDER STRAPS 1/3  
HIP STRAP 2/3



## STRAPPING

**THE BASIC RULE:** heavy objects should be packed higher up in the backpack and close to the body – the centre of gravity should always be at shoulder height. But exactly how a backpack should be carried depends, for example, on the topography. It is a good idea to change the carrying methods described here every once in a while. On level ground, the rule is: tighten hip straps to bear around 2/3 of the weight. The shoulder straps should be fairly slack. Climbs and descents are a different matter altogether: in this case, hip straps should be slackened and shoulder straps pulled tight. This avoids too much of the load weight being transferred to the thighs and calves – the weight is borne by the shoulders.

◀ 50-litre rucksack capable of transporting a Helix: Tuva Hunting Pack with chair, Silent 50l from Bergans.

## SHORT ZEROING TUTORIAL

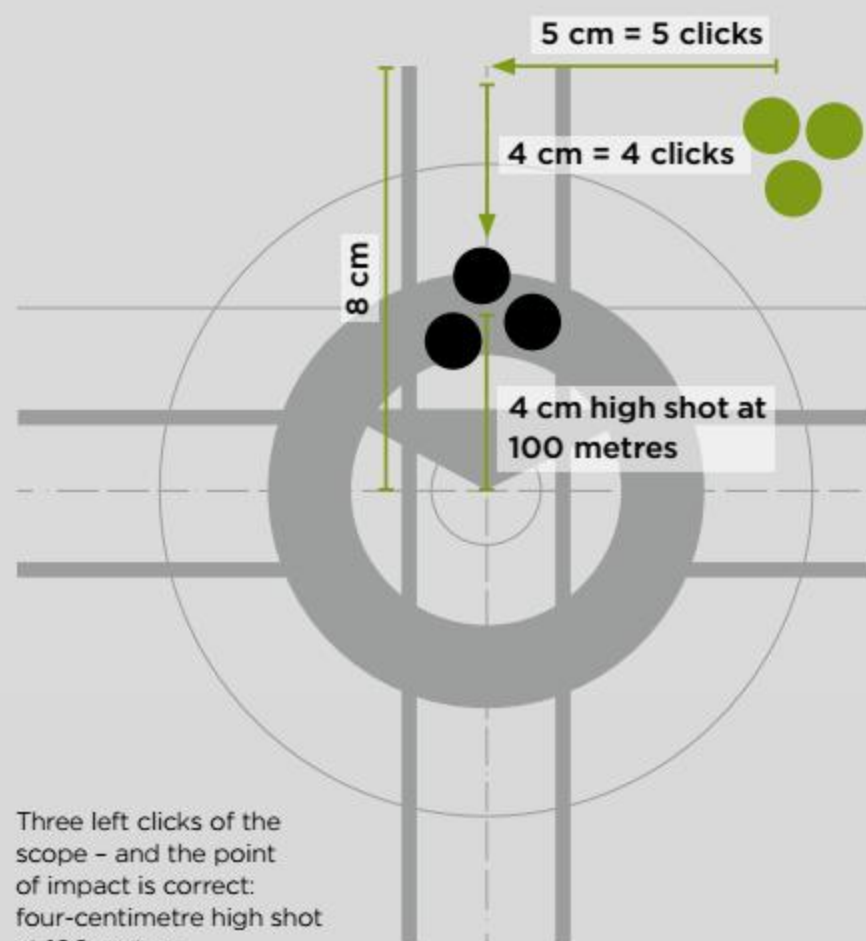
Lots of hunters leave the zeroing to their gunsmiths – this is a mistake. The optics should be adjusted to the hunter's own eye. The only way to do this is to do it yourself. Those who do know how to zero the rifle can check whether it needs readjusting after the transport. On hunting trips, the rule applies: knocks and bumps during air or road transport can alter the point of impact.

### TYPICAL ALIGNMENT DISTANCES

Open and closed sights as well as red dot optics are normally sighted in at a distance of 50 metres. After zeroing, the shots should be exactly on target (mark). For rifles with scopes we recommend to zero the weapon with approx. 4-cm high shot (RZR) at 100 metres – this will still allow you to hit a living target at 150 metres.

### SHOOTING POSITION

Ideally, this is sitting on a chair with the rifle on a supporting table. The fore-end of the rifle (not the barrel!) rests on a sand sack. Hold the rifle steadily but easily against the shoulder and push a second sand sack under the buttstock so that the reticle points toward the target. If you are travelling you can improvise by using a paper target, a rangefinder and a backpack.



Three left clicks of the scope – and the point of impact is correct: four-centimetre high shot at 100 metres.

### ZEROING PROCEDURE

Ensure that you are not touching the barrel or the scope when you shoot. Take three or five shots when the reticle is exactly on target. Once the series of shots has been taken, gauge the position of the hits and adjust the scope reticle. This is done by removing the protecting caps and adjusting the optics. A simple mnemonic: if the shot goes right, turn the windage left "L", if it's too high, turn the elevation in a downward "D" direction. One click of the scope turret is usually equivalent to one centimetre higher or wider at 100 metres. The next three shots should then be on target. If they are not, repeat the entire procedure.

\* valid for the most European optics

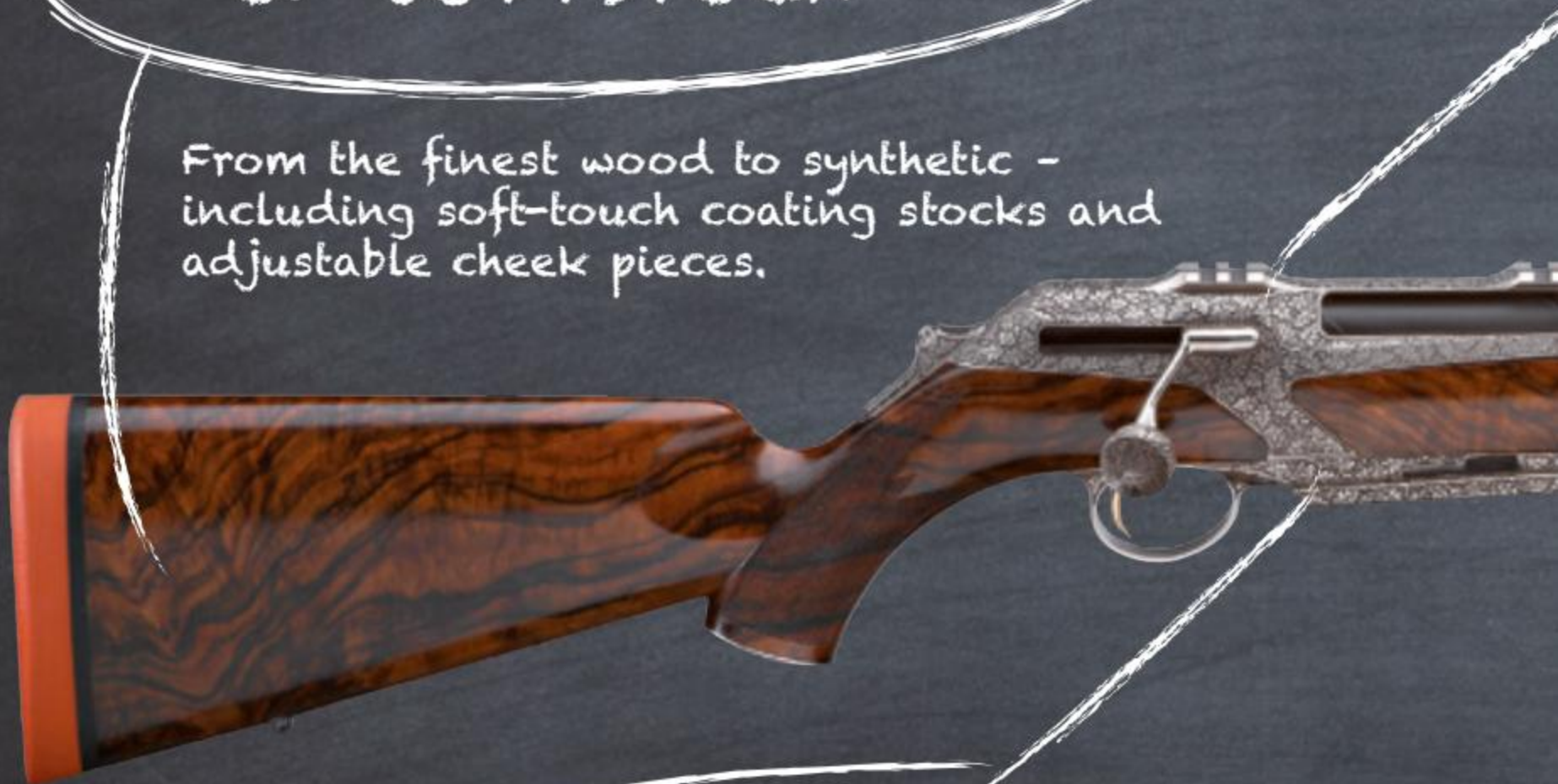


# THEME:

## The personalised Helix

### 56 DIFFERENT TYPES OF BUTTSTOCK

From the finest wood to synthetic - including soft-touch coating stocks and adjustable cheek pieces.



### 14 DIFFERENT MAGAZINES

Ready-for-use: 5 different magazines Min, Std (extra .243 Win., .308 Win., 6.5x55SE + 9.3x62) and Magnum. All 3- and 4-rounds magazines in steel, plus 5-rounds magazines (3 different ones for standard calibre and one for Magnum calibre).





## 327 DIFFERENT BARRELS

## ASSEMBLY

Picatinny rail as a mounting base. Options range from quick mounts to fixed rings...

Always the right barrel and the right calibre: fluted, semiweight, with muzzle thread or as short barrel in 13 different calibres.



## 28 DIFFERENT FORE-ENDS

One universal fore-end for all barrel contours - wood or synthetic. Also with soft-touch coating or bipod adapter.







# BLOOD TRACK

BLOOD TRACKING WITH THE HELIX

HUNTING JOURNALIST LUKASZ DZIERZANOWSKI  
WITH BAVARIAN MOUNTAIN HOUND "DOZENT"



HANNOVER | GERMANY

OPOLE | POLAND

## LUKASZ DZIERZANOWSKI & FRANK-WOLF DAHLEM

### *Blood tracking, a matter of urgency*

Tracking an injured animal is not only a matter of urgency for any hunter, but also an unpleasant and tricky affair, particularly if it is necessary because bad placed shot. Whereas blood tracking used to be a makeshift affair in that the most suitable dog available was brought in to do the work, the introduction in Germany and other countries of qualified blood

tracking teams has since made it far more professional. Blood tracking teams include an experienced hunter and a qualified working gundog. In Germany, the rule is for each district hunters' association to have at least two active blood tracking teams. Difficult blood tracks and tracking strong wild boar also involve an expert who knows the hunting ground.



