

HUNTING MAGIC MOMENTS

LINEAR BOLT ACTION RIFLE RX.HELIX

MERKEL





HUNTING MAGIC MOMENTS

This magazine has a wonderful guiding principle: hunting was always, and will remain, the pursuit of magic moments in different places, in their multiple variations. In the mountains, on driven hunts or while night hunting – this magazine tells about the passion of hunting in all its diversity. We have spoken to hunting specialists, professional hunters and gunsmiths throughout the world who have opted for the Merkel Helix. We have researched and journalistically prepared their reasons, for the configurations of their guns and their individual recipes for successful hunting.

What we learned in the process: a modern hunting rifle is an individual professional tool which is custom-made for the hunter's personal hunting style. Thanks to its flexibility and an extensive product line, the helix is the ideal tool for it. A rifle that is equally at home in the hunter's own hunting ground as well as on hunting all around the world. The rifle for travels – and the rifle with which to pursue those magic moments known only to hunters on the chase. We hope you enjoy this entertaining read – and, in case you still don't own a Helix: appetite comes with reading!

A handwritten signature in white ink that reads "Oliver Schmitter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

OLIVER SCHMIDER
Marketing and Sales Manager
Merkel Jagd- und Sportwaffen GmbH



CONTENTS



HUNTING TALES



6

TAILOR-MADE

Gunsmith Oliver Kratochwil about the hunter 2.0 and customer's wishes.

47

BESPOKE GUNS

Richly decorated – hand-engraved Helix models bear witness to their owners' distinctive tastes. Exploring the art of enhancing hunting rifles.



10

THE HUNTING FILMMAKER

The Helix in "Wild Boar Fever" – interview with Poul Erik Madsen from Hunters Video.

PUBLISHING DETAILS

Hunting Magic Moments is published by Merkel Jagd- und Sportwaffen GmbH, Schützenstrasse 26, 98527 Suhl, Germany. Responsible according to the press law: Oliver Schmider. Realisation, graphics and editing: id pool GmbH, Stuttgart, story based marketing.

HUNTING TALES

- 06–07** The made-to-measure Helix
- 10–11** The hunting filmmaker Poul Erik Madsen

TYPES OF HUNTERS

- 14–19** Moose hunt with Johan Persson
- 24–29** Night hunting with Andreas Bach
- 32–37** Chamois hunting with André Vincent

HUNTERS' YARNS

- 20** The right calibre: three moose calibres
- 20** Luxury or basic: changing the stock
- 21** Strapping the backpack and test phase
- 30** Instruction: shooting from a sitting position
- 30** Bon appétit! The Pemmican formula
- 31** Repeated accuracy: the Picatinny rail
- 38** Noteworthy: ballistics in the mountains
- 38** Gamsbart: hat decoration and hunting trophy
- 39** Rangefinder and ballistics calculator
- 39** Suitable mountain hunting wear

THE HELIX IN DETAIL

- 08–09** Travel rifle: the Helix as globetrotter
- 12–13** Ergonomics: boom-click-clack-boom
- 22–23** Theme: choice of alternatives
- 40–41** Theme: Suhl's formula for success
- 42–46** For all needs: Helix models
- 47–49** Handcrafted: Bespoke Guns
- 50–53** Accessories: all around the Helix
- 54–55** Barrels, barrel contours and silencers

TYPES OF HUNTERS



THE ELKTEST

Johan Persson and Snöa hunt moose together in the Swedish taiga.

14



NIGHT HUNTING

Shooting instructor Andreas Bach explains how to hunt wild boar at night

24



HUNTING IN THE ALPS

A visit to André Vincent in what might be the world's highest hunting academy

32



HUNTING WORLDWIDE

FROM THE BLACK FOREST INTO THE BIG WIDE WORLD

Text: Holger Siegel Photographs: Sandro Bodio

The hunter and his rifle – the symbiosis of the huntsman with his most important tool is a topic of conversation at hunters' meetings and in Internet forums that can take up a full evening. Today, the rifle is less and less a question of belief. Market studies show that the needs of the hunter are changing, that the demands of the hunter on his rifle are now as diverse as hunting itself. Gunsmith Oliver Kratochwil has invited us to Pforzheim – for "one of these typical cases". He is making up a rifle for a hunting trip – and for a hunter type 2.0. The shop is already closed – Kratochwil is putting the specially-made Helix together for a customer.

WHAT TYPES OF HUNTER CAN YOU DISTINGUISH?

Oliver Kratochwil: There is the classic hunter with his hunting ground who spends every spare moment in the forest and meadows. He needs a functioning tool that is adapted to his manner of

hunting. And because this type of hunting tenancy lasts a couple of years, his needs are more static. He has simply purchased an over-and-under combination for a mixed hunting ground with small game – end of the story. It is not easy to change anything about this situation. This is the reason for many discussions on the question of faith. But: There is also another hunter – of either gender. He/she is perhaps a bit less enthusiastic – after all enthusiasm means passion. Perhaps this hunting also involves less suffering.

WHAT TYPE OF HUNTER ARE THESE PEOPLE?

Oliver Kratochwil: These are people for whom hunting is a hobby – one of several. And they go on hunting trips or are invited somewhere. They frequently do not have their own hunting ground and certainly do not have the time to manage a hunting ground. And this is the type of hunter I am referring to as regards the rifle I wish to show you.



PRECISELY – THE MOUNTAIN-HUNT/ DRIVEN HUNT RIFLE?

Oliver Kratochwil: The hunter asked me for advice; he is going on a mountain hunt in Spain. Three hunting days inclusive one Monteria with business friends. I have put together a rifle for him that caters for both requirements and fits into a suitcase.

IS THAT TYPICAL, IS IT A FREQUENT OCCURRENCE THAT A PERSON COMES WITH A JOB DESCRIPTION?

Oliver Kratochwil: The typical aspect is that there is no longer anything typical. I am noticing that more and more hunters are approaching hunting in more of an unconventional manner. The standard situations are not hunts on highstands anymore, but sometimes Africa, sometimes stalking, sometimes Monteria or an excellent driven hunt for which a rapid bolt-action rifle or even a semiautomatic is required. Behind all of this is a desire to realise dreams – and to have the optimum rifle to do it. This is planned in minute detail. As gunsmith and dealer, I am a sparring partner in preparation for the great hunting story.

SO WHAT WAS YOUR ADVICE TO THE CUSTOMER?

Oliver Kratochwil: You must be excellently informed for this type of customer – because the customer is excellently informed. He has compensated for any lack of practical experience by reading up on the relevant matters. So I can only be of help as an advisor if I offer the practical background. I recommended a Helix to him because it is a really good gun for travelling. And because changing the barrel and stock is no big deal. For the mountains a long barrel in

.300 Win. Mag, for the Monteria in a boar territory 9.3 x 62 with a semiweight barrel. Fine wood for fine society, synthetic stock with adjustable cheek piece for the Monteiro. This special cheek piece is simply a good thing for long range shooting and in a lying position. Here, the Helix is the Range Rover among bolt-action rifles – instead of mud and opera, we combine mountain hunting with driven hunting.

