

IBO APPROVED

Alpen Apex 8.5 X 50 Binoculars

Over the past while I have been formulating my opinion of the Alpen 8.5x50 Apex binoculars. This is what I have decided.

Background information

These particular pair of binoculars has been created specifically for the IBO 3D archer. The IBO rule on binocular power allowed in competition states "Binoculars (hand held) will be allowed with a maximum of 8X magnification per manufacturers specification" (IBO rule book). This rule has been interoperated by the IBO officials as an 8.5 binocular still being 8 power. This obviously gives an advantage to the archer with 8.5 power binoculars over the archer with 8 power.

Optics Quality

The overall clarity is comparable to some of the best on the market. One way I have always discerned quality optics from lesser quality optics, is the clarity around the edges of your magnified image. These binoculars are very clear around the edges indicating to me there are good quality coatings on the lenses and care taken when designing the optics. There is also a bluish tinge when looking through the binoculars, removing some of the glare from bright objects and making it easier to see into dark areas. On a scale of one to ten, I would give a nine making these binoculars a step above some high end Pentax, and Nikon optics.

Luxuries

When buying any binocular most times the luxuries is what separates the best from the rest, so here it may seem that I get a little nit picky. This pair of binoculars has a very good eye focusing system and eye relief system with only one designing flaw. When the eye relief is set for a person with glasses there is no problem, but when the eye cups are extended for people without glasses a problem arises. There is no locking system to keep the eye cups from turning back down half way or more from the fully extended position. This creates an annoyance when the eye cups need to be constantly readjusted back to the full extension.

The covers for the front and back of the binoculars are designed well. The front covers are always attached to the binocular and fit snugly inside the outer edge. The rear covers also fit snugly on the back making it hard for them to fall off if you were walking in an area where you wanted the glass protected.

The case and neck strap that the binoculars come with are another area where I find a problem. First the case is not quite big enough for the binoculars to fit in. It takes some forcing to make them fit and close the cover; I would like to see a little bigger case. Secondly the strap it comes with could be small for a person with a larger body structure. I don't have a problem carrying the binoculars around my neck and arm on my side but I could see how some people might, and may need to go to a harness system.



#496
8.5x50 Waterproof
Long Eye Relief
Fully Multi-coated
BAK4 Optics
PXA™ Phase Coating

**NOTE: LOCKING SYSTEM NOW REDESIGNED TO
 KEEP CUPS FROM TURNING BACK DOWN.**
 (Alpen Optics)

Overall rating

Overall I am happy with the quality of the binoculars Alpen is making. I would recommend the 8.5x50 apex model to anyone. I think that they are reasonably priced and that the buyer gets a lot for their money. The final rating I give is four and a half stars.

Added: February 21st 2005

Reviewer: [Derek Hird](#)

Score: ★★★★★