#### FRANK-WOLF DAHLEM

Forester from Hanover and blood tracker **HUNT:** since he was a child - his father was also a forester **AGE:** 64 **LIVES:** In Germany, Lower Saxony **PREFERRED GAME:** Wild boars and red deers **BLOOD TRACKING GUIDING PRINCIPLE:** Leave the analysis to the blood tracker ...



#### LUKASZ DZIERZANOWSKI

University lecturer, hunting journalist and blood tracker **HUNT:** All over the world and since early youth **AGE:** 40 **LIVES:** In the Polish town of Opole, Silesia **PREFERRED GAME:** Boars and red deers - depends on the hunting season **HUNTING GUIDING PRINCIPLE:** Hunting has to be stunning.

#### CONTACT LUKASZ:

[www.facebook.com/Docent-natropie-388147078011830/?fref=ts](https://www.facebook.com/Docent-natropie-388147078011830/?fref=ts)







Blood tracking in the hunting ground: It is important to know when to call in a professional.

# NO GENERAL RULE

## Every blood tracking is different

Interview: Holger Siegel Photographs: Adrian Grela, Frank-Wolf Dahlem

Blood tracking all over the world – and the right gun for the job: The Polish town of Opole (Silesia) is home of the 40-year old university lecturer, hunt journalist and equipment tester Lukasz Dzierzanowski – with his Bavarian mountain hound Dozent he completes 40 blood tracks a year. Frank-Wolf Dahlem is forester in Hanover and one of Germany's most experienced blood tracker. His Hanoverian bloodhounds go by the names of Brix and Ali and the team respond to between 200 and 250 blood tracking a year. In action, both hunters use the Helix Tracker.

### HUNTERS ARE OFTEN EMBARRASSED ABOUT HAVING TO CALL IN A TRACKING TEAM – WHAT CAN BE DONE TO MAKE YOUR WORK EASIER?

**Frank-Wolf:** I take a pragmatic approach. I ask them please not to call between 10 pm and 6 am, after all, it's a blood tracking and not a night trekking. And besides, a tracking team also needs to sleep. We will be there by first light, it makes sense then.

**Lukasz:** We do exactly the same. It is far too dangerous at night. A safe shot is not possible and no-one wants to meet a wounded wild boar in the dark.

### IF THE GAME IS NOT LYING IN THE FIELD OF VISION, EVERY HUNTER AUTOMATICALLY GOES TO WHERE IT WAS SHOT. DO YOU FIND THAT'S OKAY?

**Frank-Wolf:** The hunter should know the place where the game

was hit and how it reacted after the shot. In principle, there is nothing wrong with 'taking a look', provided the area is not trampled down.

**Lukasz:** It is a decision that has to be made on a case by case basis. Point of impact, type of hair, reaction of the game and how it left the area – these factors influence the decision whether and

how an animal should be tracked.

**Frank-Wolf:** I'd just like to add something: I prefer to interpret the reaction of the game by myself, without preconceived ideas. Generally speaking, this means the blood tracker has more experience. It can be compared to going to the doctor: you should describe the symptoms but leave the diagnosis to the doctor.

### IS THERE A GENERAL RULE FOR BLOOD TRACKING?

**Frank-Wolf:** I wouldn't say a general rule. I would recommend calling in the tracking team if a deer or boar is not lying and there is no perceptible blood track. Irrespective of what was found at the place the animal was shot. I once

tracked a stag that kept going for miles after a clear shot to the lung. It's a different matter altogether with a less gun-hard deer, even more so if you have a more or less decent gundog to search the area. But you don't usually get very far without a dog's nose.

### WHAT IS BLOOD TRACKING PROCEDURE?

**Frank-Wolf:** Once the tracking team has arrived, it begins ...







## HELIX TRACKER

- 1 HELIX TRACKER:**  
Blood tracker rifle with take-down function, hand-cocking and synthetic stock. Short semi-weight barrel and driven hunt sights.
- 2 ORANGE CAMO-STOCK:**  
Straight stock with rubber butt plate – ideal transfer of recoil forces to the shoulder. Prevents muzzle jump.
- 3 UNIVERSAL FORE-END**  
Fits all barrels and contours. With integrated hand grip element and locking button.
- 4 BOLT HANDLE**  
with ball for fastest linear action.
- 5 GPS NAVIGATION:**  
Essential for locating the unstrapped dog.
- 6 10 METER BLOOD TRACK LEASH**  
in orange.
- 7 TRACKER BIATHLON SLING:**  
Double sling so the Helix can be safely carried like a backpack. Can be attached to the front of the barrel and the stock.
- 8 BOAR SPEAR:**  
To finish a wounded game off. (Prohibited in Poland)





... where the animal was hit. It is decided who has to give the coup de grâce : always the blood tracker, never the local attendant. There have been some unpleasant incidences in the past, for example, when one of the hunters pulled a revolver out of the bag, or someone suddenly walked in front of the barrels' muzzle.

Lukasz: Hunters in Poland don't have handguns. Personally, I also find it too much hassle. GPS, rifle, leash, knife, dog – and then a handgun that you have to keep practicing. The short rifle is safer and the Helix TRACKER can easily be carried like a backpack thanks to the double sling.

Frank-Wolf: I take a similar view. You also have to be able to use your rifle proficiently. For safety reasons alone the coup de grâce must be the prerogative of the blood tracker – everyone else is unarmed. I carry my short Helix TRACKER and a long hunting knife.

#### **WHAT IS YOUR OPINION OF THE HELIX AS A TRACKING RIFLE?**

Frank-Wolf: I was sceptical at first because of a small detail. The bolt handle is in this guide rail and it is open. We tramp through thick underbrush with the rifle and I found it hard to imagine that needles and twigs could drop into it and not interfere with the function of the rifle.

#### **AND? STILL SCEPTICAL?**

Frank-Wolf: Surprisingly not. Anything that falls into it, also falls out again, or at least does not interfere with the function. It is a really rugged rifle, one you can rely on. I use an Aimpoint micro sight – it goes well with the rapid, short Helix Tracker. I found the plastic stock was too light for the 9.3 x 62 cartridge so I bought myself a less sensitive laminated stock, this has more weight and dampens recoil.





# „WE NEED THE SYMPTOMS. NOT A DIAGNOSIS.“

FRANK-WOLF DAHLEM

Apart from that, I prefer to use wood and also find a laminated stock aesthetically more pleasing.

Lukasz: I really liked the rifle during the tests. I have been carrying the same calibre rifle as my colleague for over a year now, also with an Aimpoint, and have had no problems with it. I also use the Tracker on driven hunts, but then usually with a scope. This is the strongest argument in my opinion as a blood tracker. The loaded gun can be carried safely thanks to the hand-cocking system. Or, put it in another way, I sold my double rifle – the Helix is simply more practical.

**WITHOUT WISHING TO FLATTER, IT'S A TOUGH JOB, BUT YOU ARE DOING IT ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS. WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REWARD FOR TURNING OUT?**

Lukasz: Oh, not everything is about money. There really is a lot of work, sweat and effort involved. You are sometimes out for three, four hours at a time, sometimes to no avail. You know, one is not always rewarded with success.

Frank-Wolf: In Lower Saxony we travel up to 80 kilometres, that costs petrol. We walk for miles – I sometimes get through two pairs of Wellington boots a year. And, even though the dogs and I really enjoy tracking, every team is glad of a little pin money – even though we find it just as hard to name a price for our services as do our clients.

## **ARE WE TALKING ABOUT 50 OR 500 EURO?**

Lukasz: It's a question of etiquette. At home in Poland the tendency is toward 50 euro.

Frank-Wolf (laughs): Exactly. That covers costs and is a small sign of recognition. ■



# TRACKING: NOTHING IS BETTER THAN A DOG'S NOSE

You learned it at hunting school and have a wealth of practical experience, but often a tip can also revive some forgotten knowledge:

1. Always note the location where you took the shot and mark where the game stood when the shot was fired - but don't tread on important spoor when doing so.

2. Clearly mark the signs that the animal left behind at the place it was shot and its escape direction: Bones, hair, imprints and possibly also bullet impact.

3. If the signs present at the place where the game was shot point to a fatal hit (lung or heart area), then tracking should be started quickly.