WHAT DID THE CUSTOMER HUNT WITH PREVIOUSLY?

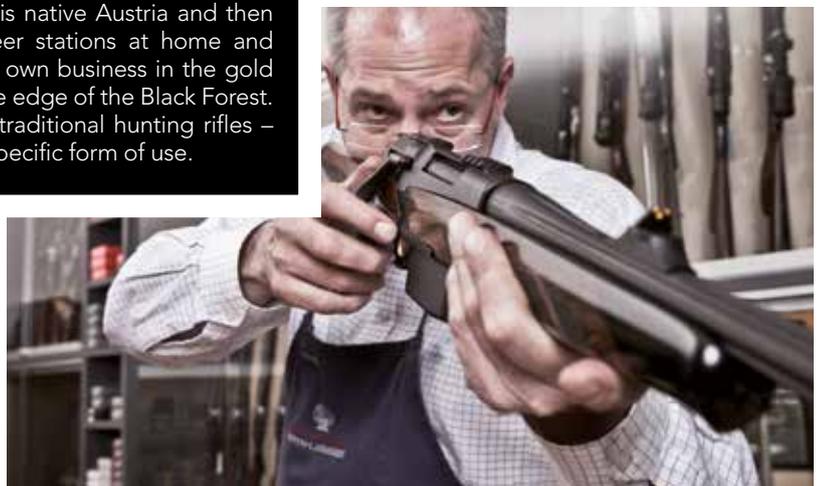
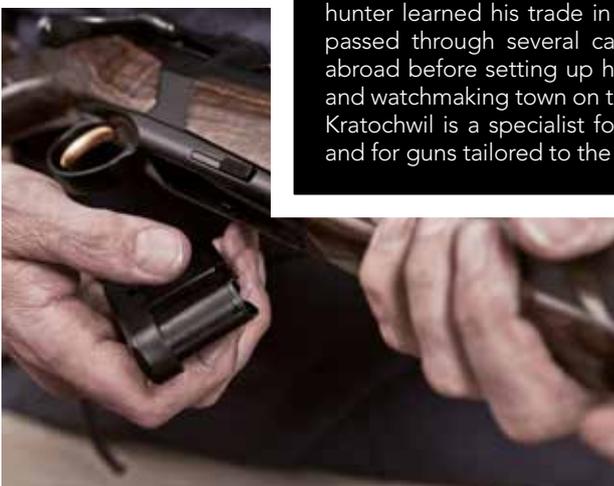
Oliver Kratochwil: Oh – with everything and anything! He even has a straight-pull bolt-action rifle. But that does not offer a 5+1 rounds magazine and perhaps not even as rapid and intuitive as the Helix. He tried out the Helix on the shooting range and the good feeling from the very start convinced him.

WOULD YOU ALSO SELL A HELIX TO A TERRITORY HUNTER?

Oliver Kratochwil: Selling is my livelihood (smiles). The big plus point with the Helix is that it works without having to think. There is almost nothing you can do wrong and you can concentrate on the main matter. Put your hand on your heart: Many hunters spend too little time practicing how to handle their rifles. In this regard, an intuitive, controllable rifle is a blessing in practice. I also love the splendidly decorated Meisterstücks from Merkel and a fine side-by-side double rifle would certainly also be appropriate on Monteria. But the customer wanted something that suits his industry. Something innovative... ■



Gunsmith **OLIVER KRATOCHWIL** (48) runs the company "Waffen-Landmesser" in Pforzheim. The enthusiastic hunter learned his trade in his native Austria and then passed through several career stations at home and abroad before setting up his own business in the gold and watchmaking town on the edge of the Black Forest. Kratochwil is a specialist for traditional hunting rifles – and for guns tailored to the specific form of use.



Mountain hunting configuration with bipod and adjustable cheek piece (top left). Tool-free barrel and calibre change (top right). Classic detachable magazine 3+1 or 5+1 rounds (bottom left). Finest driven-hunt configuration: wood and fluted barrel (top right).



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.



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.



THE HUNTING FILMMAKER

WILD BOAR FEVER: FEATURING THE HELIX

Text: Marc Millenet Photographs: Hunters Video

When Poul Erik Madsen set up Huntersvideo a quarter of a century ago, his aim was to hunt – worldwide. The trained photographer thought the new video media might be a good way to realise his dream of travelling the world. “Back then I was an avid hunter and collector of trophies” – but with time, his trophy room felt like a mausoleum. But the hunt never lost its fascination – these days, however, the man in his mid-fifties responds to the call of the wild with his camera.

“Nowadays, life has become so technical, so complex,” says Madsen. Hunting takes a stance against this, it is a symbol of the unspoilt, simple life – and of life in harmony with nature. Madsen is Danish and lives in Møldrup, a small town of 7,000 inhabitants in Jutland. He has made almost 100 videos – across all continents

and about all kinds of hunting. He has also learned a lot over the years – not only about hunting techniques, but also about the ethics involved.

He and his team of hunters have become renowned for the spectacular imagery of their Wild Boar Fever. The films are about the wild boar driven hunts in the world’s best hunting territories. And about the fever that grips the hunter on seeing the pack of wild boar crash through the forest. The hunters – for example the Swede Christoffer Söderberg, Jens Knudsen from Denmark or the German Franz Albrecht zu Oettingen-Spielberg – are excellent shooters. An essential prerequisite for proficient hunting. Madsen and his team have seen the world with their Helix. Bison in Canada, roebuck in Denmark, bears in Russia. In all these places they



The filmmaker Poul Erik Madsen on the stand (left) – with the Helix, Franz Albrecht zu Oettingen-Spielberg. Hunter Christoffer Söderberg from Aimpoint also likes the quick-firing linear bolt action rifle from Suhl (top) – shown during rapid reloading. Madsen (bottom right) has been enthralling his audience with hunting films from countries all over the world and the most stunning hunting grounds for 25 years.

have come to know and esteem the handy and reliable Helix – it has helped them capture the fascination of the hunt in moving images.

For Poul Erik Madsen, these impressive images also stand for a conflict of aims – while his audience wants thrilling hunting scenes, Madsen’s concern is also the values inherent in hunting. Hunting proficiency can only be achieved through excellent marksmen, who ensure the right piece of game gets on the campfire. Madsen: “However spectacular rolling boars may look – the image of very sudden death reconciles animal rights with the requirements of proficient hunting.” There can be no doubt about Madsen’s commitment to hunting ethics. The values at stake are simply too high. “You can’t just say, ‘Oh, I am sorry, I accidentally killed a mum.’ That is something you can never make up for again!”

