

Riflescope Terminology

Eye Relief: The distance behind the eyepiece at which you can see a full sight picture.

Field of View: The width of the sight picture at 100 yards.

Parallax: An optical condition that occurs when the image of the target is not focused precisely on the reticle plane. Parallax is visible as an apparent movement between the reticle and the target when the shooter moves his head. Adjustable-objective scopes should remove parallax-related problems.

Exit pupil: The diameter of the shaft of light exiting the scope toward the eye. It is used to rate the brightness of a riflescope's sight picture. The larger the exit pupil, the easier it is to keep the eye aligned with the sight picture, and the better the scope will be in low light conditions.

Coated Optics: Glass surfaces are covered with a special chemical (such as magnesium fluoride) to reduce light loss and glare due to reflection.