4. If you are able to recognise an obvious blood trail, follow it for no more than 150 metres without trampling on it.

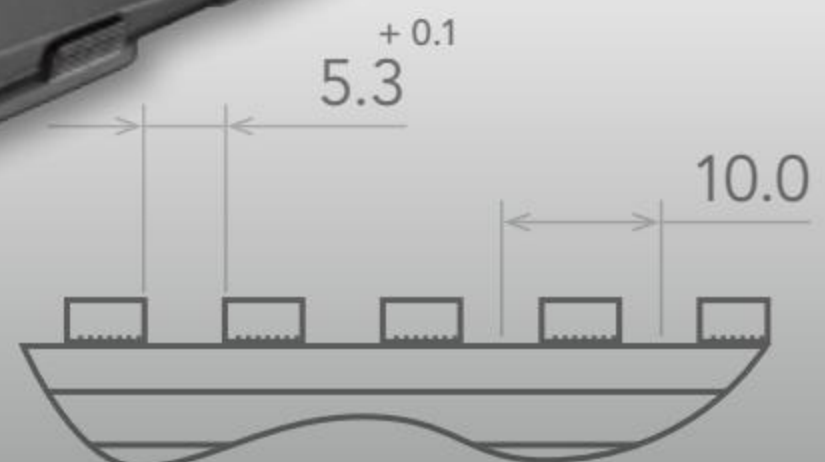
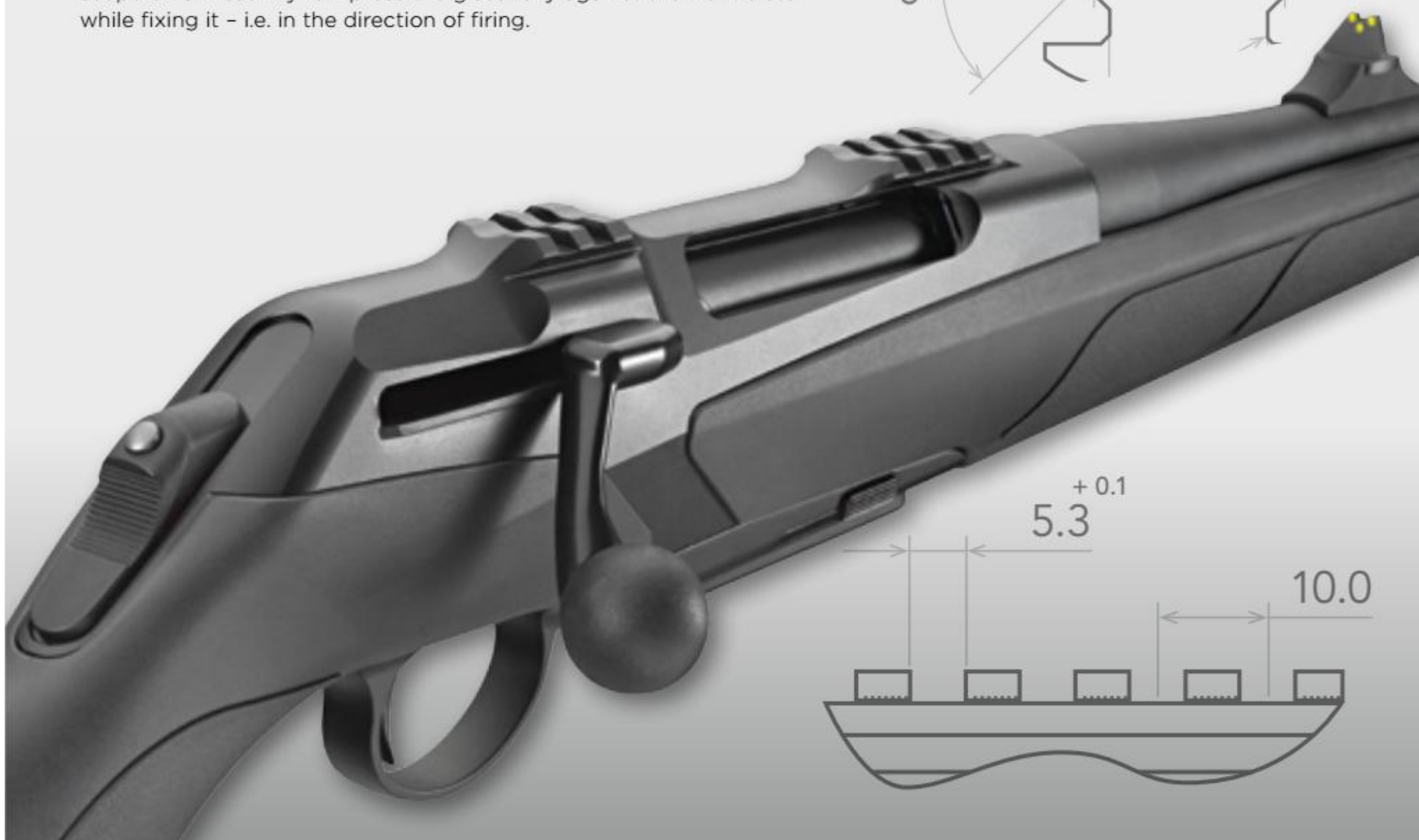
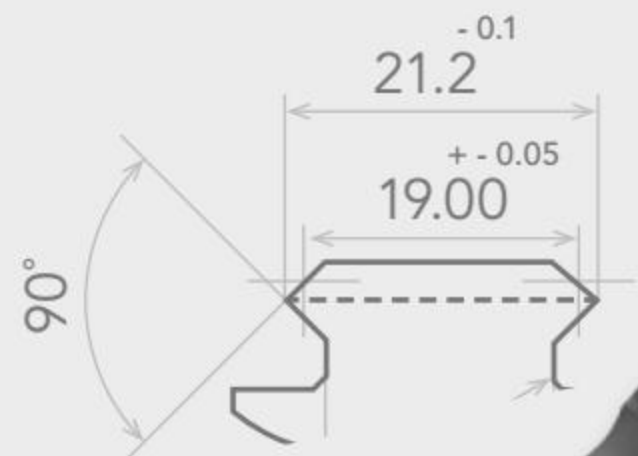
5. If a non-fatal injury is to be assumed, a waiting time of several hours is often advisable - in this time the shot game can metabolise adrenaline and find a place to settle due to its injury.

6. Flushing out the game that has been wounded by the shot may lead to complicated tracking.

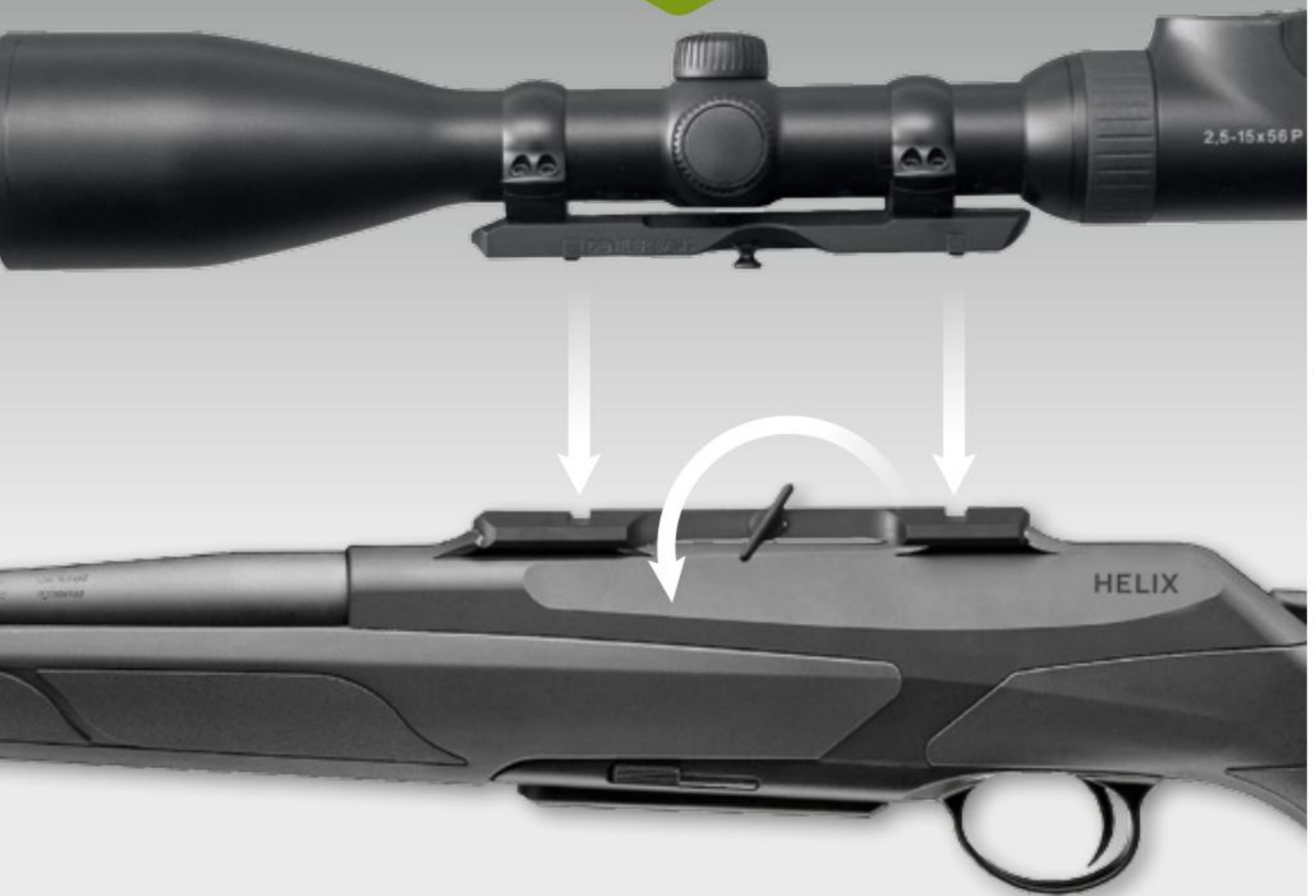
7. Don't hesitate to call a tracking team, especially if you are hunting without a dog. Always remember that a dog can smell what you can't see. A trained dog nose uses 220 million olfactory cells, whereas a human only has five million such cells.

## THE PICATINNY RAIL

On the Helix, the mounting base for the scope is a Picatinny rail. The ridges and slots are milled from the full material on the action assembly, thus guaranteeing a reliable and shot-proof connection. This universal mounting base enables exactly repeatable mounting of the scope. Slots absorb the recoil forces. They also permit simple mounting of the scope at various intervals - this is important if different optics are used on one rifle. Important when placing the scope on a Picatinny rail: press the glass fully against the front slots while fixing it - i.e. in the direction of firing.







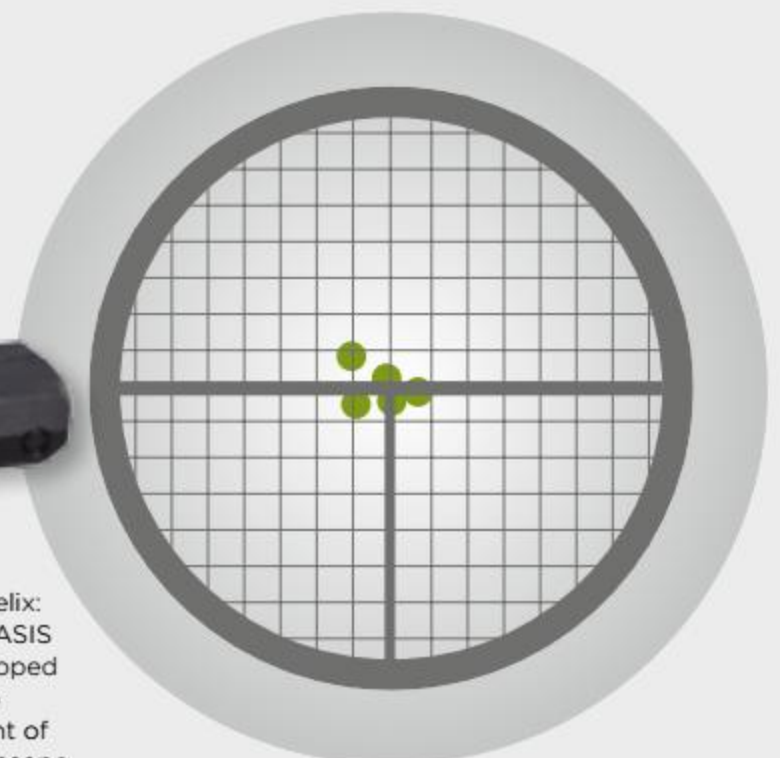
# HITTING FROM THE BASIS

A new mounting basis by Dentler is now available for the Helix – Dentler BASIS VARIO. The special feature of this mounting basis is, that its adjustability. With this solution, adjusting is not done on the scope any more, but on the special screws **1** on the basis. The zeroed in system opens fascinating new perspectives: a single, expensive scope can be used on all rifles, without zeroing them in every time the scope is changed. A quick scope change is possible via the toggle screw **2** – and already the scope is back in the “saved” position of the mounting

basis. Instead of buying multiple scopes, the hunter just needs a couple of VARIO mounting bases. Ordering addresses can be found on [dentler-jagdwaaffen.de](http://dentler-jagdwaaffen.de)



New for the Helix:  
The Dentler BASIS  
VARIO is equipped  
with screws to  
adjust the point of  
impact of the scope.







# AS FAR AS YOU CAN GO

NEW ZEALAND: HUNTING ON THE OTHER  
SIDE OF THE WORLD



CANTERBURY | NEW ZEALAND





## PHILIPPE JAEGER

*Hunting journalist*

You can't fly any further from Western Europe. On the other side of the world our reporter sets out to hunt chamois. It was cold, demanding and in every sense a challenge, which was indeed rewarded. Frenchman Philippe Jaeger reports from the land of the kiwis.