At the end of the day, only ethically acceptable hunting can contribute toward preserving its diversity. In lots of countries, the game population is one of the factors that define the value of a piece of land. “And we are not talking about tourist magnets like elephants or rhinos or protected species, but about the impala, gnu and springbok. By abusing hunting, we abuse the land – and ultimately, animal wildlife too. ” ■

THE HELIX IN WILD BOAR FEVER 5

WATCH THE VIDEO TRAILER HERE:

<http://merkel.huntersvideo.com/wbf5>

PROMOTION CODE:

d9h6vniH



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.





ELK TEST

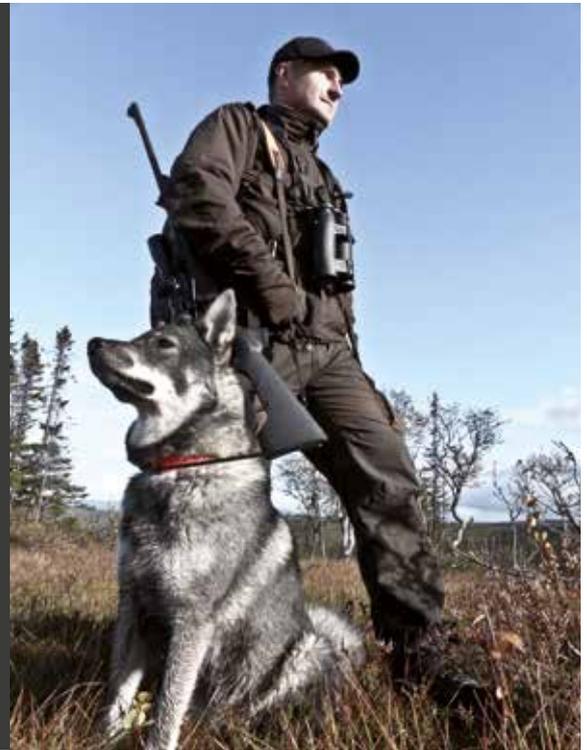
THE LARGEST DEER IN THE WORLD

THE ELK (ALCES ALCES)

JOHAN PERSSON

Professional Hunter

For Johan Persson moose hunting is hunting with a barking dog. The classical jämthund, 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:** 49 **LIVES:** in Sweden, West-Jämtland **TYPICAL GAME OF THE REGION:** Elk (also called Moose), Ptarmigan, Capercaille (Wood Grouse) **PREFERRED WAY OF HUNTING:** Preferably with friends, betimes gladly alone **CONTACT:** www.fjelljakt.se



Spectacular landscape: Endless spaces alternate with river's natural environments and mountain ranges.

THIS IS MOOSE HUNTING

FANTASTIC HUNTING GROUNDS BETWEEN THE TAIGA AND THE MOUNTAINS

Text: Holger Siegel Photographs: Philippe Jaeger, Thomas Lange, Bosse Fritzen

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 49 and has been hunting since he was 11 years old. He studied economics and came to professional hunting by way of dog training. The jämthund, 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. ■



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



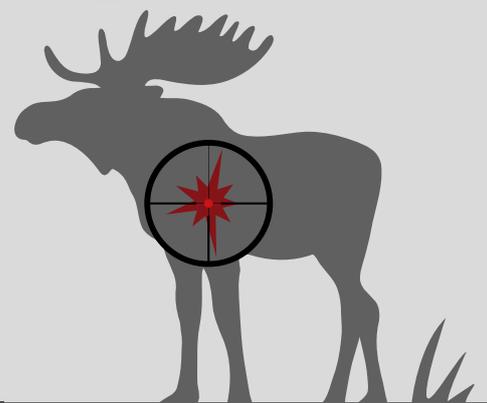
**"THE ART IS TO GET
AS CLOSE AS POSSIBLE."**

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

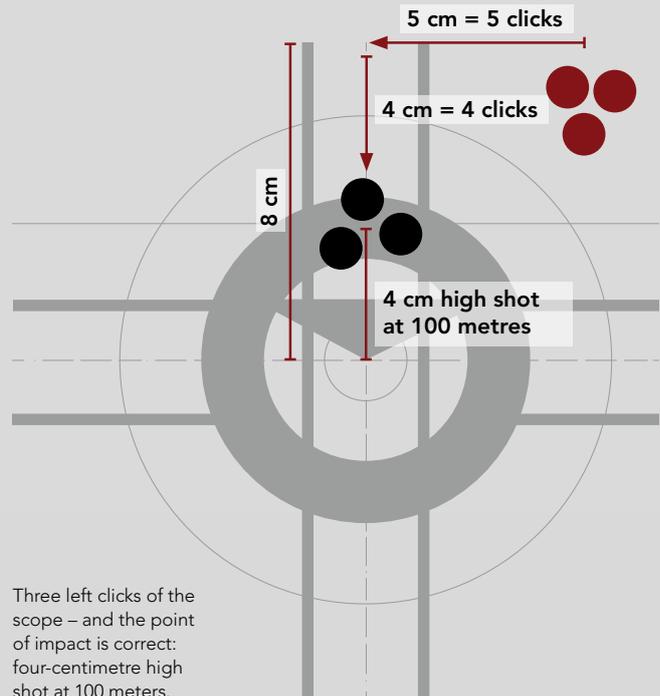
Lots of hunters leave the zeroing to their gunsmiths – this is a mistake. The optics should be adjusted to the hunter's own eye. The only way to do this is to do it yourself. Those who do know how to zero the rifle can check whether it needs readjusting after the transport. On hunting trips, the rule 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 meters.

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

35 DIFFERENT TYPES OF BUTTSTOCK

From the finest wood to synthetic - including camouflage stocks and adjustable cheek pieces.



13 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).



291 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 12 different calibres.



20 DIFFERENT FORE-ENDS

One universal fore-end for all barrel contours - wood or synthetic. Also with camouflage-look or bipod adapter.





FACE TO FACE

NIGHT HUNTING WITH THE HELIX

WILD BOAR (*SUS SCROFA*)

