

Opticron Discovery WA ED 8x32

Lee Thickett (March 2021)

It hardly seems possible but it was back in May 2019 I reviewed Opticron's Discovery WP PC 8x32 and a nice little binocular it was too. 2 years on and we are testing an updated version fitted with ED glass objectives, a field of view expanded from 131m (7.5°) to 140m (8°), eye relief up by 1.0mm to 18mm, an IPD maintained at 52-75mm and weight unchanged at 390g. For those used to imperial units the field of view is now 420ft at 1000yds and the weight just 13.9oz.



The Discovery WA ED 8x32 comes with a full set of accessories including a lightweight neck-strap which, although not tailored, suits these lightweight binos, removable objective covers and the usual Opticron rainguard with one complete attachment loop on the left to accommodate the neck-strap and a split loop on the right.

In the hand these are very compact at 108mm (4.3") long and are feather-light. They have an up-market appearance to my eyes with a smooth area each side of the bridge, one of which features the brand and model name. By contrast the optical tubes have a lovely fine texture which is easy on the eye and nice to the touch. Moving to the eyecups I found no blackouts viewing while wearing my spectacles and when trying the binos without glasses I instinctively located the eyecup under my eyebrows to avoid blackouts that can sometimes be encountered when you push small eyecups like these too deep into your eye sockets. The eyecups have three positions. The focus wheel is smooth and backlash free and only requires little effort to rotate it. The focus speed is quite fast requiring only 0.6 of a turn to refocus from 4km (2.5 miles) down to 2m making it similar to Opticron's own Traveller BGA and the Zeiss FL 8x32.

Picking the Discovery up for a quick scan over and around the valley, I was immediately rewarded by a female Sparrowhawk cruising along just above a line of trees. As it manoeuvred, I could make out the eye stripe and some barring on the breast. A nice start but even better was the experience of watching two Song Thrushes bathing in our rather overgrown garden pond. One of them decided that two in the same bath was a step too far and made its way to an old ceramic kitchen sink we have half-buried just a metre away.

Summing up, these binos would give anyone enjoyable and educational nature observations. For their price they are great value and the IPD range, and the size and weight, make them suitable for kids too.