CANTERBURY | NEW ZEALAND



### PHILIPPE JAEGER

Philippe Jaeger has worked as a self-employed translator and free-lance hunting journalist for 22 years. **AGE:** 48 **LIVES:** In Alsace, France. **PREFERRED GAME:** Anything that runs and flies, provided that it is difficult to hunt. **GUIDING HUNTING PRINCIPLE:** Respect for nature.

VIDEO WITH PHILIPPE JAEGER:  
<https://youtu.be/sKLG3ZHTmEI>



Text: Philippe Jaeger Photographs: Per Agerlund Jacobsen, Philippe Jaeger, Thomas Lange

Situated on the other side of the globe and surrounded by the waters of the South Pacific, New Zealand is an Eldorado for mountain hunting.

It is mid-May, therefore it is mid-Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere. In Hokitika on New Zealand's South Island we are testfiring our rifles after the journey, which took more than 30 hours. On the second day, we are travelling 100 kilometres along the coast to a landing pad for the helicopter. In order to hunt in the New

Zealand Alps, a helicopter is practically essential. The primeval forest between the coast and the mountains has to be crossed in this way. We are flying with mixed feelings because hunt junkies use such helicopters to locate their trophies and get dropped off for a quick shot. That is not our way of hunting.

9 o'clock sharp, the helicopter appears almost out of thin air and lands in front of us. We quickly load our equipment and begin the great adventure. ...



... The machine quickly gains height. To the right are the blue waters of the Tasmanian Sea, to the left the snow-covered peaks of Mount Cook National Park and below us is the forest canopy of a primeval forest, where you expect dinosaurs to appear at any moment. After the 20-minute flight, we land on a large circular plateau. We hardly have time to unload our equipment before the helicopter is flying away to collect another team of hunters. It will come back in three days. Until then an emergency call transmitter via satellite is the only means of communication with civilisation. It takes just under an hour to set up a tent camp.

It is late afternoon and the hunting may begin. The spotting scope is positioned on a tripod. The newcomer's eye sees a mixture of tall plants, a field of stone and above all a type of undergrowth,

the so-called "Monkie Scrup", the name given by the local hunters to this vegetation. Per Agerlund Jacobsen, a young New Zealander of Danish descent, knows this type of habitat. He is my guide. With the aid of a map and a compass, we approach the valley where many chamois have been spotted.

After leaving the camp, we cross a vast zone with high grass, which is wet from the night's rain. We quickly realise that the hunt is going to be a strenuous affair. Every couple of metres our feet get caught in roots and clusters of plants, making it even more difficult. Paradise is starting to look like Hell. Already after 20 minutes of hard work, we are covered in mud and sweat. Our hands are bloody from desperate searching for holds in the hostile vegetation. And to add insult to injury, clouds gather in the valley and reduce visibility to 50 metres ...

**„ENDLESS EXPANSES.“**

**PHILIPPE JAEGER**

**CANTERBURY | NEW ZEALAND**





Reaching the heights of hunting dreams

We watch a chamois kid on a rock slope. While we get ourselves into position, it disappears behind a rock face and a splendid buck takes its place. The range finder shows 183 m and the Helix rests in position on the 4 stable stick stalking stick. Our first New Zealand chamois was shot by the .270 Win. calibre RWS EVO GREEN with a 6.2 g bullet. The rifle showed a remarkable performance here. One hour later, we have crossed a gorge with vertical sides and a clear, ice-cold mountain stream, and have then scaled a scree to finally find the buck, which had succumbed in a ravine. He is splendid and old with two powerful glands that can be seen at the bottom of his horns. The rut starts and we have to go back in order to reach our camp in daylight.

In the night, the temperature drops to -7 °C and it is only thanks to the gas camping stove in the tent that we aren't miserably cold. Even Andy, the Jack Russell terrier who never leaves Per's side, refuses to get out of the sleeping bag. Outside everything is covered with frost, including the rifles and binoculars that no longer fitted in the tent for lack of space. After a couple cups of tea and two bowls of porridge, we set off again. We plan to climb the ridge of the basin. Around midday, we reach the crest and enjoy an unrestricted 360° panorama that lets the efforts of the climb diminish into insignificance. We see a group of animals two kilometres away and we follow the crest of the mountain to catch them up. The ancestors of the chamois were introduced from Austria in 1907. Today, these animals are found in nearly all regions of the New Zealand Alps.

Suddenly, a distinctive hissing stops our conversation. A chamois has discovered us and is warning the others who are speeding

towards the valley bottom and seeking protection next to a rock face. It would be irresponsible to shoot. We watch - and then! Another female appears from behind a large rock. She is alone. There are 164 m between us. We shoot our second New Zealand chamois.

We spend the second day seeing to the game and tending our wounds. Early in the morning of the final day, we pack up our



camping equipment. A large buck appears on a rock overhang about two kilometres away. We want to give it a try. Three hours later, the terrain and the vegetation have worn us out again. The buck dominates its territory with an overwhelming energy. He is 250 m away, but he is only vaguely perceptible in the vegetation. In a hollow of the valley, we can get no further because a cracking branch betrays us and the buck jumps away. At the end of a long minute, the animal reaches a ridge that opens up to an opportunity to shoot at a distance of 320 metres. A precise shot with a rested rifle. The TAR-GT trigger of the Helix is in its element and does its job: Target hit! The buck vanishes over the other side of the ridge. We start to look for him together, but ultimately we have to separate. Two

hours later, I see Per and Andy again in the binoculars. Per is holding the head of the large buck in his hand. The animal, which was about 16 years old, had suffered from chamois blindness.

The helicopter collects us just before a storm comes in, which can suddenly happen on the New Zealand coast. It is time for us to return to Christchurch, to the stormy Eastern side of the New Zealand Alps where we are hoping for a rendezvous with another mountain ungulate, the tahr from the Himalayas. ■



## BALLISTICS IN THE MOUNTAINS

The precision shot is a combination of skill and the appropriate equipment (i. e.: rifle, optics, ammunition and rangefinder), as well as environmental factors. External ballistics is determined by **temperature, wind, firing angle, barometric pressure and film**.

If the **temperature** drops or increases, the point of impact changes too. The rule of thumb: ten degrees Celsius more alters the point of impact by up to three centimetres in height. Depending on its strength and direction, **wind** also has a significant effect on the shot. Even a mild breeze can alter the flight path of a 200-metre shot by 10 cm. Higher **humidity** causes higher shots. To avoid low shots in heavy rain it's even advisable to use a heavier bullet.

In the mountains there are a number of additional factors affecting the point of impact, e.g. **sea level and firing angle**. Air resistance decreases with every 100 metres in altitude. Important: this changes the line of firing by up to half a centimetre. A rifle that was sighted-in at a lower altitude will therefore shoot high. The gravitational effect on the bullet's flight path is less with an **angled shot**. It stays straighter. Thus, if the direction of firing is not horizontal, there will be less force and the shot will go high, both uphill and downhill. This is the origin of the saying **Bergauf und bergrunter – halt immer drunter (uphill and downhill – always aim low)**.



For every 10° warmer – approx. 2-3-cm high shot at 100 metres.



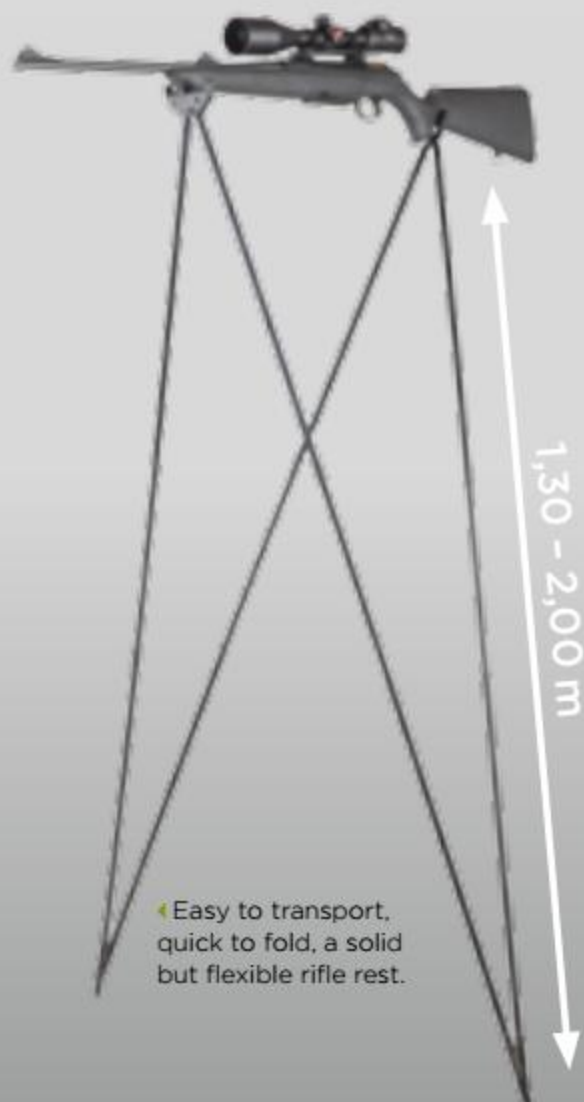
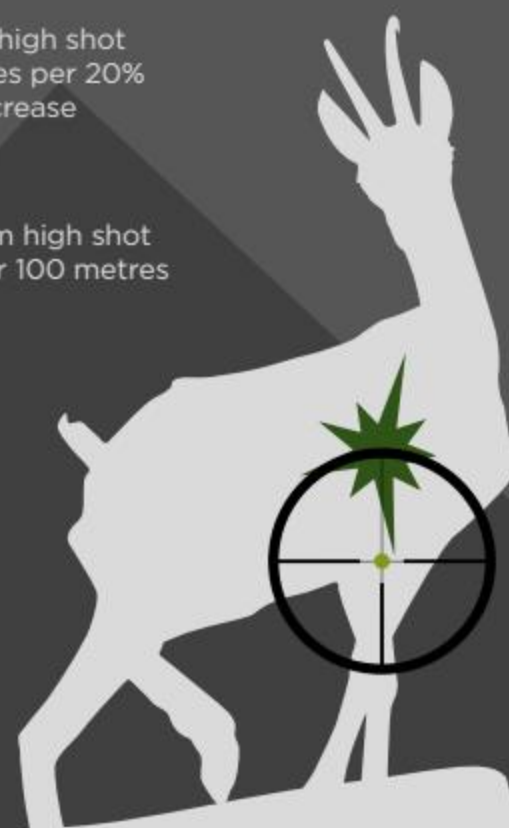
Light breeze (5 km/h): deflection approx. 10 cm at 200 metres in the direction of the wind



Up to 3-cm high shot at 100 metres per 20% humidity increase



Up to 0.5-cm high shot at 100 m per 100 metres in altitude



Easy to transport, quick to fold, a solid but flexible rifle rest.

