

## **Natura BGA ED 10x42**

**Dave Gibson** (October 2016)

An edited version of some words from Dave Gibson, birder, Opticron fan and shop manager at In Focus Denby Dale:

This new model should not be confused with the outgoing Opticron Natura BGA open-hinge binocular. This new model is a completely different design, offering ED glass and according to Opticron is assembled in China using a combination of China- and Japan-made components.

It has a small centre hinge which offers a good holding position around the barrels. The hold is further enhanced by a really nice thick rubber armouring with a good stippled finish to allow a non-slip grip. The binoculars in the Natura ED range are also nitrogen filled waterproof.

These binoculars are quite small and relatively light for their specification standing at 142 mm high and weighing 670 grams. They are very well balanced so will appeal to most people.

The twist up 3 position eyecups offer 20mm of eye relief and are of a size that should cater for most types of user.

To alter the right hand barrel dioptre, the adjustment system is built into the centre of the of the nicely-sized, ribbed focus wheel. Just pull the dial upwards and adjust and push back down to lock. This works in the same way as some more expensive 'alpha' binoculars.

The focusing was initially slightly stiff on the test pair supplied but loosened up with use.

Now to the important bit - how do they perform optically? The specifications say that they are phased coated, use Opticron's Oasis prism coating and ED glass so look very promising on paper. Looking through them for the first time you will notice the bright image with no colour cast at all and the sharpness to about 80 per cent of the just below average 105 metres field of view is outstanding. The close focusing is 2.5 metres which is good for butterfly and insect observations

I am very sensitive to chromatic aberration (colour fringing) but there is hardly any at all in these binoculars so that ED glass must be doing a good job!

In the back of my mind throughout testing was that these binoculars only cost £269 and are backed by Opticron's 30 year warranty. As a result I cannot recommend these binoculars highly enough - they punch well above their weight for performance and handling and will have the competition very worried!

I have shown these binoculars to various birders with much more expensive equipment who have been totally blown away with them so the first signs are good that these binoculars will be a big seller to beginners and anyone wanting a high performance binocular for minimum outlay.

The binoculars come with a rainguard, attachable objective lens covers, bungee lanyard, cleaning cloth and carry case.