

TECH

Optics

Opticron Imagic IS 10x30 Monocular



By **Emily Cuff**

There's no denying it, I'm a big fan of Opticron products. The reliable great-quality images and value for money have won me over. It was with that in mind, and the fact that I had never used a monocular before, that I jumped at the chance to try out the new Imagic IS 10x30 monocular from Opticron. But how did the monocular compare to other optics?

Opticron's Imagic IS 10x30 monocular uses the latest generation of image stabilisation (IS) technology, and replaces the previous MMS 160 travelscope. It can be used with or without the IS turned on, so there's no need to worry if the CR2 batteries run out of juice whilst in the field; you'll still have a good piece of kit to spy on nature with. However, the image stabilisation really was the star of the show with the Imagic. A simple flick of a switch, and my viewing was transformed. Distant birds and other wildlife were watched with ease; IS corrected shaking or movement of up to three degrees. Birds were definitely harder to (successfully) follow without the IS turned on, with a few flitting away out of sight before I could find them again. The clarity of vision, however, was as expected from Opticron; the Imagic hosts a large objective lens which provided crisp details and bright images. The Imagic comes with a 10x magnification eyepiece as standard, but can be fitted with a wide range of Opticron SDL, HDF and HR2/3 eyepieces offering magnifications varying from 7x to 24x.

LIGHTWEIGHT AND COMPACT

Whilst I don't think I will be hanging my binoculars up any time soon, I particularly enjoyed the freedom that came with taking the Imagic out birding; it made for a pleasant change to not have binoculars around my neck. The Imagic is lightweight (370 g) and fairly compact. It came with a neck strap, but I much preferred fitting it

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easily into my coat pocket. A well-thought-out addition to the kit is an elasticated adjustable strap to keep the monocular close to your hand and stable; particularly helpful in steadying the kit whilst using only one hand. However, what perhaps wasn't as well thought out is the placement of the focusing wheel, which is located at the end of the objective lens. This was slightly disappointing as it meant I had to use two hands to focus, which took away some of the ease of use that I had been looking forward to. I also found the body of the monocular a tad bulky and took some getting used to. Those with smaller hands might struggle to hold onto the monocular comfortably. That said, the Imagic holds other qualities you'd expect from Opticron; it's waterproof and finished with a soft rubber textured armour.

If you're looking to ditch your current travelscope in favour of a lighter model without ditching any of the image quality, or fancy a change from binoculars, then the Opticron Imagic IS 10x30 monocular is certainly worth considering.

Price	£309
Value for money	●●●●●●●●
Weight	●●●●●●●●
Image (brightness, sharpness, colour correction)	●●●●●●●●
Build (durability, design)	●●●●●●●●
Ease of use	●●●●●●●●
Overall	●●●●●●●●