## STABLE STICKS

Stalking is a challenging way of hunting. In addition to the required knowledge about game, there is also the challenge of the silent stalking and shooting from a position that cannot be planned ahead. For the latter, at least, there is a solution: it is called 4 stable stick.

The ideal shooting stick for the travel-friendly Helix is made of ultra-light fiberglass material, weighs less than half a kilo, quickly collapses into a less than 65-centrimeter package and is a stanch silent stalking companion. Rapidly assembled, it provides an impressively stable support for a perfect shooting position. As solid as the construction is, the rifle can easily be moved vertically and horizontally, as well as throughout the rest to have a perfect aiming without wobbling or swaying. It allows long-distance shots where there is no natural support.

MORE INFORMATION AT:  
[www.4stablestick.fr](http://www.4stablestick.fr)





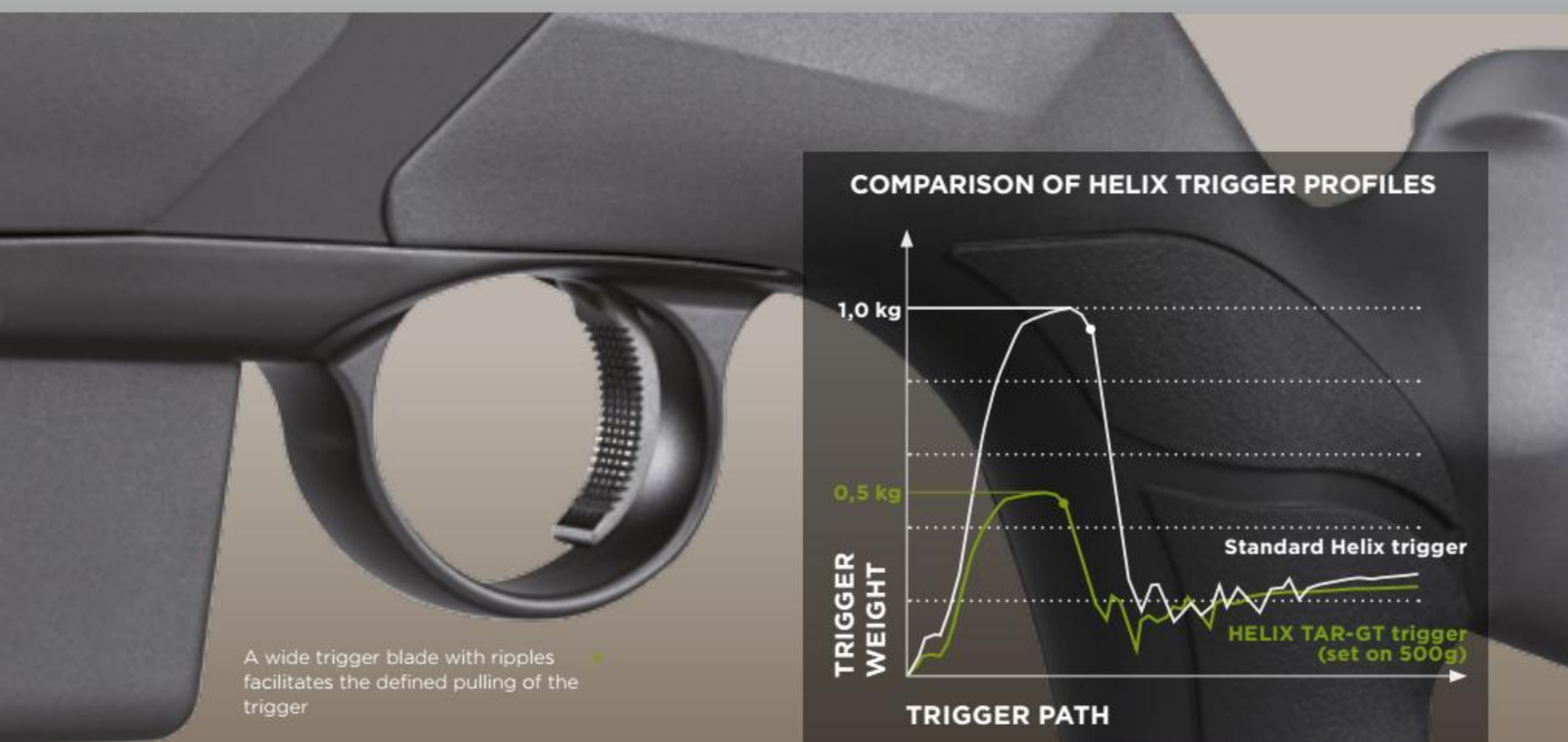


## FAR MORE THAN RANGE FINDING

Observe, measure the distance, generate ballistic data: with high-tech binoculars you can do a lot more than merely watch game. With it, and the aid of the temperature, barometric pressure and angle parameters, a ballistic calculator can determine point-of-aim correction or the exact number of clicks required. The Leica Geovid HD-B binoculars also integrate a slot to take a micro-SD card. The device is therefore able to import the ballistic data of the ammunition. The result is the perfect union of hunter and rifle – for maximum accuracy and safety in compliance with hunting principles.

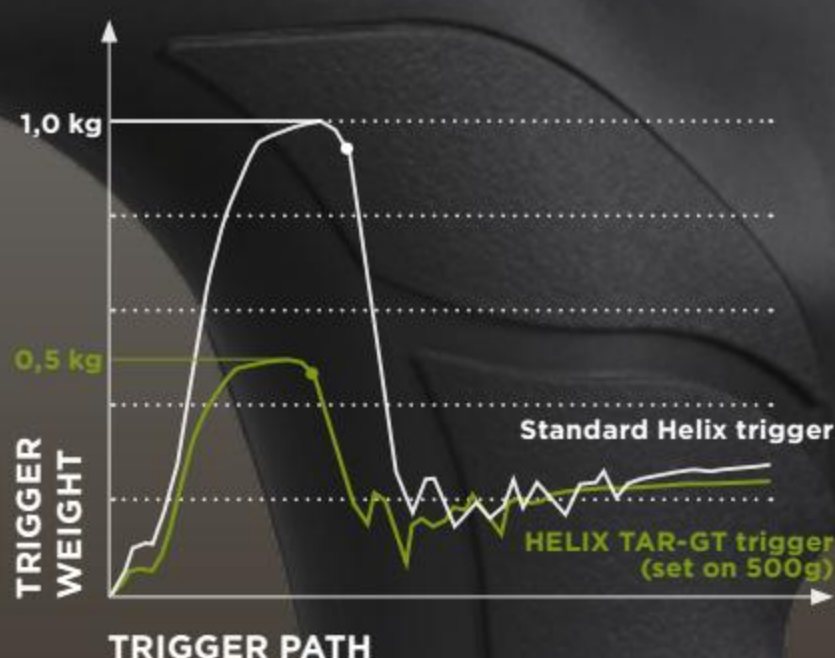


- Far more than mere binoculars – rather a complete ballistic system: the Geovid HD-B series by Leica.



A wide trigger blade with ripples facilitates the defined pulling of the trigger

### COMPARISON OF HELIX TRIGGER PROFILES



## PIMPED HELIX : THE TAR-GT TRIGGER

When a gun is perfect, trigger tuning is the cherry on the cake. Now a specially overhauled TAR-GT trigger is available for all Helix models. This super crisp model has refined trigger geometry and a special surface treatment that add to the perfection of the much praised Helix trigger. Enthusiasts for the TAR-GT trigger are mountain hunters, as well as precision and sports shooters, i.e. for

anywhere where long range shooting and high-precision is required. The trigger can be smoothly adjusted in the wide range between 500 and 1500 grams. A wider trigger blade with ripples creates a larger contact area with more grip and in doing so facilitates the defined pulling of the trigger. The trigger can be individually adjusted by using a screw on the trigger guard.



# THEME: Suhl's formula for success



The old gunmaking town of Suhl is one of the oldest industrial and crafting centres of guns production in the world. Many of the principles of the older and younger Suhl masters were brought together in the Helix from Suhl. These are the best reasons for hunters to use a Helix: cold-forged barrels from Suhl guarantee the best accuracy and high durability. The noiseless manual cocking system is the most reliable safety function in hunting rifles. The patented Helix breech features a steel-on-steel locking mechanism and provides optimised protection for the shooter – even when using large rounds. The patented hammer system delivers maximum ignition energy for a safe shot. The Helix Safebolt prevents ignition if the breech is not fully closed. The highly stable duralumin receiver is closed at the rear – providing more protection for the shooter. The straight stock ensures an optimised transfer of recoil forces to the shoulder and minimises muzzle flip. The magazine is removable and easy to change. The direct trigger is highly responsive. To list a few of the many principles...

Helix Speedster, 2018 (left)