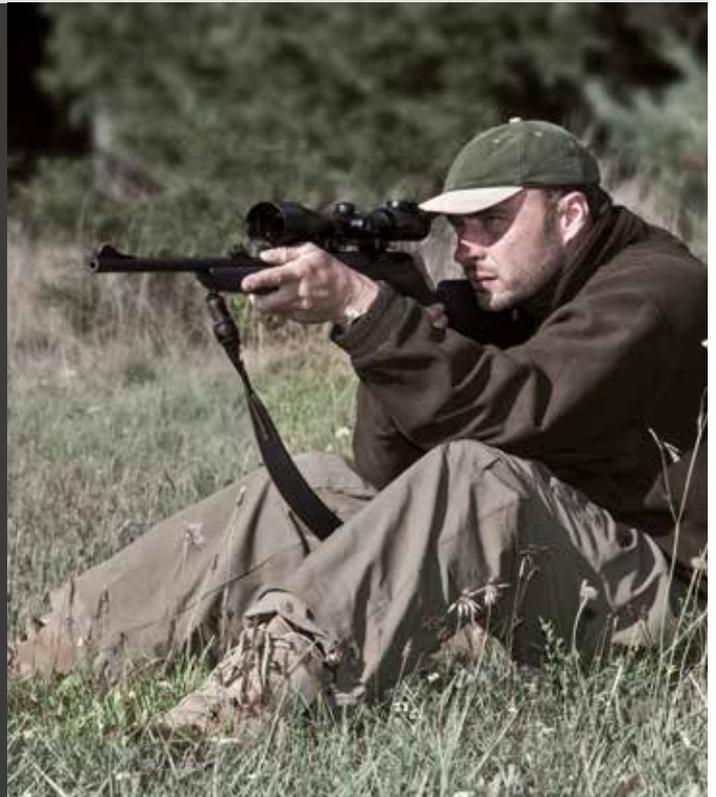


SCHWÄBISCHE ALB
(SWABIAN MOUNTAINS) | GERMANY

ANDREAS BACH

Shooting instructor

Andreas "Anderl" Bach is an instructor for snipers in special units. The 42-year-old, a consultant shooting instructor for the hunting magazine "Wild und Hund", says he could "do without many things – but definitely not without hunting". We met the shooting ace on the occasion of a long-range-shooting course in the Swabian Mountains.



In Germany, hunting for wild boar creates genuine challenges for hunters. Following several mast years and plentiful growing of energy maize, the population is growing rapidly. Aids such as attached night-sights are prohibited. In many places, driven hunting is the only means of reducing wild boar populations. Anderl Bach

is not only an enthusiastic hunter, but also one who genuinely deserves the attribute "creative": For "**Hunting Magic Moments by Merkel**" he demonstrates how hunting at night for wild boar works – and explains how he has configured his Helix into an ideal rifle for this purpose.



ANDREAS BACH

Instructor in special units **HUNTING:** worldwide, since 1999, three years of training in a famous red deer territory in the Allgäu region in the pre-Alps – starting from the bottom, gamekeeper and dog handler **AGE:** 42 **LIVES:** in Germany on the edge of the Swabian Mountains **PREFERRED GAME:** Wild boar & red deer **GUIDING HUNTING PRINCIPLE:** Hunting must not be left to chance **CONTACT:** www.schiessschule-bach.de



Hunting at night on all fours, the Helix around the neck: "I have already come within six metres of a wild boar like this."

CRAWBALKING

NIGHT HUNTING: RIGHT UP TO THE HERD

Interview: Holger Siegel Photographs: Mathias Ellwanger, Thomas Lange

YOU ONCE SAID THAT FOR YOU HUNTING HAS BEEN OVER-REDUCED TO HIGH STAND AND DRIVEN HUNTING. HOW SHOULD WE UNDERSTAND THAT?

Andreas Bach: Based on wild boar? We made the wild boars nocturnally active – there are many arguments in favour of also hunting them at night if there is no other way of getting them. I am constantly trying to allow myself to be inspired by other hunting cultures. Last year, I shot 43 wild boars – most of them during night hunting. I have developed my own technique for this – inspired by the Canadian Inuit. Eskimos hunt seals around holes in the ice in a similar manner – armed only with harpoons. Stalking, the camouflage and absolute understanding of the animals' thoughts are essential.

SHOOT.

Andreas Bach: I take up position in the territory in the early evening and allow darkness to descend on me. I have to visualise the situation while it is still light. If I do not arrive until it is dark I have no idea where courting couples are billing and cooing. I prefer to sit on trails or at feeding spaces, or where I have a good view of a large area of the edge of the forest. The wind must be right and there must be a little bit of remaining light. Later, I spot with a night-sight device. And when boars come out, it all starts...

YOU START STALKING?

Andreas Bach: Yes – although stalking is a general term for various forms of movement. Over the last 150 metres that can also include crabwalking through long grass.

SOUNDS STRENUOUS...

Andreas Bach: Life is not all guns and roses. To be able to react correctly in the dark you must get close. Wild boars are intelligent and attentive, they have good senses of hearing, smelling and have well-developed movement perception. Moving quietly has to be practiced. I have even gone barefoot through snow if my shoes squelch too much. You do not have to run around in camouflage gear, but should by all means avoid a silhouette that contrasts starkly with the surroundings. Regarding crabwalking – it has one big advantage: If a pack notices something, I simply drop onto my back, rest and wait. In this way, I have already come within six metres of a wild boar.

I have been hunting since 1999. But my first stag was a real primal experience. That hunt that really left an impression on me. Seconds in which strength and courage were needed.

AND WHAT TYPE OF RIFLE DOES THIS REQUIRE?

Andreas Bach: A medium calibre for example. 308 or 7 x 64, a synthetic stock and short semi-weight barrel are good. A leather sling is ideal so that you can carry the rifle in front of your chest. The Helix is great for this because it is short, quick and handy. The hand cocking system offers additional security – I can carry it loaded. I need an intuitive rifle – you cannot prepare your shot in this type of hunting – anything can happen – and from any position. A typical aspect is shooting in a sitting position: The elbows rest on the knees, the legs are spread, the feet at right angles to one another. You get into shooting position quickly, it is stable and you can cover a large area. Ideal for a quick yet precision shot. During my hunting seminars, people are often astonished by how quick and stable this type of shooting position is. And then: boom! ■



