

## Oregon 4 PC Monocular 10x42

### Anthony from Bean Camping Podcast (March 2021)



I have no idea how I would get on with one of these after a life of bins... That was the question that started it.

For the last 17 years I have always carried the perfectly portable Taiga 10x25 Opticron optics. It seemed unlikely I could change to the mono style, and most people I know would be the same.

However, the compact Oregon 4 (10x42) mono had me blindsided. It's been with me like an optical adaptation of man's best friend since its arrival. Spotting and watching the quiet 'eb and flow' of life at the tail end of a pandemic. If you think you've seen it all in your local area then look again through a lens.

It feels solid and reliable straight from the box, in a tidy and well presented case. The neck strap with quick release clips is a nice touch. As you would expect, lens covers protect the business ends of the piece and they do their job effectively.

So far, all standard stuff? But here is where I started to get switched on. As I set off on my daily walk, I tucked the unit into my map pocket where it sat comfortably and upright, still with plenty of room for other items I might need to carry. I can't stand having optics flap around my neck and chest, if you've ever taken a blow to the brow after an over zealous leap frog of a gate...you'll understand.

To focus the Oregon was super simple. A fast, reactive and slick one handed operation. Even with a thick pair of gloves it's possible to deploy at impressive speed thanks to the wide focusing wheel. I haven't missed a single view I've aimed for. Not requiring a dioptre adjustment saved precious moments of time which enabled me to see more! I'd never thought about that previously, despite using that feature extensively with my incumbent pair. The 10x magnification and 42mm lens was the perfect combination for me, a nice amount of light (helped no doubt by the lens coating as standard) and good level of zoom. I like to see things not frame things.



I thought it would take a long time to get used to the feel of a mono, but it really didn't. Opticron's new model design works very well. They are slick to use and perfectly suited to one handed ops. I found myself praising it due to the ability of being able to easily spot whilst holding our children's hands or the dog lead! This was a revelation and the major turning point. Of course I've used 'bins' when walking the pooch, but instinctively it takes two hands, even for compacts. I was free to multitask and engage in other things as often is required being a busy & interactive father of two.

At this point, I'm struggling to criticise what is a great value and ideal daily companion. But with all good reviews, there must be something... It dawned on me as I sat there, if the case was able to take a threaded mount, this could double as a very portable spotting scope too. Utilising a gorilla pod mounted on a branch or threaded walking pole, I could take advantage of those moments when you stumble across some wildlife action horribly unprepared.

That I'm sure, the designers at Opticron already have in the pipeline. The Oregon has fast become a firm favourite, from a brand I've come to trust for over a decade and a half.