



AWARDS

Winner – Supreme Award, Best Product. 2014 Best Design Awards.

Finalist in the NZ Hi-tech Awards 2014.

Special Judge's Commendation, New Zealand Workplace Health & Safety Awards 2014.

Both the vest and cap are available in either Camo or Blaze Orange.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

When you line your scope up on a target and the beam hits any part of the detectable IRIS material (described as a high precision, micro-plasmatic retro reflective film) on another hunter's cap or vest, the sensor on your scope emits both an audible and visual



directly to your scope with a 1" aluminium clamp mount. Not long after I received the system for review Mike sent me an improved clamp mount, which features additional bolts.

Setup is easy, fit the unit to your scope, turn it on and it's ready to go! No calibrating or alignment is required. The laser emits a wide beam with an effective range from 15 metres out to 100 metres, which is based on the zone most hunting accidents occur within. A single AA battery powers the sensor.

The IRIS Detectable Vest is made of 100% polyester and features two zipped side pockets. Horizontal and vertical strip patches are strategically placed on both sides of the vest. Also included are five additional IRIS detectable self-adhesive patches. I guess the extra patches could be placed onto another item of clothing such as an outer shell garment, pants, or a day pack etc. The cap is your standard trucker's style, mesh outer with a solid front. IRIS material is used throughout the cap.

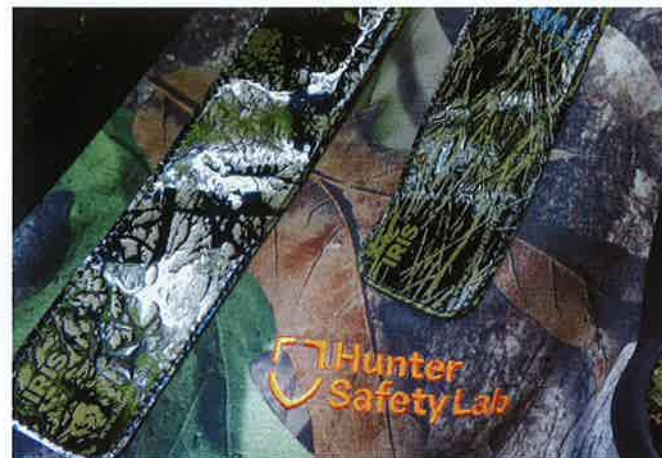
alert. The visual alert is a bright orange LED ring, which flashes repeatedly, and the audible alert is an electronic alarm type sound. Both alerts are synchronized.

Simple, unmistakable and foolproof in operation. In fact, due to the simplicity of it all, there isn't really a whole lot to discuss here, time to hit the bush.

IN THE FIELD

In my initial tests, and for obvious reasons, I wasn't particularly keen on mounting the sensor to the scope on my rifle and then aiming it at a mate wearing the vest, so I opted to use it handheld. The system worked very well. Provided the IRIS material was visible the sensor had no problem detecting it, and once it did the dual alerts would activate immediately. On another hunt I did fit the IRIS to my scope and test it on the hat and vest which I had positioned on trees and scrub.

I tested it through various densities of bush and scrub at the recommended distances,



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ED'S COMMENTS: THE IRIS SYSTEM

Pros:

- Anything that helps reduce the number of hunting tragedies is to be applauded.
- Technically the system works efficiently and is easy to use without any training necessary.
- Once purchased the kits can be shared, loaned, or even hired out etc., thus the price can be spread out between a number of hunters over the years.

Cons:

- You can't protect yourself by purchasing a single kit for your own use, you have to provide kits for all the mates you are hunting with and convince them to install/wear them. At \$400 approx each the cost adds up fast, and is likely to meet some resistance.
- There is no protection from hunters in other parties in the area who do not have the kits installed (although it's worth remembering that more than two-thirds of victims are shot by a member of their own hunting party).

the idea being to emulate the generally small area of an unidentified target that shots have been taken at with tragic consequences. Accidents occur when a hunter shoots at something he can't quite make out. He just believes it's a deer. The average accident distance is 35 metres.

It was while performing these tests that I began to think that perhaps the sensor didn't need to be mounted to the gun at all. Could it be slung around your neck with a lanyard and simply aimed at the target prior to the firearm being raised?

Back in the office I rang Hunter Safety Lab and spoke with James about this. The first point he made was that they didn't want the identification system to be used in a way where a hunter would simply wave the IRIS sensor in the general direction they were hunting in and assume it was clear of other hunters.

He emphasized that the primary idea behind the product is that it is not a target



identification tool, it's designed to be the "last line of defence" in situations where the hunter is mistakenly convinced he's aiming at an animal. What IRIS does is provide a last-second warning. I interpret this as a situation where the hunter has obviously made some fundamental errors in the identification of his target, and already has his scope locked on something he is about to shoot. This means that the hunter has already broken the single most important safety rule – "identify your target", and now has his rifle pointed at what might be another hunter. As I write this, I find it extremely sobering.

It is at this crucial stage, at

the point where a mate's life could be taken, that the Hunter Safety Detection System comes into play, and on a practical level it does so very well.

Personally I would like to see the target identification being made prior to the rifle being lifted, which is why I suggested the device should be handheld. However, ultimately we don't want to see any hunting accidents occur through target misidentification, so I must endorse the idea behind the IRIS system.

Overall, I was impressed at how well the system performed. It's a simple and easy setup; clamp the IRIS sensor to your scope, put the vest on, wear the hat and you're done.

Safe hunting.
Nik

THE NZ MOUNTAIN SAFETY COUNCIL'S FIREARMS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE HAS RECEIVED A PRESENTATION ABOUT THE IRIS SYSTEM AND DISCUSSED THE DEVICE.

The Council's position statement is as follows:

"The NZMSC supports the development of new technology and initiatives which may aid hunters to use firearms more safely.

While these devices may aid, they do not replace safe firearm handling practice. All firearm users are unequivocally responsible for identifying their target, taking the shot and any consequences of these actions.

The onus is on the firearm user to adhere to the seven basic rules of firearms safety at all times."

Nicole McKee

Programme Manager Firearms & Hunter Safety
New Zealand Mountain Safety Council

IRIS HUNTER SAFETY DETECTION SYSTEM

RRP: \$399

Pack includes: IRIS sensor, mount, detectable vest and accessory patches.

For more information on the Hunter Safety Detection System visit Hunter Safety Lab at:

www.huntersafetylab.com

FOOTNOTE:

While writing this review one thought kept coming to mind. If someone invited me on a hunt and then asked me to fit the IRIS sensor to my scope and wear the vest, what would my reaction be?

My first instinct would be to ask why it was necessary. Is the hunter saying that he's susceptible to falsely identifying his targets, to the point where he has his rifle up and aimed at another hunter? That's a pretty big call – would anyone actually admit to that?

And, while I would appreciate his honesty if he did in fact admit this, the hunt would be over before it began! Don't get me wrong, this would be my personal choice and is in no way a reflection on the efficiency of the Hunter Safety Detection System itself.