



How to Use Binoculars

Binoculars are used to help see things close up.

There are two numbers that are used to describe binoculars, such as 8 x 20. The first number (8) is the amount of magnification, or how many times closer an object will appear. Higher magnification increases the sensitivity of movement which you should take that into account for shaky hands.

The second number (20) is the diameter across each lens in millimeters. As the diameter gets higher, the view is wider but the weight of the binoculars gets heavier. Greater diameter allows more light through and allows for brighter images.



The eye cups are usually rubber, which allows the users wearing glasses to fold down the eyecup and continue to use their glasses.

Most binoculars can be adjusted for the distance between the eyes. For small children, the binoculars may not get small enough, so you may need to teach them to look through only one lens or turn the binoculars sideways so that they are only looking through one lens. To adjust this distance, look at a distant object and adjust the binocular width until you see the object through one perfect circle, otherwise the image may appear blurry.

To focus the binoculars for differing vision in either eye, you should first focus on an object using your left eye and the focusing ring. Adjust the focusing ring until the object appears crisp. Next, use the diopter ring on the right eyepiece to adjust the focus for the right eyepiece.

Ask A Naturalist

- Never use binoculars while walking. Always stop and observe.
- Always use the strap properly to prevent the binoculars from being dropped and broken.

