

Discovery WP PC 7x42

Ray Scally (September 2019)



The last pair of 7x42's I used were my own Carl Zeiss Dyalyt and I have fond memories of the specification. That was a long time ago so I wasn't sure what to expect from a modern pair of 7x42's particularly in a price range under half what I would have paid back then.

Initially I was surprised at the compact size (133x126mm) and weight (680g) plus the wide field of view (7.8°) on offer from the Discovery. The design is a standard single hinge with a quality matt smooth rubber armour. The focus is ribbed rubber too and has a smooth action requiring only 1.5 turns to move from close

focus (1.5m) to infinity. The dioptre adjustment is housed on the right eyepiece. The eyecups are large with a thick rubber covering with two positions, up or down. I would have preferred intermediate click stops but at this price range it's not a deal breaker.

First impressions were really positive. Balance in the hand is good, the wide field of view is immediately evident and the instrument has a wonderfully large sweet spot. Studying trees it was hard to detect any drop-off in image quality at all until I started hunting for it. Looking at Hawthorn, the colour of the leaves and berries were wonderfully saturated, neutral with no discernible cast.

Using the 7x42's on a misty morning that turned into a bright sunny day I was pleased by the lack of CA (colour fringing) usually evident at this price range. You can find it but like the drop-off in sharpness at the field edge, you have to search for it.

I seldom take a review set of bins out for a serious days birding but after looking through these I was so surprised by their ease of focus, excellent depth of field and sharpness that I took them for a full days birding in the Peak District.

I cannot comment on the accessories as I only received the binoculars.

Conclusion:

Pro's – Everything to do with the image and focus, it is superb at this price and if you can make do with the slightly lower power I would definitely consider these binoculars up to mid-range pricing. The close focus is also very good and would suit insect watching.

Con's – It's all personal to me, I would prefer intermediate click stops on the eyecups and having the binoculars tightly closed due to the distance between my eyes I would prefer slightly smaller diameter eyecups.

Ray Scally is a birdwatcher and international bird artist widely published in ornithological journals and books and is well known for his work illustrating the two Birding Frontiers Challenge Series bestselling identification books, Autumn and Winter. Other publications include The Birds of Spurn by Andy Roadhouse, The Ultimate Site Guide to Scarcer British Birds by L G R Evans, Rare Birds Where and When Vol. 1 by Russell Slack and British Birds Magazine amongst many others. Ray exhibits annually at the Spurn Migration Festival and is currently working on illustrations for Cape May Bird Observatory in the US. When he's not at Spurn, Ray can be found birding in his East Cheshire square/ Peak District Hills.