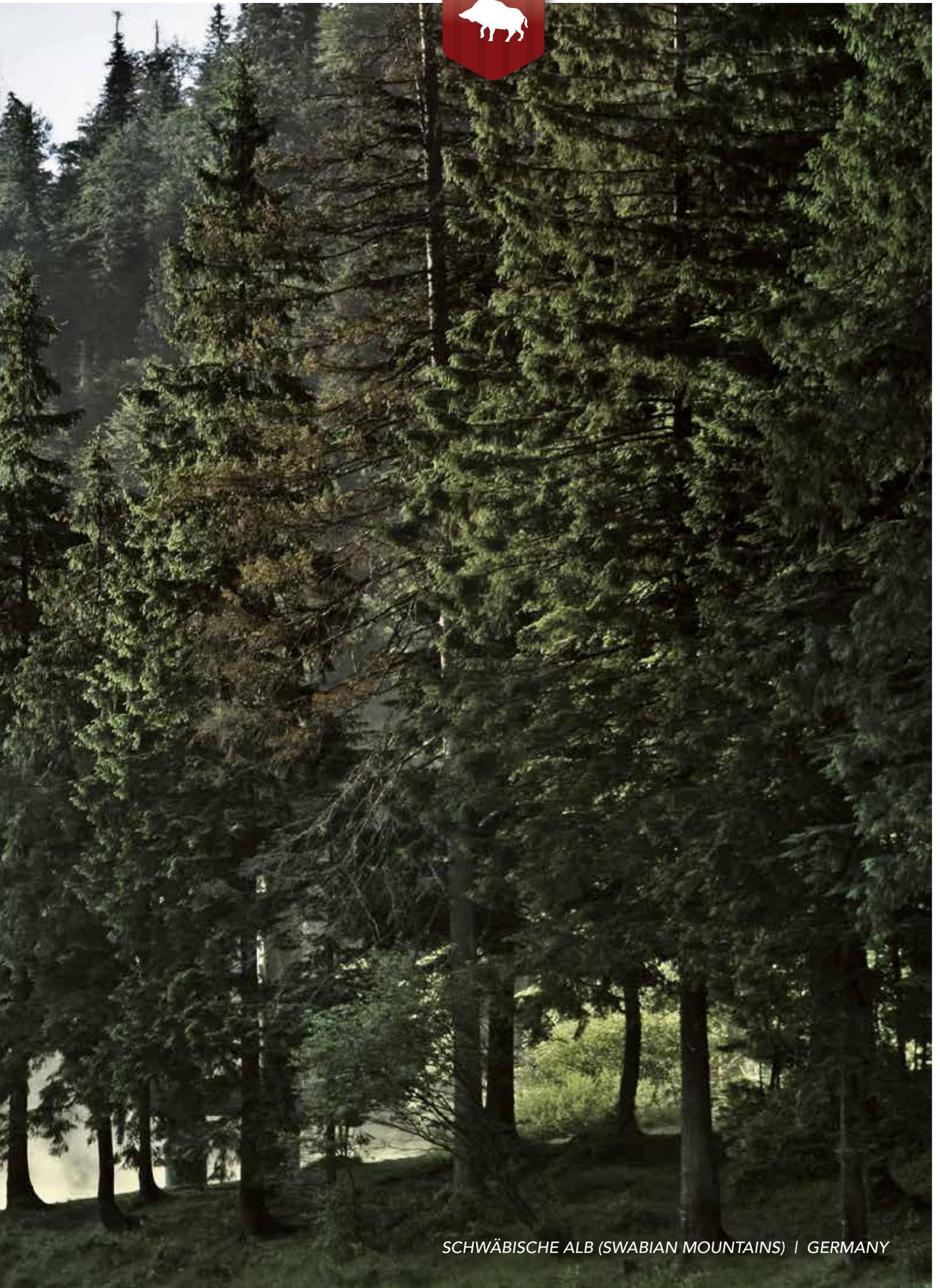
HELIX EXPLORER

- 1** THE EXPLORER'S SYNTHETIC STOCK is made from non-slip, shock-dampening and noiseless high-tech material.
- 2** STRAIGHT BUTTSTOCK with rubber recoil pad – for optimised transfer of recoil force to the shoulder. Reduces muzzle flip.
- 3** UNIVERSAL FORE-END made from high-tech synthetic material: fits all barrel diameters and contours. With integrated grip element and lockable button.
- 4** PISTOL GRIP with integrated grip element and thumb indent. Optimised for handling the manual cocking lever and perfect ergonomics when shooting.



"LUCK IS PART OF THE
GAME. BUT HUNTING MUST
NOT BE LEFT TO CHANCE."

ANDREAS BACH



SCHWÄBISCHE ALB (SWABIAN MOUNTAINS) | GERMANY



SHOOTING FROM A SITTING POSITION

The sitting firing position is a good way of achieving a stable shooting position if you have nothing upon which to rest. The legs are spread until they are at right angles **1**, the feet are placed firmly on the ground. Elbows should rest on the knees **2** without bone contact. This position enables you to reliably cover a wide area with the rifle in a relaxed manner. The rotation comes from the shoulders **3**.



PEMMIKAN

PEMMIKAN (from the language of the Cree Indians) or game jerky is a highly nutritious and long-lasting mixture made from crushed dried meat. Andreas Bach makes it from the flesh of the wild boar.

The venison is cut into fine pieces down to the pure flesh – all tendons, skin and fat are removed. The meat is now passed through the grinder. It is then seasoned with a self-made spice mix of salt, white and black pepper or – for those who like things hot – with a little Cayenne pepper. The authentic traditional Canadian smoked character is obtained by adding a shot of “liquid smoke” and a little Worcester sauce. For drying, shape the mass of minced meat into finger-sized sausages and place them in a dehydrating device or fan oven. At low heat, the water evaporates out of the meat within 10-15 hours. The “sausages” shrink and harden at the same time. After cooling, store in a plastic tin. Dried meat attracts water; to prevent decaying it therefore has to be stored in a sealed, air-tight container or used immediately. It can be kept for longer when packed and is a valuable protein snack for all outdoor activities.



TIPS FOR NIGHT HUNTING

- select medium calibre (for example 7x64, .308 Win., 30-06, 9.3x62)
- handy, short, quick-action rifle
- set scope to low magnification
- quiet textiles are important
- night-sight device for spotting the area and initial approach
- practice crabwalking with rifle in front of the chest
- memorise typical sitting shooting position and make it part of muscle memory
- do not wash hunting clothes too frequently, preferably air, fabric softeners are taboo



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.





THE HIGH ART OF HUNTING

MOUNTAIN HUNTERS ARE TRAINED
IN THE FRENCH REGION OF SAVOY

THE CHAMOIS (RUPICAPRA RUPICAPRA)



SAVOY | FRANCE



ANDRÉ VINCENT

Hunting instructor

Everything is different in the mountains – sufficient reason to devote an own school to the subject of mountain hunting. In the pre-Alpine Bauges mountain massif in the southeast of France, the state forestry commission runs a hunting school that offers an insight into the challenges of hunting in the vertical dimension. Above all, students need to bring good physical condition – as well as passion.



ANDRÉ VINCENT

Forestry official, hunter and instructor for mountain hunters **ALTER:** 52 years **LIVES:** in France, "Massif des Bauges" nature park **PREFERRED GAME:** all game found in the mountains **GUIDING HUNTING PRINCIPLE:** success is preceded by hard work and effort **CONTACT:** andre.vincent@onf.fr

