

WP Mono 8x30

Isobel Brocklebank (July 2019)



I wanted this monocular to take kayaking and sailing for bird spotting and identification of distant features, as I was finding binoculars unsuited to these tasks.

The Opticron WP Mono 8x30 is small enough to fit snugly in the palm of my hand or be tucked down the front of my buoyancy aid and is light enough to be taken everywhere. The rubber armouring makes it easy to hold and reassures me that it will be robust for the knocks of outdoor sports and being stuffed into rucksacks.

The focus ring can be twisted with the same hand that is holding the monocular. This is essential as it leaves the other hand free to hold a paddle or a tiller and would also be a useful feature for those carrying walking poles or holding a dog on a lead.

The optics are extremely good.

Magnification is startling. I can see birds clearly and easily identify distant land features, e.g. navigation buoys or harbour entrances. On a clear night I managed to see one of Jupiter's moons, which normally can only be seen with extremely good binoculars.

Field of view is good and I found if I used my free eye to spot a far off object it was quite easy to locate it through the monocular.

One of my main concerns was its waterproofness as this is a necessity for kayaking. I can confirm that it has survived an immersion when a kayak beach landing went wrong! I rinsed it in fresh water soon afterwards and it is still working fine.

The lens coatings have worked well as the lenses have remained clear and the monocular does not fog up.



Friends think it is easy to use and has good magnification – it is simple to switch from glasses-wearer to non-glasses-wearer just by folding down the rubber eyecup.

It comes with a soft case which looks robust and the monocular slides into it easily.

I am less impressed with the accessories: the strap for the monocular is fine, but there wasn't a strap for the carry case and there wasn't a lens cover for the eyepiece.

Overall all I would say this is an excellent monocular for an outdoor sports person. I shall be tucking it into my rucksack to carry everywhere and taking it on all future kayaking and sailing trips.

Isobel Brocklebank has immersed herself in outdoor sports all her adult life. Her current interests include kayaking, sailing, cycling and mountaineering and she spends a lot of time around the coastline of Britain and its offshore islands. More recently Isobel has taken up bird-watching.