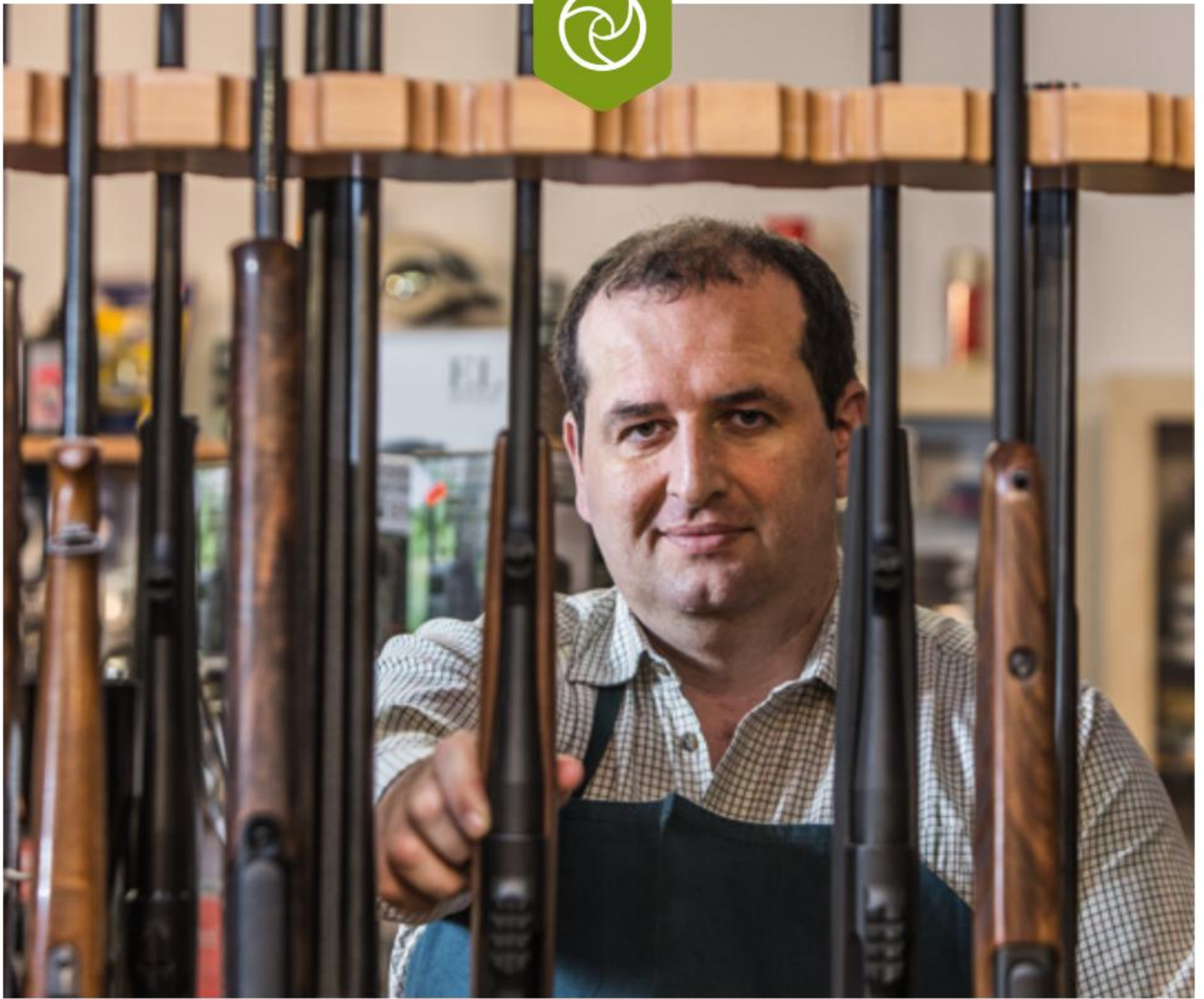


500 years of experience  
+ innovative ideas



Merkel "Taube" over-and-under combination gun from the year 1927 (right)





# TAKING MEASURE

## Markus Leibinger customize the Helix

Text: Holger Siegel Photograph: Arnulf Hettrich

**Markus Leibinger knows what he is talking about. The hunting parcours shooter, gunsmith and master precision engineer has been a member of the German national shooting team for 22 years, his achievements include four German championships. There is not much the 38-year old from the German state of Baden Wurttemberg does not know about guns – he specialises in sophisticated hunting equipment and has a shop in Eigeltingen, not far from Lake Constance. But the shooting ace is now also creating fresh impetus with rifles – not least, because the new Helix plays into his hand.**

„Shotgun shooting – that is driven hunt par excellence“ said Leibinger about his favourite discipline. Join him at the Dornsberg hunting parcours for a taste of fast and safe

shooting. „It is undeniable that a perfect custom stock is the key to success.“ Leibinger gives a demonstration: a well-practiced sequence of movements, quick aiming and accurate shooting.

Most rifle shooters are still far from comprehending that the key to accurate shooting is the stock. „The fast and safe aiming is the decisive factor at any driven hunt. But we are still a long way from custom rifle stocks,“ said Markus Leibinger. That was the case before the advent of the Helix. The revolutionary linear bolt-action with bolt transmission also has an important side effect: Everything takes place within a closed system housing, there is no bolt moving towards the shooter's eye. The strong safety factor is also an argument for the custom





For Markus Leibinger, the optical axis of the scope is the measure of all things. The fine stock must ensure perfect shooting position.



**CONTACT GUNS LEIBINGER:**  
[www.waffen-leibinger.eu](http://www.waffen-leibinger.eu)

stock, since, with the Helix, the stock maker has no bolt to contend with. And, Leibinger continued, „The custom stock looks really good on the Helix.“

The typical rifle stock on a lot of current hunting rifles appears to originate from a time when open sights were still in fashion. Often neglected is the fact that a scope makes it higher, meaning the comb requires less lowering. Leibinger specialises in adjusting wood and steel to fit the Helix to the man, and increasingly often, to the woman. His international clients trust him – the typical Helix package is, plastic stock as basis for the tough operations, custom-made walnut stock for the driven-hunt – plus

usually one or two further calibre options in the form of spare barrels, and a second scope. „The system’s universality is impressive. The client can easily configure the Helix for the next hunting project with just a few simple tool-free actions.“ ■



Custom made - ex factory: Merkel has its own stock makers. With its closed system housing, the Helix is destined for the custom stock.





## OWEN BEARDSMORE

### *Professional Hunter*

This small Asiatic deer from South East China & Taiwan has spread rapidly across England since its escape from private collections over 130 years ago. It has no closed season in UK as it has an irregular breeding pattern, reaching sexual maturity at 7 months old and producing a single fawn every 7 months after this. It could already be the most numerous of the six resident deer species. This spaniel size beast is a territorial creature of dense undergrowth and is aggressive to other mature bucks and will fight using its sharp canine teeth. A mature male can weigh up to 18kg.



OXFORD



### OWEN BEARDSMORE

**AGE:** 53 **LIVES:** Staffordshire, England. He has hunted since childhood, helping a gamekeeper rearing game birds he started off shooting foxes and progressed onto deer. After a successful career in the private sector, he returned to his real passion for hunting and created Cervus-UK, his company. Providing quality hunts for deer & gamebird species of Europe, the Muntjac is one of his specialities, which he guides personally.

OWEN BEARDSMORE ONLINE:  
<https://www.cervus-uk.co.uk/>





# THE SILENCED SHOT

## Hunting for the British Muntjac

Text: Marc Millenet Photograph: Martin Osborne

During the 1880's several Reeves Muntjac escaped from Woburn Abbey in the Midlands of England and adjusted to the British weather where they survived and thrived. Feeding at a low level, this beast of only 45-65cm in height has had an adverse effect on the ground flora of the native woodlands. Hunter and outfitter Owen thinks that this curious beast is a challenging hunt as it never stands still, always patrolling its territory, seldom leaving thick cover until last light.

Owen Beardsmore (53) has been a hunter since childhood and a professional hunter/guide for the past 15 years. At the age of 40 after a successful career in the communications industry, he returned to the woods he loves so much, to guide clients from all over the world for all resident UK deer species. In many ways the 'Brits' are ahead of other European hunters having embraced, for over a decade, the use of sound moderator's as a hunting aid. Owen is a supporter of the 'silencer' for the future hunting generations as he himself has a souvenir of tinnitus from un-moderated days of shooting of the last century.

Owen's choice of weapon is the RX Helix in .308W calibre with a synthetic Alpinist stock. The 510mm standard barrel is muzzle threaded for his choice of sound moderator. He explains "people that shoot with a silencer are more relaxed when taking a shot due to the reduced recoil and muzzle blast, the quarry cannot always detect the direction of the shot and this enables, on occasions, other beasts to be selected and dispatched." He favours this caliber as the round is more forgiving of deflection when shooting into the light foliage habitat of the Muntjac. In general these deer are shot between 30-150m in distance, which is respectable given the small size of the target and the .308W had a great knockdown quality.

This strange 'alien invader' with its fanged teeth benefits from being hunted with the muffled blast from the sound moderator. As it moves around its territory a beast can be shot and



the rest of the community settle down quickly, for a further one to be dispatched within a short time making the hunting result more effective. In many areas the Muntjac lives adjacent to man in urban forests and the reduced noise from the shot is appreciated by the local residents at first & last light.

The Muntjac is also known as the 'barking deer' as it announces its presents to others during its feed periods from within its leafy home. For the past two years the RX Helix has been Owen's workhorse and constant companion whilst on his hunting forays. "This rifle is modern, reliable & intuitive" and he waxes lyrical about the quick reloading on driven hunts and when he needs to cull large numbers from a group of deer at home. "I love its robustness and it has stood the challenge of abuse and misuse by my clients, which is testament to manufacturer's build quality". Owen likes the way that the Helix can, very quickly, be customized to suit all hunting scenarios. "I can literally change my stock and barrel in the same time it takes the kettle to boil for my cup of afternoon tea!" ■







## HELIX SUPPRESSOR

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To develop a silencer was not enough for Merkel. The combination of a short, special suppressor barrel and an over-barrel-silencer is efficient. This easy-to-handle combination is available as the Helix Suppressor gun - but also as an upgrade of a conventional rifle.



## KONSTRUKTIVER SCHALLSCHUTZ

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A new and unique suppressor concept: For the Helix, Merkel offers a specially developed suppressor barrel and attuned to this barrel, a novel over-barrel-suppressor. The idea behind that is, that this suppressor, while offering good noise dampening, does not elongate the gun any more than a Helix with a standard barrel.

The Helix suppressor barrel is only 450 mm long and can be inserted without the use of any tools - with the screwed on suppressor, the linear bolt-action rifle only measures 1100 mm in total. The 19 millimetres thick semi-weight barrel possesses a special, durable coating and a metric 15x1 muzzle thread. The short, thick and vibration resistant suppressor barrel provides a minimal change in accuracy while shooting with and without the suppressor.

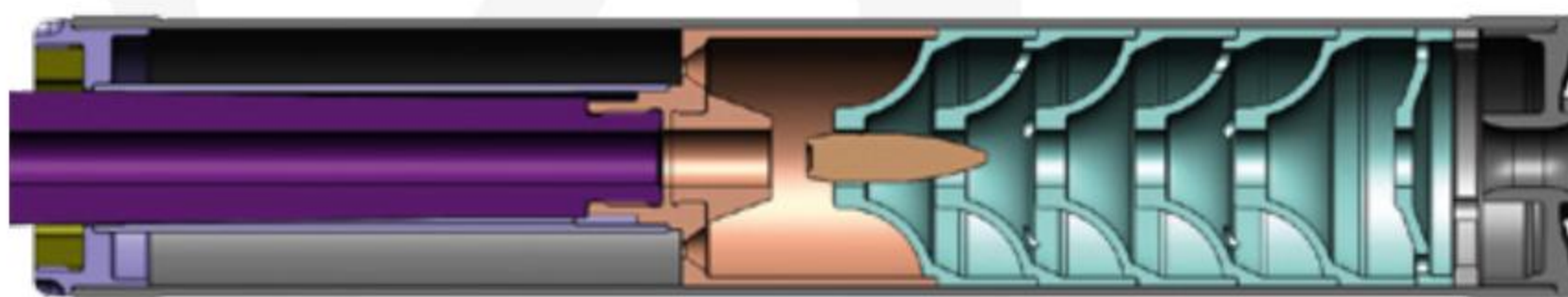
The most eye-catching feature of the suppressor barrel and over-barrel-suppressor combination is, that the 225 mm long suppressor only lengthens the gun by 140 mm. Using this design, the suppressor collars

backwards over the muzzle. Especially while stalking or hunting from closed up high stands this advantage of short length will find its followers.

The suppressor is made of aluminium. The Merkel suppressor will be available in three calibre groups (5,5-6,5mm; 7,0-8,2mm and 8,5-9,3 mm). The sound reduction is at least 20 dB - depending on calibre, bullet type and barrel length. A reduction like this already decisively protects the human hearing, as a reduction of 10 dB feels only half as loud as normal. Also the weight convinces: The consequent light-weight construction only adds about 390 grams to the guns standard calibre version.

