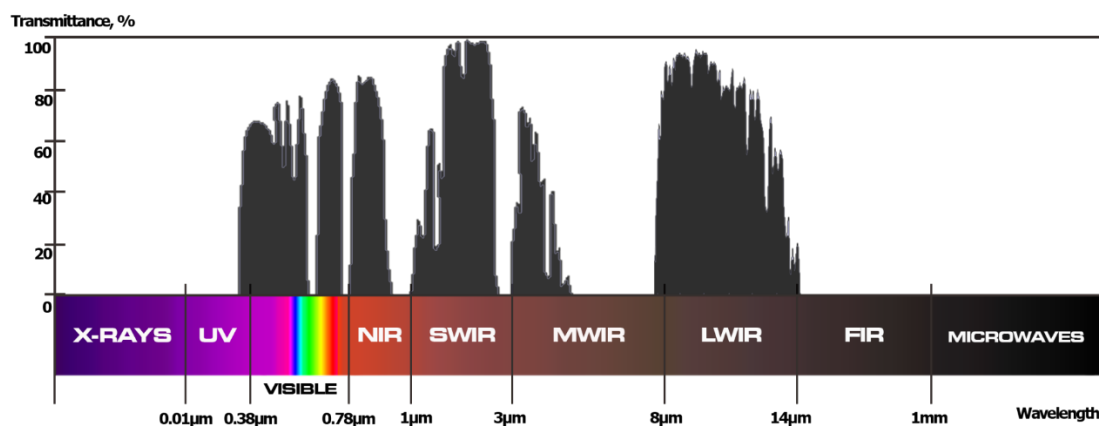


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## THERMAL OPTICS – WHAT IS IT AND WHY IS IT SO POPULAR

Thermal imaging technology captures the infrared light emitted by objects due to their heat radiation in the long wave infrared spectrum (LWIR). This allows hunters to see heat sources in various lighting conditions, including complete darkness, fog, smoke, and heavy vegetation. Unlike traditional night vision, which amplifies available light, thermal imaging detects the heat emitted by objects, making it effective in a far wider range of conditions.



### Key Features of Thermal Scopes

**Resolution:** The resolution of a thermal scope's sensor determines the clarity of the image. Higher resolutions, such as 1024x768 pixels, provide more detailed images, which can be crucial for identifying game at longer distances. Lower resolutions, like 384x288 pixels, are more affordable but may offer less detail.

#### There are multiple levels of resolution available in 2024

LOW RESOLUTION = 120x160

STANDARD RESOLUTION = 384x288

HIGH RESOLUTION = 640x480 – 640x512

HIGH DEFINITION = 1024x768 – 1280x1204

**Detection Range:** This is the **maximum distance** at which a thermal scope can detect a heat signature. High-end models can detect targets up to 2000 yards away, while more budget-friendly options might have a shorter range. The detection range is mainly influenced by the size of the lens of the optic and the sensors micron rating.

**T.** 02 9938 3244 **W.** [www.tasco.com.au](http://www.tasco.com.au) **ABN.** 54 000 502 910

**F.** 02 9939 2972 **E.** [sales@tasco.com.au](mailto:sales@tasco.com.au) Unit 6 Winbourne Estate, 9-13 Winbourne Rd, Brookvale, NSW 2100

**Postal Address:** PO BOX 6176, Frenchs Forest, NSW 2086

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**Recognition Distance:** The recognition distance of thermal optics is a crucial factor for hunters, as it determines how far you can accurately identify a target. This distance is influenced by several factors, including the resolution of the thermal sensor, the size of the lens, and the specific characteristics of the target.

**Refresh Rate:** Measured in Hertz (Hz), the refresh rate indicates how often the image is updated per second. A higher refresh rate, such as 50Hz, provides smoother images, which is particularly important when tracking moving targets. Lower refresh rates, like 30Hz, might result in a choppy image under motion.

**Battery Life:** Long battery life is essential for extended hunting trips. Many thermal scopes offer 10+ hours of operation on a single charge. Some models come with rechargeable batteries, while others use replaceable ones. It's important to consider the battery type and availability when choosing a scope.

**Durability:** Thermal scopes are often built to withstand harsh conditions. Features like water resistance, shockproof construction, and rugged housings ensure that the scope can handle the rigors of hunting. Look for scopes with an IP (Ingress Protection) rating to understand their resistance to dust and water.

## ADVANTAGES OF THERMAL OPTICS

### Unparalleled Visibility

Thermal optics allow hunters to see through complete darkness, fog, smoke, and heavy vegetation by detecting heat signatures. This capability is invaluable in low-light conditions where traditional optics are unusable. Unlike night vision, which requires some ambient light, thermal optics work purely on heat detection, making them effective in a wider range of environments.

### Improved Accuracy

Many thermal scopes come equipped with advanced features such as ballistic calculators, rangefinders, and FFP reticles. These tools help hunters make precise shots by accounting for various factors like distance, wind, and angle. The ability to see heat signatures clearly also helps in identifying the exact location of the target, reducing the chances of a missed shot.

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### **Versatility**

Thermal optics are versatile and can be used in various hunting scenarios, from game and pest management to predator control. They are effective in different environments and weather conditions, making them a reliable choice for professionals who need to adapt to changing situations. Additionally, depending on ambient heat, thermal optics can be used both during the day and at night, providing flexibility that traditional night vision cannot.

### **Detection of Camouflaged Targets**

Animals often blend into their surroundings, making them difficult to spot with the naked eye or traditional optics. Thermal imaging bypasses natural camouflage by detecting the heat emitted by animals, making them stand out against cooler backgrounds. This is particularly useful in dense scrub or when animals are partially obscured by vegetation.

### **Recording and Storage**

Some thermal optics come with digital recording capabilities, allowing hunters to capture and store visual information for later review. This feature can be useful for analysing hunts, improving techniques, and sharing experiences with others.

### **Durability and Reliability**

Thermal scopes are often built to withstand harsh conditions, with features like water resistance, shockproof construction, and rugged housings. This durability ensures that the scope can handle the rigors of hunting, providing reliable performance in various environments.

### **No Light Source Required**

Unlike night vision devices that require some ambient light to function, thermal optics do not need any light source. They rely solely on detecting heat, which makes them effective in complete darkness and in conditions where light is minimal. This independence from light sources enhances their usability in diverse hunting scenarios. Stealth is the name of the game and is a huge advantage when targeting highly sensitive nocturnal pests and predators.

### **Better Range of Distance**

Thermal optics generally offer a better range of detection compared to night vision devices. They can detect heat signatures from extreme distances, allowing hunters to spot and track game from afar. This extended range is particularly beneficial for spotting game in open fields or large tracts of land or crops.

Thermal optics provide a significant edge in detecting and tracking game in challenging conditions, making them a valuable tool for hunters.

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