VOL 32/08 AUGUSTUS / AUGUST 2026

WILD & JAG GAME & HUNT



Bigger is better?

The Cape Bushbuck

The Sandveld Indian

A man, two dogs and a bicycle

.308 vs .30-06

REFINED FOR THE FIELD: KAHLES K-SERIES RIFLESCOPES

KAHLES

REFINED FOR THE FIELD

Kahles raises the standard with its latest K-series riflescopes



For the serious hunter, precision is not measured solely on a shooting range. It is tested in fading light, uncertain wind, uncomfortable shooting positions, and the few critical seconds when a responsible shot must be taken or passed up.

Kahles has applied this field-focused approach to its latest REFINED riflescope family. Rather than replacing proven designs, the Austrian optics manufacturer has carefully improved the controls, field of view, reticles and ergonomics of four established models: the K540i, K328i, K525i and K318i.

The REFINED concept centres on greater clarity, confidence and control. Depending on the model, improvements include 10 MIL adjustments, enhanced parallax-wheel geometry, wider fields of view and the latest SKMR and MSR2/Ki reticle designs. The result is a closely related family of first-focal-plane scopes that can serve hunters whose requirements range from compact versatility to extreme long-range precision.

Practical improvements that matter in the field

Many premium riflescopes offer impressive specifications, but hunters ultimately judge equipment by how naturally it works under pressure.

The enlarged spacing and clear EASYREAD markings on the REFINED turrets are designed to provide positive visual and tactile feedback. A mechanical REVOLUTION INDICATOR helps the shooter identify the turret's current rotation, while INDEXSTOP provides a fast and repeatable return to the established zero.

Kahles' top-mounted parallax arrangement places the parallax control beneath the elevation turret. This central layout allows the controls to be operated with the shooter's preferred hand without reaching over the scope or unnecessarily disturbing the shooting position.

Windage can also be positioned on the left or right, depending on the chosen configuration. For a right-handed hunter, a left-side windage turret allows adjustments to be made while maintaining the firing-hand position. The patented TWIST GUARD system uses a freely rotating protective cap to help prevent accidental windage changes without requiring an additional locking mechanism.

These may appear to be small refinements, but they become significant when a hunter is lying behind a rifle on uneven ground, working from shooting sticks or making a careful correction before the opportunity disappears.



K318i REFINED: Compact versatility

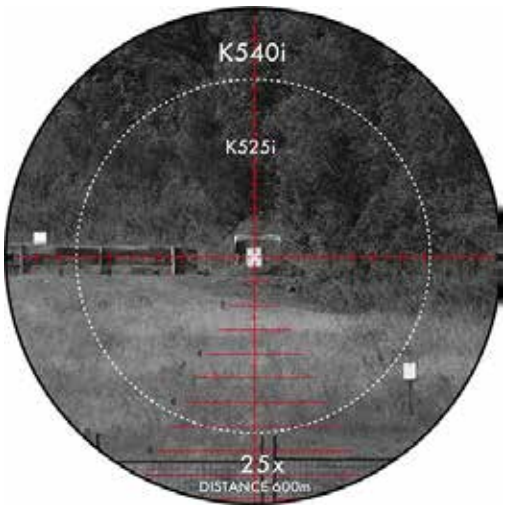
The K318i REFINED is perhaps the most naturally field-oriented model in the group. Its 3.5–18x50 magnification range provides enough flexibility for closer encounters while still offering substantial magnification for careful shot placement at longer distances.

At 313 mm, it is considerably shorter than the other models in the family. This compact design saves valuable mounting space and makes it particularly suitable for rifles with limited rail length, compact actions, or accessories that compete for mounting room.

The REFINED version introduces 10 MIL turrets, improved parallax-wheel geometry and a field of view that is four per cent wider than the previous K318i. At minimum magnification, its field of view measures 9.6 m at 100 m. The scope weighs 950 grams and uses a 34 mm main tube.

Parallax can be adjusted from 25 m to infinity, while the illuminated first-focal-plane reticle remains proportional to the target throughout the magnification range. Hunters can therefore use the reticle's references consistently, regardless of the selected magnification.

For the hunter who values a compact rifle, but still requires dependable elevation adjustment and long-range capability, the K318i REFINED offers an attractive balance. It is particularly well suited to mountain rifles, suppressor-equipped setups, and hunting situations in which both mobility and precision matter.



K525i REFINED: Proven long-range precision

The K525i REFINED occupies the traditional long-range sweet spot with its 5–25x56 configuration. Its magnification range is powerful enough for detailed target identification and precise aiming without being unnecessarily specialised for most extended-range hunting applications.

