Tikka T3x Aimpoint Bush Buster Combo

## By Tim Menzies, Roarsome Hunting

Thanks to the team at Beretta NZ, we were fortunate to be given a new Tikka T3x with Aimpoint sights to take and trial for the roar. Fair to say, the rifle was always going to impress given Tikka's out of the box reputation for accuracy and reliability.

The Bush Buster combo setup is perfect for hunting in the tight native like we do.



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From a hunter's perspective, I found this bush buster setup perfect for hunting in the tight native like we do. The overall length and weight of the bush buster made for easy carrying through the thick scrub and when slung over your shoulder.

The new improved modular stock with interchangeable pistol grip allows you to change the angle so it can be set up better for the shooter. It also has an additional attachment point which allows you to change the width at the fore end of the stock, and the attachments come in a range of colours. The new recoil pad and foam core inside helps eliminate that annoying hollow knocking sound that is common with synthetic stocks.

## Aimpoint Red Dot Sight

The Aimpoint sight is a neat piece of kit; with Ox magnification that allows full view and the red dot brightness can be adjusted for all light situations. Shooting with both eyes open took a little getting used to, but after taking a stag in tight bush I can see the advantages of this setup. With both eyes open I was able to concentrate on the animal and everything around him, making it very easy to identify my target and firing zone. It was as simple as just bringing the rifle up, putting the red dot where I wanted to hit and squeezing off the shot. It's almost like not having to aim, just point and shoot.

With its compact and rugged design, you hardly know the sight is there. It can handle being knocked around and bashed through the scrub and in my opinion, it would be perfect for shooting bailed pigs and any other close quarter shooting.

## Tikka T3x

This Tikka T3x is stainless steel with a flat finish, which is a good choice for a rifle that's going to spend a lot of time in the field. The barrel is 20in long with a 1-in-10 twist, six-groove rifling and finished with a 14/1 metric muzzle thread for a suppressor. The barrel is free-floating and has a steel recoil lug in the stock to help with bedding.



The Aimpoint Red Dot Sight is a neat piece of kit.

The action has been improved by redesigning the ejection port and has been lengthened and chamfered to allow for easier access when loading one round at a time. There are also extra screw attachments to the flat receiver top so if you don't want to fit Opti Lok scope mounts to the dovetails, a separate rail can be fitted instead. This is handy for one-piece generic picatinny rails and use with larger scopes.





A common problem was the synthetic bolt shroud, so they have changed that to a metal shroud to meet the demand. The bolt itself has a low bolt-lift to avoid knocking your scope and has twin locking lugs opposite each other. It has a single extractor claw and plungertype ejector that gives the smooth Tikka action.

The Tikka T3x has a single stage adjustable unit trigger. You can adjust the pull weight from 2lb to 4lb, which on a sporting rifle is a real bonus. It's a simple process and all you need is an Allen key. The magazine is a hard impact polymer, making it light and waterproof, with a single-column feed and holds three rounds in your chosen calibre. If you want more capacity, a five-shot version is available. To drop the mag, you simply press the mag release at the front of the magazine and it pops out.

The safety is the standard Tikka type; a toggle unit that is back for safe and forward for fire, which locks both the bolt operation and trigger.

This rifle was always going to impress!

