

IHMSA NEWS

Official Publication of the International
Handgun Metallic Silhouette Association, Inc.

Volume 19 • Issue 8 • September 2008

INTERNATIONAL



HANDGUN
METALLIC
SILHOUETTE
ASSOCIATION®

AS SEEN IN
IHMSA NEWS



MODEL 381-G1 SR

with
TODD SPOTTI

Alpen Wins Again

The writers at Outdoor Life magazine review so many outdoor products every year that they could probably fill a semi trailer or two with it all. They then pick what they judge to be the best of the best of all that stuff. Those top picks in various categories are then awarded their "Great Gear" prize for the year. Alpen Optics, a relatively small company known for its high quality optics at uncommonly reasonable prices, has won this prestigious award 5 times in the past. Well, they've done it again for 2008.

The product winning the prize this time is their Alpen Pro, Model 390, 10x42 binoculars. These binocs are as typical an Alpen product as it gets, i.e. extremely capable, loaded with the good stuff, and very modestly priced. Check out these features:

- fully multi coated lenses
- BaK4 roof prisms (also fully multi coated & phase coated as well)
- armor coated polycarbonate body
- long eye relief (16mm's)
- 100% waterproof
- light weight (28 ounces)
- tripod adaptable
- twist out eye shades
- tethered lens caps

391-G1 SR
Is same as #390 with Camo cover

What would you guess they cost? If someone asked me, based on all those features (especially the phase coating), I'd say between \$400-\$500. With a little shopping on the internet, they can be yours for less than \$150.

(OpticsPlanet.com as of 6/18/08) Shipping is even included.

When I heard about the award and then checked out the specifications, I immediately made arrangements to try them out. I found out that Alpen only had three left in house as they were selling faster than hot cakes in a lumber jack camp in November. (More are on their way.) I chose a marshy camo model to check out. I trained them on both distant objects and on a set of resolution charts in the plant. Bottom line - the image was bright, the colors were true, and the resolution was very good. Toss in the super price and Alpen's no bull warrantee, and you've got a great deal. Can you use them to spot silhouettes? You bet. Attach them to a tripod using a standard adapter that's available anywhere (including Alpen), and you're ready to go. Don't forget, binocs give you a 3D image that improve your ability to see hits and misses on the targets, and spotting scopes don't. If you don't have a lot of money, look at these first. If you do have \$, look at these anyway. A real bargain that delivers.