The 56 mm objective lens performs well under demanding observation conditions, while the 95 mm eye relief provides a comfortable margin behind heavier-recoiling rifles. Its field of view ranges from 7.7 to 1.6 m at 100 m.

Kahles has given the REFINED model 10 MIL windage, updated SKMR reticle designs, improved parallax-wheel geometry and a seven per cent wider field of view than the previous K525i. It retains the brand's competition-grade mechanical construction, 0.1 MRAD adjustments and parallax correction from 20 m to infinity.



At 960 grams and 377 mm long, the K525i is not a lightweight stalking optic. It is better suited to a carefully assembled long-range hunting rifle, where repeatable adjustments and mechanical reliability take priority over minimal carrying weight.

For hunters working across open plains, wide valleys, or large agricultural areas, the K525i offers a highly practical combination of magnification, objective size, and adjustment range. It provides sufficient optical reach for demanding shots while remaining less specialised – and more manageable – than a 40-power system.

K328i REFINED: The all-rounder with an exceptional view

The K328i REFINED stretches from 3.5x to 28x magnification, giving it one of the most versatile zoom ranges in the family. At the lower end, it can provide the awareness needed for closer or rapidly developing opportunities. At the upper end, it offers the detail required for distant targets and precise shot placement.

Its defining feature is Kahles' VISIONFLEX optical design. According to the manufacturer, this provides a field of view 40 per cent wider than the 2025 K525i at 25x magnification, along with a notably generous eyebox. The K328i's field of view ranges from 14.3 m at 3.5x to 1.8 m at 28x, measured at 100 m.

A generous eyebox is particularly valuable to hunters because field positions are rarely as controlled as a benchrest position. The shooter may be slightly off-centre behind the optic, wearing bulky clothing or supporting the rifle against a tree, pack or set of sticks. An accommodating sight picture can help the hunter acquire the target more naturally without repeatedly adjusting head position.

The K328i uses a 36 mm main tube, weighs 1,050 grams and measures 360 mm in length. It offers 0.1 MRAD adjustments, parallax correction from 20 m to infinity and a choice of modern illuminated first-focal-plane reticles.

Its combination of broad field of view and 28x maximum magnification makes the K328i REFINED the most versatile model for a hunter who expects to encounter widely varying distances. The trade-off is its weight: this is a premium precision optic for a purpose-built rifle rather than an ultralight walk-and-stalk setup.

K540i REFINED: Maximum detail at extreme distance

At the top of the range is the K540i REFINED, a 5–40x56 riflescope designed for professional long-range shooting. Its 8x zoom ratio and high maximum magnification make it the most specialised option of the four.

Like the K328i, it incorporates VISIONFLEX technology, with a wide field of view and a generous eyebox designed to remain comfortable across the magnification range. The field of view measures 10.2 m at 5x and 1.3 m at 40x, at a distance of 100 m.

The K540i uses a 36 mm tube, offers parallax adjustment from 20 m to infinity and provides 0.1 MRAD corrections. Its REFINED update includes 10 MIL windage for more intuitive and controlled environmental corrections.

With a length of 409 mm and a weight of 1,115 grams, the K540i is best regarded as a specialist tool. Its place is on a stable, long-range rifle used in expansive terrain, where the additional magnification can assist with precise aiming, observation, and confirmation of small details.

However, magnification should never be mistaken for capability on its own. Ethical long-range hunting still depends on accurate range determination, verified ballistic data, wind-reading ability, a solid shooting position, and complete confidence in the shooter’s limitations. The K540i provides the optical and mechanical potential; the hunter remains responsible for deciding whether to take the shot.

Choosing the right REFINED model

There is no single best scope in the REFINED family. The correct choice depends on the rifle, the hunting environment, and the distances at which the hunter can consistently make responsible shots.

The K318i is the compact crossover option, offering the best balance for hunters who carry their rifles across difficult terrain. The K525i is the proven long-range performer, ideal for open-country hunting when dependable corrections and a useful 5–25x range are priorities.

The K328i is the versatile all-rounder, combining a wide field of view with substantial magnification. The K540i is the specialist, delivering maximum optical detail for experienced long-range shooters operating from stable positions.

What connects all four models is an emphasis on intuitive control. Wider fields of view, accessible parallax adjustment, configurable windage, first-focal-plane reticles, and clearly readable turrets are not merely competition features. Properly applied, they can help a prepared hunter work more calmly, make corrections more confidently, and place a shot more precisely.

Kahles has not attempted to reinvent its established K-Series. Instead, the company has focused on refining the details that affect the shooter's experience. In the field, where small advantages can make a meaningful difference, that may be the most valuable improvement of all.

