

Imagic TGA WP 10x50

Dave Gibson (July 2016)

I was surprised when Opticron asked me to do this review on an unfashionable porro prism binocular because as a birder I have not used a pair porros since the legendary Swift Aububons in the eighties. The thing is with porros is to never underestimate their optical performance, note I say optical performance, other than a rather small field of view of 93 metres at 1,000metres and close focusing of 4.5 metres these will beat any roof prisms up to probably £250.

Handling however feels a bit strange after years of using a roof prism but that is something that you soon get used to. Chromatic aberration (colour fringing) is hardly evident until you look for it on the outside of the field of view which by the way is sharp up to about 80% of the image. Also we must not forget that porros have that wonderful 3D image due to the objectives being wider apart than your eyes which is great in woodland.

They have to be a rather large binocular due to the 50mm objective lenses which gathers an amazing amount of brightness being far better than the commonly used roof prism 10x42 binocular. So the issue of size and the weight of my measured 850 grams could become a bit of a problem for a smaller person but Opticrons binocular harness could help spread that weight.

These binoculars are nitrogen filled waterproof so there is no need to tuck them under your jacket as we did with our porros years ago, just how waterproof these are is not given as an immersion depth but they are covered with a 30 year warranty so Opticron are confident in their construction which is nice grippy ribbed rubber armouring and good twist up eyecups with 19.5mm eye relief.

The focusing wheel is ribbed in rubber and focuses smoothly and the right hand side eye dioptre adjustment is click operated so unlike a lot of binoculars stays put when set. There is an integral tripod adapter socket which is ideal for astronomers and fatigue free tripod use.

I would recommend these binoculars for astronomy and general purpose use and I would also recommend these as a specialist type of binoculars for birders who do a lot of long range work like estuary watching and raptor watching where a smaller than average field of view and close focus is not as important. They come with a nice hard protective case with a wide strap, rain guard and objective covers for a reasonable price of £179.00 so would be good as a second pair of binoculars for birders.

I enjoyed testing these porros it was a nice trip down memory lane.

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