

VIXEN APEX PRO HR BINOCULARS ON A BUDGET



It is a fact of life that successful deer hunters use quality optics. The age old problem of how do I afford a quality set of binos on a limited budget has finally been answered by Errol Mason. All the hard work has been done for you by an acknowledged hunter and guide. It's a reality that not everyone can afford a set of high end binoculars costing between two and four thousand dollars. Through many years of guiding, evaluating and owning numerous sets of binoculars, Errol has found the solution - the Vixen Apex Pro HR. Having made optics for 60 years, Vixen of Japan are very experienced. Vixen manufacture an impressive range of high quality optics including; microscopes, telescopes, spotting scopes and binoculars.

Vixen Apex Pro binoculars, which are made in Japan, are very reasonably priced and offer a lot of features for your money. In fact, Errol has always been impressed with Vixens, having purchased his first pair in 2000 to begin guiding for Sambar. He first attested to their high quality in Secrets of the Sambar Volume 1 where he described how many a stag fell due to the ability of his trusty Vixens to find stags in low light and in dogwood.

Nine years later Errol is still impressed with the Vixen Apex Pro models and has given them his Hunt Smart® tick of approval. He is now the authorized Australian distributor of the Apex Pro models which are stocked by most gun shops.

Current technology enables manufactures such as Vixen to provide hunters with optics far superior to those of yesterday. They have advanced coatings and superior design. These binoculars are available in two popular models, the 8 x 42 and 10 x 50. Upon handling them I noted they are very light which was pleasing. Testing by glassing amongst trees in a natural setting revealed clarity and sharp definition. They were easy to focus and I was able to see fine detail in the foliage. Precise focusing is important and the Vixens did not disappoint with a constant firm and smooth focusing provided by an ergonomically positioned wheel.

Whilst it may not appear to be fair to compare

Vixens to the high-end binoculars I own, but gee whiz they are good, and I'd happily carry them hunting Sambar. The country of manufacture usually gives some indication as to quality and for many decades Japan has been renowned for its high quality optical equipment. Vixens 5 year warranty indicates that their binos are high quality.

The 8 x 42's were my favourite test model due to the ease of focusing and their compact size. They are very sharp and lightweight and 8 magnification is perfect for finding deer up to 600 metres away. In comparison to my benchmark SLC, Swarovski's definition (sharpness) was comparable whilst brightness was almost, but not quite as good. Let's put this into context. Vixen binos will get you deer hunting at well under half the price of high-end brands. They are an excellent all round high quality optic which I rate better than some other major brands of binoculars in the market place. You can waste your money on another brand that you will need to replace in a very short time or you can buy a quality set of Vixens that will go the distance. Always buy the best optics you can afford is a true saying, and you can't take shortcuts.

Lets get to the nitty gritty. The protective eyepiece covers aren't the best I have used but there is a simple solution at hand. The Crooked Horn Bino Shield is something I use all the time to protect my binoculars and it works in conjunction with the Crooked Horn Bino Harness system. The Bino Shield will protect your binoculars whilst pushing through scrub where it's easy to scratch and damage your optics. I don't know why, but even top end binoculars don't always have a quality case or great lens covers to protect them. It was pleasing to note that the Vixens came with a reasonable quality vinyl case and neck strap. There is a huge amount of dioptre fine adjustment for eye glass wearers so hunters who have focusing issues should try a pair of Vixens to see if the adjustments can help them successfully glass again.

The test binoculars were supplied with the famous quality Crooked Horn Bino harness in

Realtree Camo and a Spudz Ultimate lens cleaning cloth. As a special limited introductory offer, when you purchase a pair of Vixens you receive these two 'must have' items free of charge. I never hunt without these two items which I have used for years. It's the only way to carry and care for your binoculars. Do yourself a favour and buy yourself a quality harness and your neck will thank you.

Vixen Apex Pro Hr Binoculars Features:

- Rubber armored for durability and non slip use
- Guaranteed waterproof in the worst possible conditions.
- Spectacle user friendly
- Phase coated lenses
- Rugged lightweight aluminium frame
- Ergonomic design
- 5 Year Warranty

A tripod adapter is available for these binoculars which eliminates hand shake so you see more detail. However, another method of eliminating hand shake and reducing neck, shoulder and arm fatigue whilst glassing for long periods is to rest your binoculars over the rubber yoke of the Stoney Point bipod shooting sticks or separate tripod.

Binoculars need to suit your facial features so you need to try before you buy any type of binocular. Overall, I regard Vixens as being high quality at a good price and I have no doubt they will give many years of trouble free glassing. In years past, Errol found many stags for his clients using Vixens.

A list of retailers, reviews by other hunters and further information about Vixens can be found on www.sambardeer.com.

Vixen Binoculars APEX PRO HR 8 x 42 \$699.00

Vixen Binoculars APEX PRO HR 10 x 50 \$799.00