Aside of the muzzle blast, the suppressor also dampens the muzzle flash and reduces recoil - thereby making it more pleasant to shoot, by taking away the disturbance of the muzzle flash and the flinching because of the hard recoil. The biggest advantage however, the suppressor protects the hearing of the hunter, the dog - and third parties. Merkel offers the Helix Suppressor as a complete package, but also single Suppressor barrels and suppressors.





Sectional cut through the suppressor – it has been developed together with the specialists of B&T from Switzerland



The suppressor of the Helix reduces recoil also with larger calibres.



Together the features of the suppressor act enhancing towards accuracy.



Important in the dark: Next to the blast, the suppressor also dampens the muzzle flash.



Optimised suppressing performance by combining the suppressor barrel and the over-barrel suppressor.





## HELIX SPEEDSTER

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Our fastest: The Helix Speedster exclusively has the new SpeedStock, which as a thumbhole stock not only optimises the precision shot, but also fast shooting on a driven hunt. Exclusive is also the Memory CheekPiece, which automatically adjusts the cheek piece to the previously set position.



## HELIX ALPINIST

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Designed for accurate and long-range shots: the Helix Alpinist doesn't just cut a fine figure in mountain hunting. The optional bipod (adapter as standard) acts as a stable rest in all terrains. And because it is the stock: the smooth adjustable cheek piece allows for a quick, safe and always reproducible shooting position – a functional treat for the accurate shot and the fast driven hunt.



## HELIX ALPINIST GREEN

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The precision rifle Alpinist Green is equipped with a synthetic stock in classic green and integrates the advantages of the Alpinist: an optional bipod for a stable rest in any terrain (adapter is standard) and the freely adjustable cheek piece with knurled screws – for a quick and reproducible aim. Ideal for precise and far shots. Not least because of the highly praised crisp trigger of the Helix.





## HELIX EXPLORER

The EXPLORER is the Helix with the synthetic stock – for use in tough everyday hunting conditions. The fibreglass-reinforced composite stock material is in a dark shade of anthracite and has a soft-grip surface. The soft, low-noise material ensures a firm grip even at low temperatures. At the same time, it also has a system-compatible design: the wooden and synthetic stocks are interchangeable. Whether standard barrel or semi-weight barrels – the fore-end of the Explorer always fits while allowing the barrel to float free.



## HELIX SUPPRESSOR

Our most silent: The Helix Suppressor has a 15x1 muzzle thread with a cap which allows for mounting of the Merkel suppressor. The over-barrel suppressor (140mm barrel protrusion) helps human and dog ears by reducing the peak sound pressure by at least 20dB(C) and has been developed in cooperation with the Merkel partner B&T in Switzerland.



## HELIX TRACKER CAMO OR

The TRACKER is the ideal professional model for the driven hunt, as well as for tracking wounded game: with its particularly short semi-weight barrel, 5-rounds magazine, driven hunt sights and a bolt handle with non-slip knob for rapid bolt action. The synthetic stock has several special sling swivels attachments in the middle of the buttstock and on the barrel – this allows the TRACKER to be carried comfortably on the back. The TRACKER is available in anthracite or camo orange color.





## HELIX BLACK

The black model in the Helix range is completely fitted out, and comes with an black aluminium action. With wooden stock and driven hunt sights. Available in wood-classes 2 to 10.



## HELIX SPORTSTER

The thumbhole stock originates from shooting sports but also shows off its advantages in stalking, high stand and driven hunting. The Helix Sportster becomes even more dynamic with this stock optimisation: the visual optimisation symbolises its field of use, situated somewhere between hunting and sporting use. The thumbhole stock of the Sportster optimises ergonomics when firing and allows for quick follow-up shots. Merkel sells this thumbhole stock in wood-classes 2, 4 and 5. It was optimised especially for the truly linear action of the Helix system.



## HELIX NOBLESSE

The Noblesse is the Helix for the grand hunting scene: this premium rifle will win over the connoisseur in every way. As for the wood, it is the finest rifle the Helix range has to offer. Wooden stocks from grade 8 up with filled pores, true-oil finish and red buttplate. Combined with the fluted barrel, the gun saves on weight and exudes class. And the fine touches: the small pistol-grip cap and the fore-end, with the characteristic Merkel snobble tip, are made of ebony. The cherry on top: gold-platted trigger and bolt head.





## HELIX ARABESQUE

The Helix with classic arabesque engraving and highly-durable aluminium action. The plain elegance of the engraving is matched by the high-grade stock wood, from grade 4 upwards.



## HELIX WILD BOAR

Wild Boar – the stylish Helix for the driven hunt. The engraving on this high-class version depicts a boar entwined with arabesques on an aluminium action. From wood class 4 to 10.







## HELIX DELUXE

Noble and individual: Three animals at buyers option are hand-engraved by the Suhl engravers into the system casing of the Helix Deluxe - together with leafs or arabesques. Finest Turkish walnut wood (woodclass 7 or higher) is used to make the stock of this rifle - including ebony finishes on the fore-end and the pistol grip. The trigger is gold plated, the lower system and the magazine are also richly engraved. The fluted barrel finally makes the Deluxe to a functioning valuable.







# HELIX LADY DS



## HELIX LADY DS

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Finally, also with a special stock for the female shooting position: The Helix is a specialist driven hunt rifle and can impress with the closed system housing. The new DS stock corresponds perfectly with this function and allows safe bolt action firing.



## HELIX LADY DS NOBLESSE

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Finest wood for the great stage of the social hunts: the Noblesse versions Lady DS stock shines by combining precious walnut wood and applications of ebony. Furthermore this jewel possesses a gold plated trigger.





## HELIX BESPOKE GUNS

Bespoke work is the English term for all types of custom-made precision handcrafting. We use the term to denote the individually crafted and expertly engraved hunting rifles we build to a customer's exact specifications. It is in the nature of the Helix to adapt to its owner's needs: this philosophy is upheld in the handcrafted details of the Bespoke Guns.



## HELIX WHOM THE MOOSE CALLS

Moose feature in the heraldic crests of numerous Scandinavian landscapes – and there is now a magnificent rifle to match. "Whom the moose calls" is the Helix with hand-etched Scandinavian engravings. Intertwining vines, moss and moose antlers – a mystic arrangement that is dedicated to both the world's largest deer and the moose hunt. A wonderfully processed piece of duraluminium, an exceptional gun for one of the most stunning hunts in the world. The rounded fore-end of the "Moose" has an ebony finish. The pistol grip is hand-engraved, the buttstock has the typical Helix cheek piece with integrated sling swivel and a black Pachmayr recoil pad.







## HELIX SPIRIT OF THE EDELWEISS

For a lot of hunters, the alpine hunt is the highest thing on earth – in both senses. The engravings of this unusual premium Helix display the heraldic flower of the Alps, as well as the flora and fauna of the central European high mountain range. Moufflon, chamois, royal stag – living in harmony – united in artistically etched engravings from the Suhl manufactory. There is also an engraved quarter rail with fixed sights, a folding sight notch and a luxury wooden ball. The buttstock with hogback comb and Bavarian cheek piece has a pistol grip with handmade engravings and carved with edelweiss motifs. The sling swivel is inserted in the buttstock. The rounded fore-end opens into in a Schnabel.





## HELIX BARRELS AND BARREL CONTOURS

Five different barrel lengths, different barrel contours: there are numerous ways to customise your individual Helix to suit your particular needs. Fluted barrels reduce weight and transmit heat better, muzzle brakes reduce recoil and muzzle flash.

► The **TOTAL LENGTH** of the Helix with a standard barrel length of 56 cm is 107 cm ► **WEIGHT** from approx. 2.9 kg



STANDARD BARREL  $\varnothing$  17 mm with or without sights



SEMIWEIGHT-BARREL  $\varnothing$  19 mm with or without sights



Barrel length 610 mm



Barrel length 560 mm



Barrel length 510 mm



Barrel length 470 mm (Helix Tracker in .308 Win, 30-06 Spr., 8x57IS, 9,3x62)



Barrel length 450 mm (only with muzzle thread and without sights)



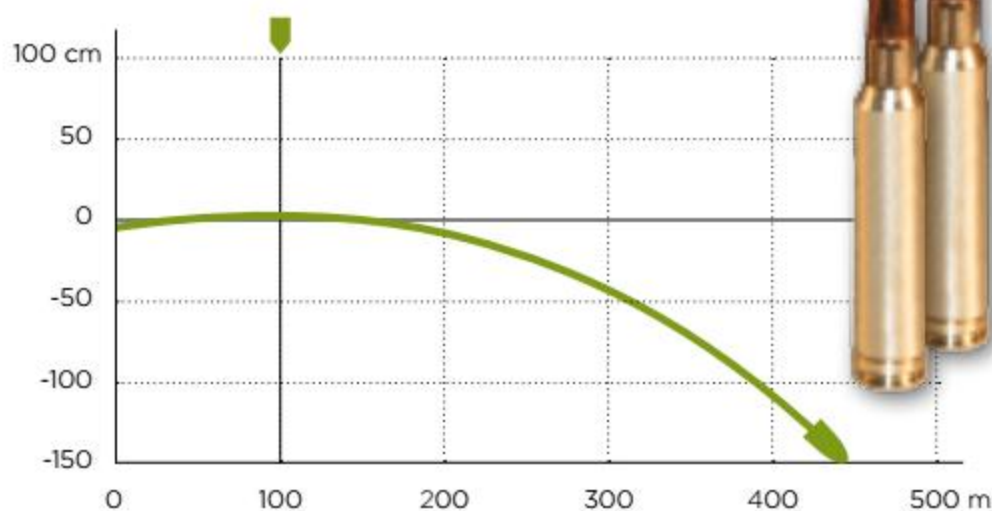
FLUTED BARREL (standard and semi-weight) available with or without sights



BARREL WITH MUZZLE THREAD for muzzle brake or silencer (requires a licence)

## THE HELIX IN .338 WIN. MAG.

Example Norma Oryx .338 Win. Mag.



The popularity of this big game cartridge is primarily to be attributed to its universality and balance. The recoil is still controllable while the bullet is not too fast. The calibre is ideally suited for big game such as strong deer and heavy wild boar, but equally also for moose and the European brown bear. The bullets reach between 950 and 820 m/s at the muzzle with an energy between 5,200 and 5,400 joules. The case is loaded with bullets of the calibre 0.338 inch (8.58 mm) and with weights between 180 and 270 gr (11.66 to 16.2 g).