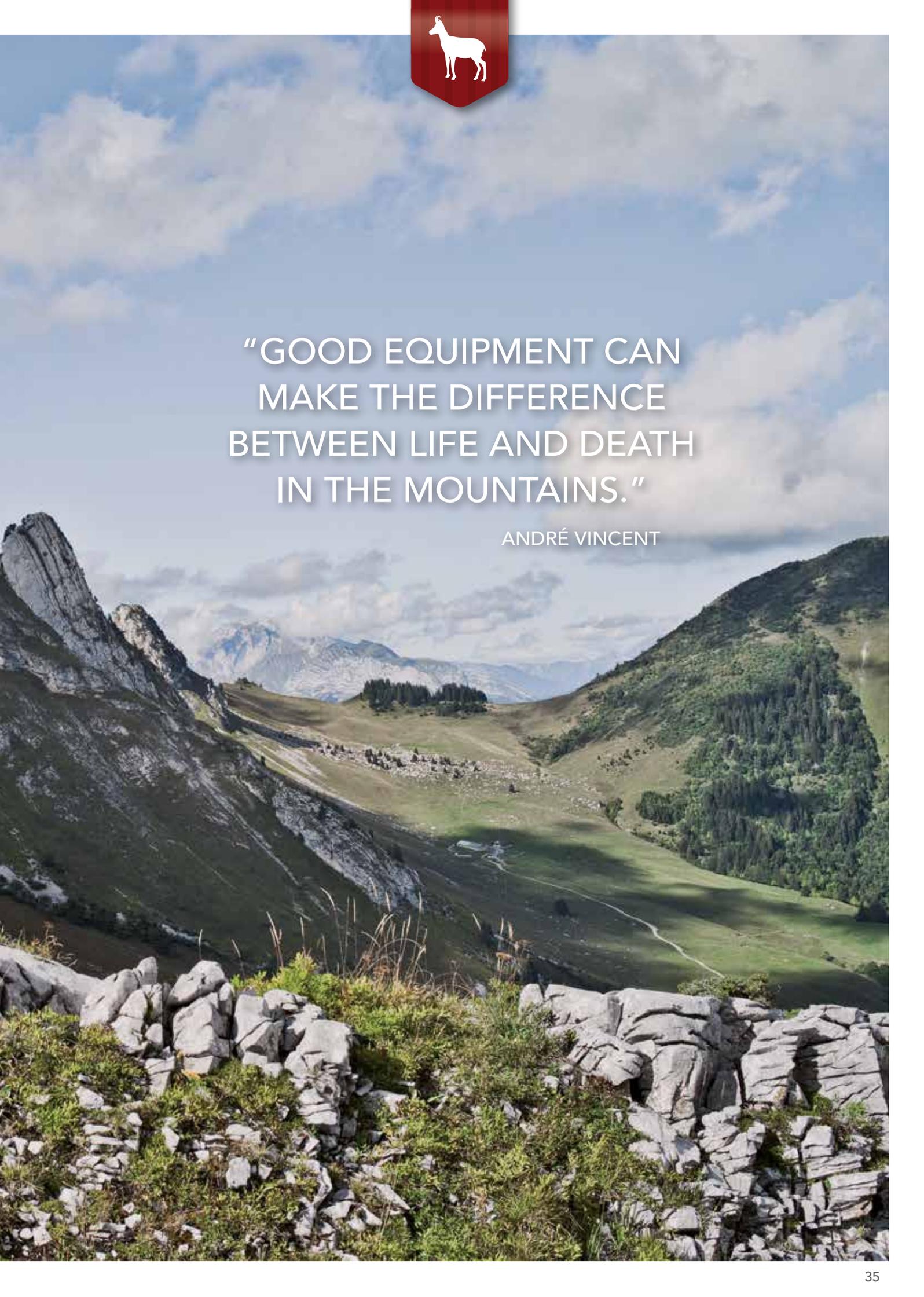


SAVOY | FRANCE



“GOOD EQUIPMENT CAN
MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH
IN THE MOUNTAINS.”

ANDRÉ VINCENT



HUNTING IN THE VERTICAL POSITION

ANDRÉ VINCENT TRAINS MOUNTAIN HUNTERS IN THE FRENCH ALPS

Text: Philippe Jaeger Fotos: Laurent Pidancet, Maxime Debanizette, Thomas Lange

Mountain hunting has its own rules – these rules can be learned here in the French Alps with a view of Mont Blanc. The “National Hunting and Game Reserve” in Bauges is an area of magical beauty covering some 5,200 hectares of mountains and high forests at altitudes of between 800 and 2,200 metres above sea level. Professional hunters have been teaching the high art of hunting here for 15 years. One of these is André Vincent, known as Dédé. He has created the motto here that every piece of game must be earned.

The reserve is not a conventional hunting ground. Here, the state forestry commission has hunting accompanied in a scientific manner. The roughly 700 animals shot each year are examined in detail and the data collected included in a database: weight, age, state of health and illnesses provide important information on the development of the habitat and its residents – not least under the influence of hunting.

Those who travel to learn the high art of hunting in Bauges with its magnificent backdrop are advised to undergo certain physical preparation: a 60-litre rucksack carries the material that accompanies every hunting student. The combined weight of rifle, binoculars and ammunition is not to be underestimated. Hunting students are provided with rifles and scopes through a partner programme with Merkel and Leica. If hunting is successful, there may also be the additional task of transporting a fully-grown chamois that can easily weigh 30 kilograms.

However, the nature of the matter means that every hunting success in the mountains is preceded by a climb: it begins early in the morning down in the forest and valley and ends high up in the mountains where the course participants can encounter chamois, moufflons as well as stags and wild boars. Here, they can enjoy the real pleasure of experiencing the sunrise while the valley is still in

the shadow of night. Ravens caw as they pass by and welcome the new day. Take a deep breath. The purest of air. The hunt begins.

The game population in this place is excellent – nevertheless, nobody should fall into the trap of thinking this is about trophies. Another crucial factor that is more important than the training of the course participants is to fill correctly the hunting plan – and that begins with a safe approach to the game. Age, gender and condition of the antlers or horns are decisive factors in determining whether the sample fits the data pool and thus justifies shooting.

The ascent continues along narrow paths and tracks. Once the game has been spotted, a delicate stalk begins away from the paths that can lead over rocks, through streams or snow-covered slopes. Chamois, for example, are

not afraid of any ridge no matter how steep – if you are lucky enough to get a shot in, the chamois frequently falls some dozen metres into the deep. This creates pleasure, above all if the weather plays its role and spreads capers in an unending creative spectrum between snowstorm and foggy mist. In conditions such as these, guides and hunting students must be able to rely on their material at all times. Dédé is an experienced mountain hunter and has been carrying a Helix for three years. He appreciates the Alpinist's robust responsiveness and finely balanced trigger, which is essential when taking long-range shots. Functional: the adjustable cheek piece and the bipod, if applicable.

Bauges is possibly the highest hunting school in the world. Its classrooms are the Alps, which offer a great deal of fresh air, space and an impressive meeting with magnificent nature that makes most people feel humble when they experience this for the first time. And impresses in lasting manner. ■



For a long-range shot you need a reliable firing position and a finely balanced trigger: here, André Vincent demonstrates that you cannot be finicky in the mountains.



HELIX ALPINIST EQUIPMENT

- 1 BIPOD ADAPTER** as standard. Quick to assemble and functional in the mountains: the bipod on the fore-end.
- 2 PRECISE, LONG-RANGE SHOOTING**
The finely balanced trigger on the Helix is ideal for long-range shots when hunting in the mountains.
- 3 ADJUSTABLE CHEEK PIECE**
Can be adjusted to fit the shooter and set in the optimal shooting position without the use of tools thanks to the knurled screws.
- 4 CAMOUFLAGE SYNTHETIC STOCK**
It is robust and well camouflaged – perfect for the mountains.

