



Binocular Guide

With this guide we hope to help you to buy the binocular that is perfect for your needs. We at Bargain Bino's know all about binoculars, after all we sell THOUSANDS each year. Have a read through this guide and feel free to email us with any queries you may have.

WHAT DO THOSE NUMBERS MEAN?

Binoculars are normally referred to by two numbers e.g. 8x40, 10x50. The first of these numbers is the actual magnification of the image: the size to which the subject is enlarged. The second number is the size, in millimetres, of the objective (front) lens. This is an important figure: for the same given magnification the bigger the objective lens the brighter the image will appear. Therefore, an 8x40 will have the same magnification as an 8x30 but the image will appear brighter.

A tiny (honestly) bit of maths follows: The brightness of binoculars of differing magnifications can be determined by dividing the objective lens size by the magnification. This gives us the exit pupil diameter in millimetres... Therefore a 10x50 (exit pupil 5mm) will have the same brightness as an 8x40 (exit pupil 5mm) and brighter than a 16x50 (exit pupil 3.1mm). This figure should always be kept in mind when purchasing binoculars, especially if they are to be used in poor light. If you're not sure, then give us a call on 01454 329 492.

CHOOSING THE RIGHT BINOCULAR FOR YOU

Binoculars can be categorised into the traditional size (8x40, 10x50 etc) and the smaller, more lightweight compact binoculars (8x21, 10x25 etc). If the brightness of the image is of most importance then we would recommend a traditional sized binocular such as the Avian F range. If a small size and weight is more important then take a look at the range of Bargain Bino's compact binoculars.

Bargain Bino's strongly recommends a magnification of around 7, 8 or 10x's. Higher magnifications may make the subject appear larger but they have a much narrower field of view (so you in fact see less) and you may need to carry around a tripod or monopod to rest the binoculars and to hold the image steady.

General Use

Any binocular in the Bargain Bino's range with a magnification of 7x's, 8x's or 10x's is ideal. Points to consider are the size/weight against the brightness of the image. In recent years compact binoculars have become more popular and while they do not offer the brightness in poor light of an 8x40, they are significantly lighter and smaller.

Bird Watching

The traditional binocular for bird watching has been the 10x50, although the 8x42 is now very popular. These offer the advantages of brightness, wide field of view and a binocular that can be held steady.

Hiking and Walking

In these activities where size and weight are of maximum importance and we have no hesitation in recommending a 8x25, 10x25 compact or a small traditional 8x30.

Sailing

Here people have traditionally chosen a 7x50 which offers wonderful low light capabilities along with a manageable magnification on a moving boat. Try to get one with waterproofing (for obvious reasons) and nitrogen filled. This last feature stops the internal lenses steaming up should the binoculars be taken from a warm cabin to a cold deck.

Night Sky

When viewing the night sky we want a binocular that gives a reasonable magnification with a large exit pupil diameter. A 7x50 fits the bill perfectly and will enable you to see stars that are less bright than say a 12x50 would and would be more versatile than a lot of Telescopes.

Air Shows and Sporting Events

Here we have fast moving objects a reasonably long distance away. Popular choices for these activities are either an 8x or a 10x magnification. Choose either a traditional for brighter image e.g. 8x40 or 10x50 or a more compact 8x25 or 10x25

Quick Chart

Equine Sports and Stadium Sports	8x21, 8x25 & 10x25 Extra-Wide Angle, All 7x50, 10x50 & 12x50, Any Zoom, Compacts from 7x to 10x
Boating	Any Waterproof Model with A Large Objective Diameter and Rubber Armour, 7x50, 7x42, 8x42 & 10x42
Concerts/Theatre	3x25 & 8x25 Extra-Wide Angle, 7x17 & 8x21 Compacts, Any Zoom or Wide Angle Model
Outdoor/Nature	Any 7x42, 7x50, 8x42 & 10x42 Standard Size, 8x30 & 10x30 Compacts, Waterproof Models for Camping
General Use/ Holidays/ Hiking	7x42, 8x42, 10x42 & 10x50, Most Compact and Wide Angle Models
Hunting	All Rubber Armoured, Waterproof and Fog proof Models, 7x to 10x Power Models for General Hunting, 12x or 16x for Distant Game, Compacts fit in a Pocket for Hunters on the Move
Bird watching	8x42 is the standard, 10x42, 10x50 & 12x50 for Details in Smaller Species at a Distance, Any Binocular with Long Eye Relief and Good Close Focusing Ability
Low Light	7x50 (Best Light-Gathering), 8x42, 10x50

We hope this guide has been of use to you. Please feel free to email sales@bargainbinos.co.uk with any queries you may have.