

KikkertSpesialisten AS




Test report 10x40/10x42 roof prism top of the line binoculars

This test report is prepared by KikkertSpesialisten AS, which is the largest binocular dealer in Norway. KikkertSpesialisten supplies all the brands tested below. We are a dealer only and do not have any import contracts with any brands. Our sister company Optiline AS is an authorized distributor of Opticron and Optolyth in Norway. The test reports are updated regularly due to optical improvements and new models released. They are made for two purposes: KikkertSpesialisten uses them to select what models to recommend and stock, and the customers get information to compare binoculars. KikkertSpesialisten makes test reports for both binoculars and telescopes. You can download the complete series of tests with Acrobat Reader from the web site: www.kikkertspecialisten.no. The test report you are reading is the only report translated to English. @

T	10 Perfect
E	9 Excellent
S	8 Very good
T	7 Good – plus
S	6 Good
C	5 God – minus
A	4 Fair – plus
L	3 Fair – minus
E	2 Poor
E	1 Very poor



TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

TEST RESULTS

Rating	Model	Image	TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS													TEST RESULTS					SHP (Norwegian kr)	Comments
			Magnification	Objective diameter (mm)	Brightness (relative)	Field of view (m/1000 m)	Close focus distance (m)	Width – in use (mm)	Length (mm)	Weight (g)	Prisms: Porro/Roof	Waterproofing	Rubber armouring	Warranty (Years)	Resolution	Contrast	Brightness (observed)	Field sharpness	Field of view w/glasses	Construction quality		
1	Opticron DBA 10x42		10	42	18	105	2,1	113	144	695	T	+++	G	10/30	10	10	8	8	9+	9	10272	Very good into the light (almost free of flare). Unique contrast and bright image gives the binocular fantastic features on overcast days and in poor light. These features make this the best 10x42 model available for hunters. The focussing wheel is precise mechanically and rotates easily. The wheel is covered by rubber and is easily used with gloves. The eyecups slide down for users who wear glasses. Rugged rubber with good friction also gives a secure grip on cold days. Very short close focus distance. Lighter and slimmer than the competitors. Rugged construction. Rubber colour: black. The best 10x40/10x42 roof prism binocular tested.
2	Leica 10x42 BA		10	42	18	110	4,6	120	141	890	T	+++	G	5/30	10-	9+	8	8	9	10	11320	Flare disturbs the image when used into the light, especially towards a bright, overcasted sky. Some backlash in the focussing wheel. The wheel, which is made of ribbed plastic, rotates easily but is slippery in cold weather and difficult to use with gloves. The eyecups slide down for users who wear glasses. The binocular is covered by a hard and rugged rubber with acceptable friction on warm days, but slippery in the cold. The rain cover fits too tight over the eyecups and slides the eyecups up and down when used. The neck strap is uncomfortable against the skin since it has a studded rubber surface. Bulky and heavy body. A rugged binocular with very good optics.
3	Nikon 10x42HG DCF WP		10	42	18	105	2,0	124	156	980	T	+++	G	5/10	9+	9+	8	10-	9	10	15740	Very good into the light (almost free of flare). The focussing wheel is precise mechanically and rotates easily. The wheel is covered by rubber and is easily used with gloves. Flat field eyepiece design gives a sharp image almost to the periphery of the field of view. Practical turn & slide eyecups. Rugged rubber covering with good friction also gives a secure grip on cold days. Very short close focus distance. The hinge should have more friction to keep the pupil distance unchanged when used hard in the field. Rugged, but bulky and heavy. One of the best 10x42 binoculars available.

NOTE! This 1999 test is outdated and not representative for the rating and optical quality of the most recent versions of today's top brand models.

November 5, 1999

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4	Swarovski SLC 10x42 W 	10	42	18	110	4.0	122	147	870	T	+++	G	5/30	9+	9	8	8+	9	10	9150	Very good into the light (almost free of flare). Not as excellent in poor light (lower contrast and appears darker) as the competing models from Opticron, Leica, and Nikon. The focussing wheel is precise mechanically and rotates easily. The wheel is covered by rubber and can be used with gloves. Turn & slide eyecups. Rubber with good friction when it is new, more slippery after years of use. After some years the rubber cover glue often loosens. Choice of colours: black or olive. Bulky and heavy. Good optics and rugged construction.
5	Zeiss Dialyt Classic 10x40 B/GAT*P 	10	40	16	110	4.5	117	152	760	T	+/-	G	5/30	9-	9-	8	8	9	9+	11840	The image flares more when used into the light than the other four brands tested, and it does not perform as well in poor light. Neither purged with Nitrogen nor waterproof, but water resistant and tolerates some rain without fogging. The metal focussing wheel is precise mechanically but uncomfortably narrow and slippery with gloves. Traditional foldable eyecups. Rugged rubber with good friction gives a good grip even in low temperatures. Slim and lightweight body. Not as rugged construction and reliable mechanics as the competitors. When introduced with phase coating in 1978 it was optically the best 10x40 in the world, today it is surpassed by other brands. Reasonably good optics, but expensive compared to quality.

Waterproofing

- +++ Waterproof and purged with Nitrogen. Fog/water/dust-proof warranty. Can be submerged in water (normally down to approx. 3–5 m).
- ++ Waterproof, but not purged with Nitrogen. Fog/water/dust-proof warranty. Since the binocular contains air which may not be totally dry, moisture can condense on the inner glass surfaces if you bring a cold binocular inside into a warm room. The condensation will disappear as soon as the prisms and lenses inside the binocular achieve the same temperature as the air in it. The binocular usually can be submerged in water without any water penetrating into it.
- + Splashproof/Weatherproof. The binocular tolerates being wet, i.e. rain water, but the warranty does not cover being submerged in water.
- +/- Water resistant. No warranty against water, fog or dust penetration, but the binocular functions well in some humid conditions if it is handled with care. The binocular can not be regularly exposed to water.
- No protection or warranty against humidity.

Rubber armouring

- G The entire body is covered by rubber
- G- Parts of the binocular body is covered by rubber
- No rubber armouring

Warranty (years)

- 30 30 year warranty. The warranty covers both parts and labor.
- 5/30 5 year warranty covering both parts and labor. Only parts are covered the last 25 years.

Width – in use (mm) Measured with pupil distance of 65 mm.

Length/height (mm) Measured with the eyecups folded/pushed down.

Construction quality Ruggedness is not tested. The test points are determined on how the binoculars are built and how often we have received customer returns or repairs.

Field sharpness Apparent area of vision maintaining a high quality of resolution and contrast as tested.