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 bergunter – 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



HAT DECORATION AND HUNTING TROPHY

Gamsbart, the tuft of hair from the back of the chamois goat's neck, is a desired hat decoration among Alpine hunters. But before it can be attached to the Alpine hat, the fearless hunter has to put a great deal of effort into actually acquiring it. A respectable hat decoration requires hair from three to four chamois bucks. **A major beard can even require up to 20 bucks.**

Hunting the gamsbart buck is fraught with dangers. It is highly probable that the hunter will come away empty-handed. And, of course, the best beards are from the hair of bucks that spend the winter in the forbidding high Alpine terrain. **Thus, the colder and harder the winter, the better the gamsbart.**

Such beards have therefore always been a symbol of their owner's courage and manliness. In the past, they frequently gave rise to poaching, bouts of jealousy and pub brawls – and were banned for a long while during the time of the Kingdom of Bavaria.



◀ Tradition requires that the gamsbart only be worn by the most intrepid hunters.



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.



ENHANCING HUNTING ENJOYMENT WITH THE "ONION LOOK"

People who hunt are outdoors – in all weathers: functional wear is a must if hunting is still to be enjoyed under adverse weather conditions. From Steen Karlsson, head of marketing at Seeland and Härkila, the Danish specialist for hunting wear, we learned of the major advances that have taken place in textile technology in recent years. His advice for the right clothing and right material: special underwear made of Merino wool keeps you dry and transports perspiration away from the body. On top of this, several layers of clothes can be worn according to the "onion principle". These retain body heat and enclose insulating layers of air. The onion principle has the advantage of being able to adapt to changing temperatures and weather conditions – if in doubt, simply add or remove a layer of clothing. The top layer should be a wind and waterproof, low-noise jacket with a detachable hood.

◀ Onion-look, made in Denmark: Härkila supplies high-tech textiles which keep you warm without being too bulky.

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...



successful hunting =
500 years of experience
+ innovative ideas



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



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 ALPINIST

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 TRACKER

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 magazine slot incorporates a security mechanism to prevent it accidentally coming loose in the thicket. The synthetic stock has several special sling swivel attachments in the middle of the buttstock and on the barrel – this allows the TRACKER to be carried comfortably on the back.



HELIX EXPLORER CAMO

The synthetic model Helix is also available in a camouflage version with woodland motifs in traditional camouflage colours – and the appealing advantages of this high-tech material: low-noise, soft material that allows a firm hold, particularly in cold conditions, and a fore-end that can be used with all barrel contours.



HELIX ALPINIST CAMO

The stock of the ALPINIST CAMO precision rifle is in classic camouflage colours. Whilst at the same time, integrating all the advantages of the Alpinist: optional bipod (adapter as standard) for stable rest in all terrains and smoothly adjustable cheek piece with knurled screws – for quick, safe and reproducible shooting. Ideal for precision and long-range shots.



HELIX TRACKER CAMO OR

This Helix model is a warning and camouflage in one. The Camo stock makes full use of the specific properties of red tones: the game does not detect it and it is a safety signal for hunters. The Tracker Camo OR is therefore ideal for safe tracking. 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 magazine slot incorporates a security mechanism to prevent it accidentally loss. The synthetic stock has several special sling swivels attachments in the middle of the buttstock and on the barrel – this allows the rifle to be carried comfortably on the back.



HELIX BLACK

The black model in the Helix range is completely fitted out, and comes with a 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 7 up with filled pores and true-oil finish. 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: the gold-plated trigger.



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 SPIRIT

Ingenious and beautiful: the future owner of the HELIX SPIRIT can choose between two hand-engraved animals – entwined with leaves or with arabesques. The engraved action perfectly matches the walnut wood of grades 5 to 10. Full Helix functionality.



HELIX DELUXE

Distinguished and individual: engravers in Suhl etch your three chosen animals into the Helix Deluxe action – surrounded by leaves or arabesques. The fore-end and buttstock of this premium rifle are formed from finest Turkish walnut (class 6 and higher). The trigger is gold-plated and the lower receiver magazine is also engraved.



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.



