

Wolf Eyes Tactical Flashlights



Tactical is not something that gets me excited when it comes to "hunting". However in the case of the Wolf Eyes flashlight I am only too happy to make an exception. This little torch (flashlight sounds a bit "Yankee" for me), just by its sheer performance, has uses other torch makers are going to have to dream about. My son Kai has always been into torches and always has the best and brightest, but none I have seen gets close to this one. Especially when you take size into account, his big Cree LED is extremely good, but is 2.5 times longer and weighs three times as much, so to mount it on a rifle for walk about hunting would pose balance problems.

The torch received for review is a Wolf Eyes Sniper 260 Hunter and comes in a kit with battery charger; a reinforced holster; a 6H gun tail cap; a defender bezel; gun mount and spare battery. Also 2 spare "O" rings which seal the bezel as this is the section which is removed to change the battery. This all comes in a well presented gift box.

What is it? A very compact torch with exceptional performance. The biggest problem I can find is how to show you its performance. Its size, standing on its front lens is 128mm high, and this lens is 34mm in diameter. The rear

(Above) A fox taken with the left handed Savage .22-250 with a 10 power Prominar scope holding the Wolf Eyes alongside the rifle at 76 paces.

(Right) Showing the inside of the Wolf Eyes with its brass lining.

(Below right) Some of the optional extras available - sticky velcro pads for mounting the gun tail switch; the new gun mount with the wing screws; a Xenon incandescent globe which gives a wider spectrum of light, the standard Cree LED globe which only has on and off ability. The optional red filter.

bezel is 29mm and the centre waist section is 26mm in diameter. The on / off switch in the defender bezel (standard back end which is removed to replace the battery) has a spring powered button switch which allows Morse code facility as well as 3 light intensities. 1) full power; 2) reduced power; 3) low power and 4) strobe so it can be used as a warning beacon. Wolf Eyes can also supply a defender bezel that only turns the torch on and off on full power.

The power is regulated by a chip in the LED's construction to give 1 hour 50 minutes at full power with a small decrease in the last half hour. This regulation also protects the LED from overheating and ensures longer operating life. If you don't like the very white light of the



(Left) The Wolf Eyes kit we received for test, it included from left to right:

- 1) the gun tail which allows remote operation of the torch and would be used for fox whistling.
- 2) M2 gun mount and allen key, and I have been advised that there is a new gun mount available with wing nuts for easier use.
- 3) The battery charger which will charge two batteries at once.
- 4) 2 spare "O" rings for the seals on the body of the torch (don't forget to use a small amount of petroleum jelly on them when fitting).
- 5) Spare battery available as an optional extra.
- 6) Webbing holster.

(Right) This handy bag of bunnies were taken with the Wolf Eyes Hunter mounted on the 4 power Kahles scope of the standard Hornet. Distances were out to about 65 metres. All were head shot and it was as easy as if I were using the normal spotlight. There was more than enough light, the biggest handicap was the insects.

Cree LED bulb Wolf Eyes can also supply a Xenon bulb as an optional extra which gives a full spectrum of light rather than the narrow spectrum of the Cree LED bulb.

The 6H gun tail cap has an interesting pressure pad that is on the end of a curly telephone type cable which turns the torch on and must be held to keep the light on as well as a standard switch on its side. Wolf Eyes supply self adhesive velcro pads so the pressure pad can be placed in a convenient position on your firearm for instant light control.

The torch construction is a radical change from anything I have seen in the past. The outer shell is made from an unspecified aluminum alloy, while there is an inner case made from brass which I'm advised by Wolf Eyes is not only there as a good conductor for the electrical circuit but mainly to turn the whole torch into a heat sink to reduce the temperature around the LED as the light production also makes heat in direct proportion to the amount of light. This heat sink definitely works as the whole torch gets quite warm when it is on for an extended period.

Testing consisted of the first night down at the rabbit patch walking around with the Wolf Eyes attached to the scope of a standard Brno Hornet. This was most successful, but having the torch attached to the top of the scope

(Right) The Wolf Eyes target shot with the Taranah Hunter and a 4 power Kahles scope at 100 yards. Left hand bull is shot with the bare rifle, 3 shots where the hole on the centre line was shots 2 and 3, the right hand target shot in almost to dark conditions with the Wolf Eyes on and mounted on the barrel just far enough to turn the torch on and off. Note the slight upward shift in the point of aim, this was the same on the standard Hornet, only the group was not as good. The 5 shot group on the middle bull tells it all as I left the shooting for a good 45 minutes for it to get properly dark and this is the resultant group.



two problems showed up. The side light reflected back a little off the objective lens housing and also from my forend hand and when your pupils are dilated from the dark this reflected light is bright. The other problem, because of the performance I had hundreds of friends (insects) right close to my face when I went to shoot. So I decided to change the mounting position to under the barrel of the Taranah Hornet.

One thing I would like the manufacturer to look at is the addition of knurled thumb wheels on the attachment screws as the 2.5mm allen key is a little fiddley in the dark. Because if you wanted to change the battery you would need to move the mount along the barrel away from the forend tip as I had the torch mounted just forward far enough to use the switch.

The test target, left hand bull was shot in very low light (I left it too late in the day) at 100 yards, then I mounted the torch just forward of the forend tip enough to be able to turn the torch on and off and fired a second group with the torch on as it was too dark to see properly and was surprised to see the group slightly higher. This was tried on the standard Hornet with exactly the same results, although the groups were not as good, hence the change to the Taranah Hornet with a Kahles 4 power scope. I then went and got on the lawn mower for 45 minutes to let it get properly dark and fired the centre group with the Wolf Eyes to achieve a 5 shot group at 100 yards of 0.93" with this small torch attached to the barrel of the Taranah Hornet.

The next outing I was shooting a Savage Left Hand .22-250 varmint and I forgot the mounting clamp and planned to just use the Wolf Eyes as a torch, but when a couple of foxes showed and were inquisitive I turned off the big light on the roof and ended up shooting one. The fox was at 76 metres and was as clear as a bell in the old 10x Prominar scope.

In conclusion, for those who enjoy the art of fox whistling this new development from Wolf Eyes is something else, and I can see the poor old fox is in trouble. I had no trouble bagging bunnies out to 65 yards as this is as far away as I could find one in the dark, as the grass is big enough that you can not see them any further. I also bagged the fox in the photo at 76 paces from out of the truck just holding the torch along side the rifle. Another great job for this little torch would be in the professional shooting truck, as the field of the beam is perfect for finding the odd one in long grass. I have used the torch for over 2 hours and it is still bright and clear so Wolf Eyes claim of 2 hours 20 minutes run time on high is spot on. I would like to see a QD fitting that could be attached to the front sling stud as this would increase the usefulness of the torch even further. To brighten your dark times look to Wolf Eyes.

The Wolf Eyes Sniper 260 Hunter retails for \$195 and is available from www.wolfeyes.com.au

