

AS SEEN IN
AMERICAN HUNTER

hw

Alpen APEX 8x42

MODEL #493

By Ron Spomer, Field Editor

The answer to the question "What binocular is green-and-black and sleek and sharp and bright and respected all across the country?" no longer has a single answer. It could be the one you're thinking of, but it could just as well be the Alpen APEX 8x42.

This doesn't mean the Alpen is necessarily better than all other green-and-black binoculars, but it may be better than most, if my tests are any indication. And for the money, this could be a best buy.

Here are the basic facts: This is a 22-ounce, roof-prism binocular with an aluminum body coated with soft rubber that provides a warm, comfortable grip while protecting against impact damage. The objective lens system is apochromatic, which minimizes color aberrations such as fringing. All air-to-glass lenses are coated with multiple layers of anti-reflection coatings. The prisms are high-index

BAK4 glass that are phase-coated to minimize distortion as split light waves are brought back together. The HRT metallic mirror coating consists of multiple micro-thin layers for increased efficiency, which means increased light transmission for a brighter image.

User-friendly engineering includes twist-up eyecups that lock into two positions; grooved body coating for enhanced grip; a knurled diopter ring for secure grip; raised finger stops that catch your index fingers near the strap attachment points for natural support; quick-release neck strap; and a ribbed focus knob for one-finger control.

The unit is waterproof, fogproof and dustproof, and carries a limited lifetime warranty, i.e., "warranted to be free of all manufacturing defects in workmanship and materials" as long as the

original owner still owns it.

There is a \$15 charge for inspection and handling of returned binoculars.

In practice the APEX pretty much lived up to its billing. While looking directly toward the sun as it kissed the western horizon, the APEX exhibited less flare and higher contrast than a famous brand binocular costing three times as much. It showed slightly less edge distortion than a top-line 8x43mm from another well-known company and equal resolution until 45 minutes after sundown. At that

Phase-coated prisms, BAK4 fully multi-coated glass, twist-up eyecups and exceptional low-light performance make the APEX a best buy.