BUCK HUNT – SPRING



RED DEER – SUMMER



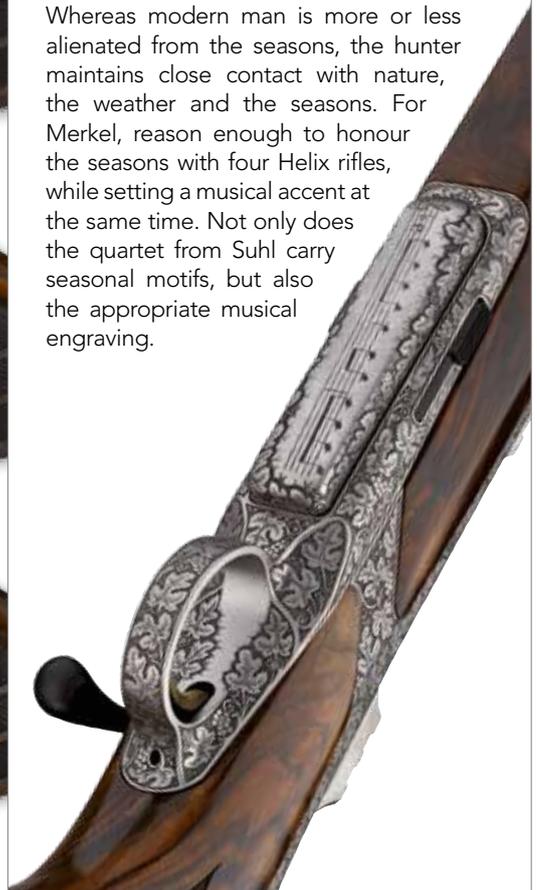
WILD BOAR – AUTUMN

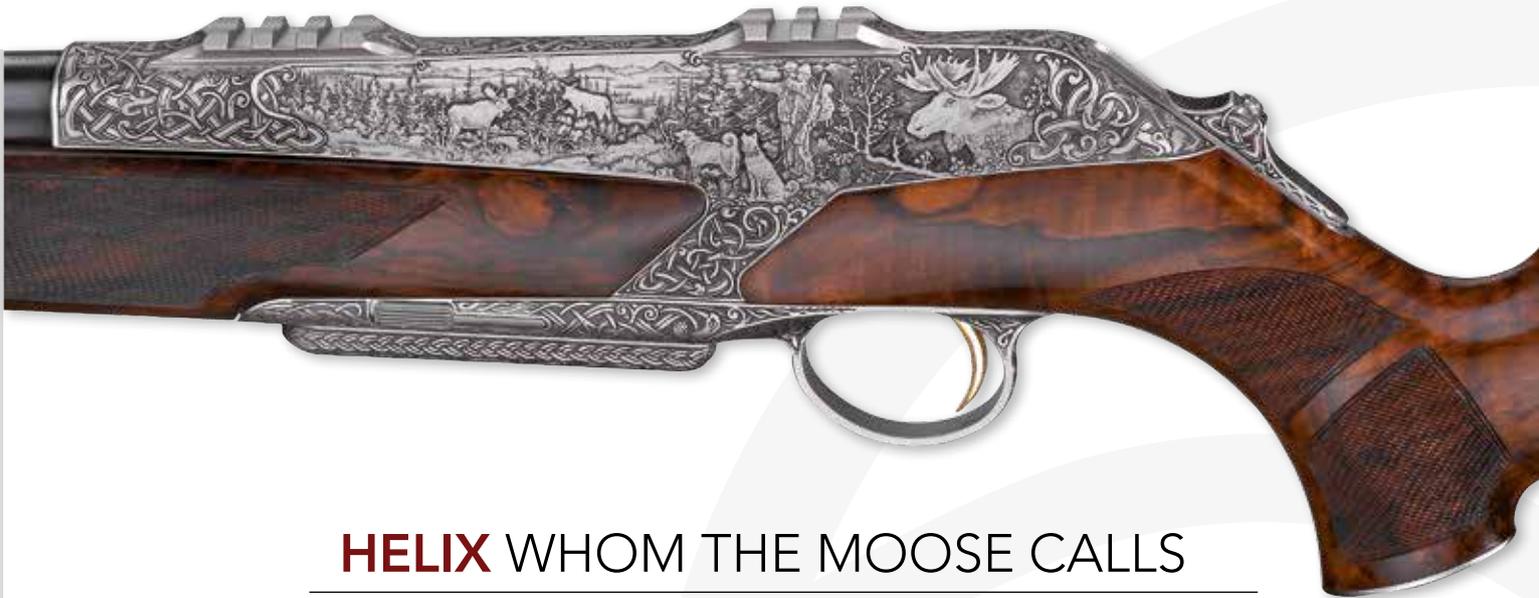


CHAMOIS – WINTER

HELIX FOUR SEASONS

Whereas modern man is more or less alienated from the seasons, the hunter maintains close contact with nature, the weather and the seasons. For Merkel, reason enough to honour the seasons with four Helix rifles, while setting a musical accent at the same time. Not only does the quartet from Suhl carry seasonal motifs, but also the appropriate musical engraving.





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

Four 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.

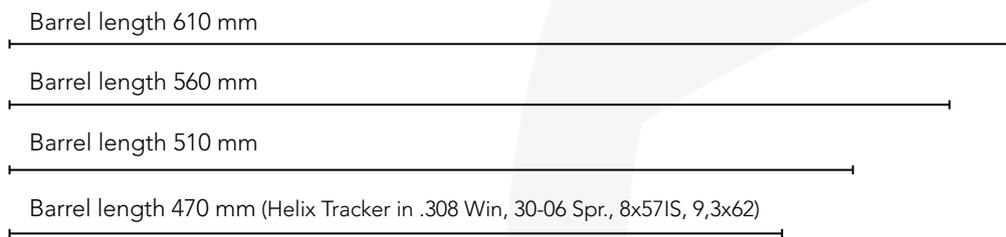
► The **TOTAL LENGTH** of the Helix with a standard barrel length of 56 cm is 107 cm ► **WEIGHT** from approx. 2.9 kg



STANDARD BARREL \varnothing 17 mm with or without sights



SEMIWEIGHT-BARREL \varnothing 19 mm with or without sights



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



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

HELIX SILENCER

There are lots of reasons for using silencers – whereas the law only allows silencers to be used if the owner is in possession of the official permit. The hunter who has such a permit for a Helix silencer conserves his ears, the environment and the dog's hearing, and protects game against hunting stress.



BARREL DIAMETER 17 mm

		BARREL LENGTH 510 mm				BARREL LENGTH 560 mm				BARREL LENGTH 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 470 mm				BARREL LENGTH 510 mm				BARREL LENGTH 560 mm				BARREL LENGTH 610 mm			
GEOMETRY ▶		round		fluted		round		fluted		round		fluted		round		fluted	
SIGHTS ▶		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 ▲ 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, and even increases shooting accuracy. Muzzle thread required. The muzzle cap protects the muzzle thread if neither silencer nor muzzle brake have been fitted.



BIPOD

Bipod as stable rest in the field. Is fixed using a bipod adapter – this can also be assembled retrospectively.



MOUNTS

Picatinny rails are a universal mounting base. There are a number of options available through to mounts with rings.



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 – edged with soft elk leather. With practical strap button for quick removal. The strap is 105 cm long, 5 cm wide in the carrying area and padded with neoprene.



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.
- 3 **Tracker stock** – as 1.) – additionally with central sling-swivel attachment on both sides of the buttstock for carrying rucksack-style during tracking.
- 4 **Camouflage synthetic stock** with pistol grip, recoil-dampening pad and lockable universal fore-end from non-slip high-tech material with soft-touch coating. With sling-swivel adapters.
- 5 **Alpinist stock camouflage** – as 4.) – additionally with adjustable cheek piece and bipod adapter on fore-end. Soft-touch foil coating.
- 6 **Tracker stock OR** – as 4.) – in camouflage orange, additionally with central sling-swivel fastening on both sides of buttstock for rucksack-style carrying during tracking.
- 7 **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.
- 8 **Noblesse wooden stock** – as 7.) – pore-filled with high-gloss luxury finish and ebony ends on pistol grip and fore-end snobble tip. Wood classes 7-10. Optional as left-handed stock.
- 9 **Sportster wooden stock** – as 7.) – with thumbhole stock for ergonomic grip during rapid bolt action firing. Wood classes 2, 4 and 5.



▲ 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.



HUNTING KNIVES

- 1 **Merkel Moufflon hunting knife** with fixed blade and leather sheath for the belt. Eyelet for the holding cord. Blade 9.5 cm long. Grip in moufflon horn.
- 2 **Merkel Micarta hunting knife** with fixed blade and leather sheath for the belt. Eyelet for the holding cord. Blade 10 cm long. Grip in Micarta structured wood.
- 3 **Merkel Survival knife from Morakniv** with steel edge, sharpening diamond and fire starter and synthetic sheath with belt loop. Blade length: 10 cm.
- 4 **Merkel Companion knife from Morakniv** – easy to clean knife with fixed blade and orange synthetic sheath with belt loop. Blade 10 cm long. Grip in plastic.



DVD – WILD BOAR FEVER 5

The ultimate driven hunt film for the HELIX from the spectacular WILD BOAR FEVER series. Filmed in Romania where the large boars live. A film you must see.



DRIVEN HUNT CAP

Helix driven hunt cap in orange. Universal fit with adjustment tape.



HUNTING CAP

Merkel hunting cap in green. Universal fit with adjustment tape.



MERKEL

MERKEL Jagd- und Sportwaffen GmbH
Schützenstraße 26 · D-98527 Suhl
Phone +49-(0)-3681-854-0 · Fax -203
www.merkel-die-jagd.de

We reserve the right to technically modify our products, which are subject to continuous improvement. Guns are sold to permit holders only.