		BARREL DIAMETER 17 mm												
		BARREL LENGTH ▶	510 mm				560 mm				610 mm			
		GEOMETRY ▶	round		fluted		round		fluted		round		fluted	
		SIGHTS ▶	with	none	with	none	with	none	with	none	with	none	with	none
MINI	.222 Rem.	○	○*	○	○	●*	○*	○	○*					
	.223 Rem.	○	○*	○	○	●*	○*	○	○*					
STANDARD	.243 Win.					●*	○*	○	○*					
	6,5x55 SE	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	.270 Win.	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	7x64	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	.308 Win.	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	.30-06 Spring.	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	8x57IS	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
	9,3x62	○*	○*	○	○*	●*	○*	○	○*					
MAGNUM	7 mm Rem.Mag.									●*	○*	○	○*	
	.300 Win.Mag.									●*	○*	○	○*	

● standard   ○ optional   \* available with threaded barrel

		BARREL DIAMETER 19 mm																	
		BARREL LENGTH ▶		450 mm		470 mm		510 mm				560 mm				610 mm			
		GEOMETRY ▶		round		round		round		fluted		round		fluted		round		fluted	
		SIGHTS ▶		mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne	mit	ohne
MINI	.222 Rem.							○	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	.223 Rem.								○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
STANDARD	.243 Win.		■																
	6,5x55 SE		■					○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	.270 Win.		■					○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	7x64		■					○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	.308 Win.		■	▲				○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	.30-06 Spring.		■	▲				○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	8x57IS		■	▲				○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
	9,3x62		■	▲				○*	○*	○	○*	○*	○*	○	○*				
MAGNUM	7 mm Rem.Mag.																○*		○*
	.300 Win.Mag.															○*	○*	○	○*
	.338 Win.Mag.															○*	●*	○	○*

● standard   ○ optional   \* available with threaded barrel

■ barrel length 450 mm - only available with muzzle thread   ▲ standard for the Tracker, also available as an interchangeable barrel





## HELIX ACCESSORIES



### 3- OR 5-ROUNDS MAGAZINE

Helix magazines are made of steel sheet and the handle is covered with moulded plastic to protect against scratching. The available items are the basic magazine (3-rounds) and a high-firepower 5-rounds variant – ideal for driven hunts. The 5-rounds magazine is not available for mini and magnum calibres. As an option, the magazine butt can also be engraved in the Merkel manufactory.



### MUZZLE BRAKE/ MUZZLE CAP

The muzzle brake reduces muzzle flash and recoil. Muzzle thread required. The muzzle cap protects the muzzle thread if neither silencer nor muzzle brake have been fitted.



### SUPPRESSOR

Over-barrel suppressor for a M15x1 thread. Dampening value, depending on calibre at minimum 20 dB. The suppressor has been developed in cooperation with the Merkel-System-Partner B&T (Switzerland).



### BOLT HEAD

When changing from one calibre group to another, the bolt head must also be changed. Safety effect: when this is removed the rifle is protected against unauthorised use.



### RIFLE SLING

Rifle sling from heavily-grained bison leather. The strap is 105 cm long, 5 cm wide in the carrying area and padded with neoprene.



### MOUNTS

Picatinny rails are a universal mounting base. There are a number of options available.





## STOCK-VARIANT SETS

- 1 **Synthetic stock** with pistol grip, recoil-dampening pad and lockable universal fore-end from non-slip high-tech material. With sling-swivel adapters.
- 2 **Alpinist stock** – as 1.) – additionally with adjustable cheek piece and bipod adapter on fore-end. Also available with a soft-touch coating in the colours black and green.
- 3 **Tracker stock** – as 1.) – additionally with central sling-swivel attachment on both sides of the buttstock for carrying rucksack-style during tracking.
- 4 **Wooden stock, "Turkish walnut"** with pistol grip with cheek piece, recoil-dampening stock cap and lockable universal fore-end. With sling-swivel adapters. Wood classes 2-10. Optional as left-handed stock. Noblesse stock with pore filler, high-gloss finish and ebony finishes on the pistol grip and fore-end.
- 5 **Sportster wooden stock** – as 4.) – with thumbhole stock for ergonomic grip during rapid bolt action firing. Wood classes 2, 4 and 5.
- 6 **Tracker stock OR** With pistol grip, recoil reducing butt plate and lockable universal fore-end out of a anti-skidding high-tech material with a soft-touch coating in camo-orange . Additionally with central sling-swivel fastening on both sides of buttstock for rucksack-style carrying during tracking.



▲ Long Allen key for changing the buttstock. Is inserted through the recoil pad.



## CHOICE OF PISTOL GRIP CAPS

Silver pistol grip caps give the Helix a personal touch: there is a choice of selected animals (the first four from the left) or arabesques, leaves surrounding or oak leaf with engraved initials. Further motifs on request.





### LARGE HARD PROTECTIVE CASE

The large Helix hard protective case with grip hollow. The case for barrel changing – offers space for a dismantled Helix, two scopes, two barrels and a host of utensils for the hunting trip. Lockable with three combination locks.



### SMALL HARD PROTECTIVE CASE

The small Helix hard protective case with grip hollow. The robust case for transporting a dismantled Helix with scope and hunting utensils. Lockable with three combination locks.



### LARGE RIFLE CASE

The large Helix rifle case with leather edging and strap mounting. The stylish case for barrel changing – offers space for a dismantled Helix, two scopes, two barrels and a host of utensils for the hunting trip. Lockable with two combination locks.



### SMALL RIFLE CASE

The small Helix rifle case with leather edging and strap mounting. The stylish case – offers space for a dismantled Helix, for scope and a host of hunting utensils. Lockable with two combination locks.



### SOFT CASE

For quickly transporting the Helix: Padded case with leather corner guards. With shoulder strap and handle, lockable.

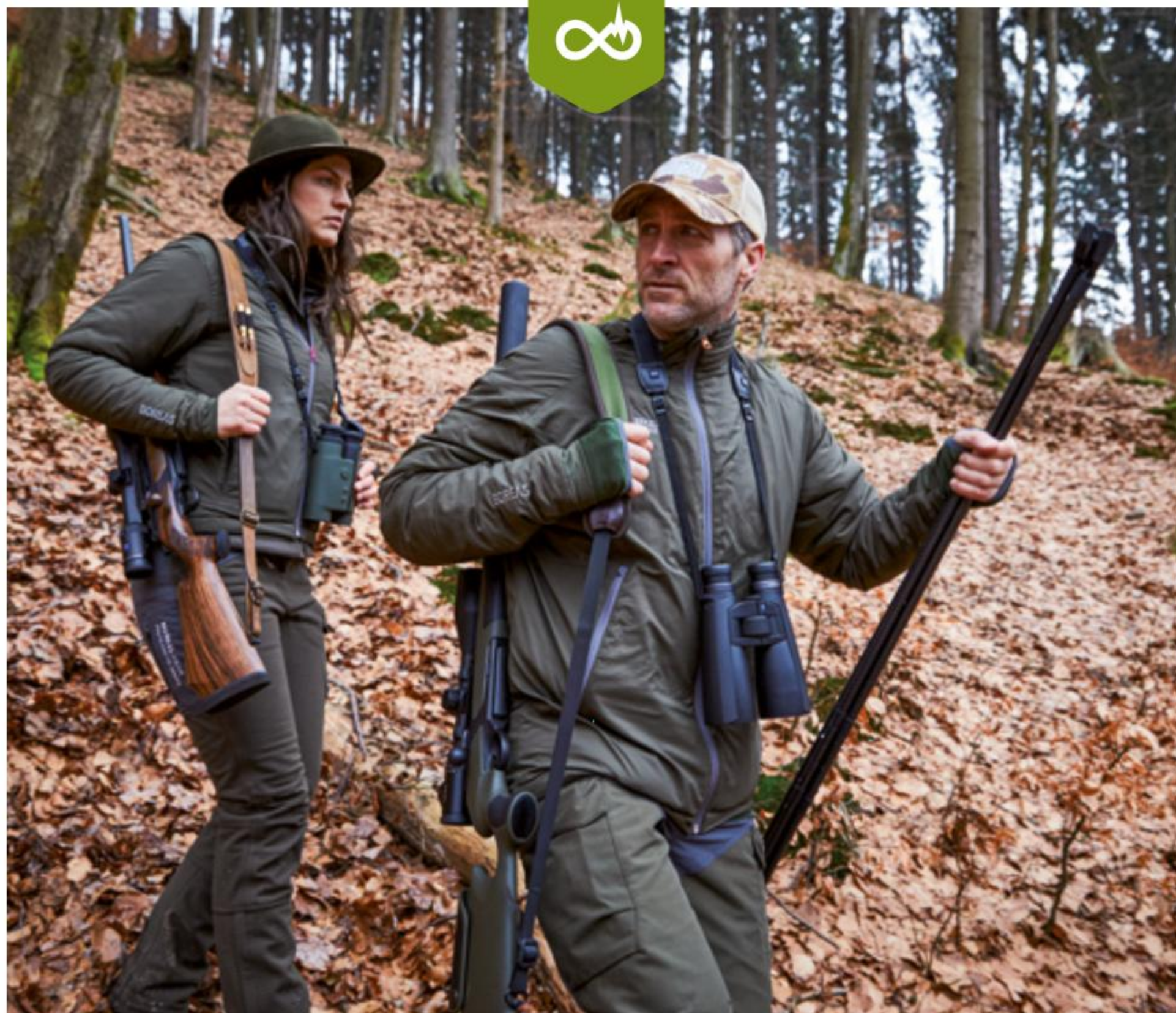




# MERKEL GEAR

HUNTING APPAREL AND EQUIPMENT









# SUCCESS IN LAYERS

**Contemporary and traditional materials combine in one apparel system**

**A new professional system of apparel and equipment: Merkel's all-round layer system is suitable for the entire hunting spectrum, from high seat hunting to more demanding mountain stalking all over the world.**

The hunting apparel is the only thing between the hunter and the environment. A hunt is held whether the temperature is very low or very high. Irrespective the conditions, the hunter must be able to move silently and without restriction – especially when taking aim. There is a lot of hunting apparel and hunting equipment to choose from – in all price categories. Merkel Gear aims to combine an excellent price-quality ratio with exceptional functionality and a sustainable value chain. Typical Merkel: Traditional and trusted materials are combined with the latest brand membranes to a system. The result is a year-round, all-in-one system with previously unknown versatility from infinite combinations.

**System apparel by experts for practical use**

The Merkel Gear hunting apparel system consists of several thin, compatible layers. Each of the up to five layers has a special place in the system. Only the best: Merkel Gear trusts in 37.5 Technologie™ by Cocona, which has established itself in the field of functional textile for sport.

Unique in the world: this technology encompasses all the layers in the system and not just the outer membrane. The clothes are manufactured wherever possible in accordance with the principles of sustainability (ecology, economy, social). They are made to last and generally to workwear standards, an almost unique situation in the field of hunting apparel. Load-bearing seams are at least double – if not threefold – and sewn with heavy duty thread. We also use only brand names such as YKK for applications such as stoppers and zippers. Merkel Gear is synonymous with products in which hunters take much pleasure for many years. Products throughout the entire year. The system can be combined in any number of ways making it universally functional. Whether for the more passive high seat hunting or the arduous mountain stalking.

**MERKEL  
GEAR**  
GO BEYOND HUNTING



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