

Is there a new kid on the block to take the night vision throne?

THE world of night vision has exploded in the past few years with lots of brands bringing a day and night vision optic to the table.

At last, we thought! A scope we can use day and night, with colour by day and night vision at night. However, in reality, it was a jack of all trades but master of none.

Sure, the Yukon Photon was great as a night scope and sold in its thousands I am sure, but when it came to daytime use, a grainy, black and white squinted image was the best you could expect.

Along came products such as the Sightmark Wraith HD, the Pulsar Digex C50 etc., and for the first time we had proper colour viewing by day and night vision at night, with performance that would have cost thousands only a few years earlier.

Introducing Alpex



HikMicro are a relatively new brand to the UK but are huge across the world with their parent company HikVision, who are one of the largest names in CCTV systems.

HikMicro are distributed by Elite Optical in Devon, and have an impressive line-up of handheld thermal imagers, many of which I have used and reviewed over the past few months.

They have now entered the world of digital night vision with the new HikMicro Alpex A50T digital day and night vision riflescope.

I was lucky enough to get one of these to play with at The Game Fair and was simply blown away with the image quality. Like the Digex C50, it also fits via 30mm ring mounts and looks and feels like a quality day scope.

The daytime image of the Alpex is also just like a dayscope, with natural colours and crisp clear clarity. I was actually fooled initially that this was a glass optic.

Three Modes...for all day use

Alpex features three modes of operation – Daytime Colour, Twilight/Low Light Colour, and Night Vision Mode.

While the colour mode is superb, what really blew me away was the Twilight mode. Overlooking some farmland at 10pm, I could barely discern any details as the light had failed beyond the point of which my eyes (and camera) could see.



What my eyes see at twilight.



What the Alpex sees at twilight... colour night vision without IR.

Bringing the Alpex to the eye, I was shocked to see a colour daytime image which really has to be experienced to be believed.

When the sun had finally set, I flicked on the IR illuminator and was blown away with the image quality at night also.

At £799.99 with a decent IR illuminator included, the Alpex ticks all the boxes, and I just had to have one. Stuart at Elite Optical told me they are due early September and to get my order in quick!

The Best of The Best

The Pulsar Digex C50 has to be the best around, with stunning 'day scope looks' fitting on 30mm rings, and for the first time colour twilight night vision – yes, you read that right – and high performance night vision.

Twin this with a realistic colour daytime image, and you have a winner which is perfect for 24/7 vermin control but also clear enough to shoot targets in the daytime.

At £1,239.95 with an X850 IR illuminator included, however, the Digex C50 was twice the price of the Wraith HD.



SPECIFICATIONS

- Sensor Resolution - 1920x1080
- Lens Size - 50mm F1.2
- Min Focusing Distance - 3m
- Frame Rate - 50hz
- Optical Mag - 3.5x with up to 4x digital zoom
- Display - 1024x768 OLED HD
- Video Resolution for recording - 1440x1080
- On Board Video Recording
- Recoil Activated Recording
- Wifi Hotspot to HikMicro Sight App
- Battery Type - Two rechargeable lithium batteries, one internal, one turret external CR123
- Dimensions - 442x78x83mm
- Weight - 1,062gm

Summary:

With lots of features such as video recording, Wi-Fi, variable mag, and a Defog feature, which allows use of night vision in fog (somewhat baffled at how this works!) the new Alpex A50T is set to be a superb selling product and when it lands in early September I expect it will be flying off the Elite Optical shelves.

I have mine on order with the lads at Scott Country International, who I find are the 'go to' for everything nocturnal and will bring you a full review when I have it!

For more details visit
www.scottcountry.co.uk/alpex

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