

Mid-Priced Scopes Review

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BIRD WATCHER'S DIGEST

FULL-SIZED SCOPES WITH 80MM OBJECTIVE LENSES

ALPEN #788 20-60X80

30x resolution score: 4.3

60x resolution score: 3.3

Overall score: 4.27



Alpen 788
20-60x80

We got a big surprise when we lined up three big scopes and compared their resolving power. The Alpen smoked the other two! Even though its price is the lowest of the three and it alone doesn't tout ED or HD glass elements, it easily bested their resolutions. The image was beautifully clear, with good contrast. It also stood out among its competitors for its extremely low degree of chromatic aberration.

The scope also won the top score (4.3) in the full-sized ergonomics category, for its ease of handling. The focus knob is perfect. Although a single rather than dual knob, it works smoothly and offers just enough resistance for precise focusing. The eyepiece twists up and provides good eye relief throughout the 20-60x zoom range. The scope rotates in its tripod mount ring.

You get extras, too. Besides the zoom eyepiece, it comes with a tabletop tripod and nylon padded carrying case. We tested the angled model (#788), but it's also available in a straight model (#786).

Alpen products carry a lifetime warranty against defects and workmanship. Customers are encouraged to call if they have any problem with a product. Although the warranty is technically not transferable, Alpen does not require a sales receipt.

\$4.99US/CAN



MID-PRICED SCOPES REVIEW

EVALUATING MID-PRICED BIRDING SCOPES

Manufacturer	Name of Scope	Objective (mm)	Eyeiece Zoom Range	Maximum Eye Relief (mm)	Eyecup Style	FOV in fr. @ 1000 yds.	Close Focus (ft.)	Weight (oz.)	Length (in.)	Special Glass	Coatings	Street Price	Resolution Score @30X	Resolution Score @60X	Image Quality Score	Focus Knob Score	Ergonomic Score	Overall Score
FULL-SIZE 80MM SCOPES																		
Alpen	Model #788 20-60x80	80	20-60x	19.0	Twist	113	24.0	56.0	16.0	-	FMC	\$434	4.3	3.3	4.1	4.4	4.3	4.27
Bushnell	Legend Ultra-HD 20-60x80	80	20-60x	18.0	Twist	110	35.0	80.1	16.5	Yes	FMC	\$500	3.7	2.9	3.7	3.2	3.2	3.64
Vortex	Skyline 20-60x80 ED	80	20-60x	19.0	Twist	113	26.0	68.0	17.7	Yes	FMC	\$750	3.6	2.6	3.6	3.2	3.5	3.58

LEGEND FOR SCOPES CHART

EYECUP STYLE:

Fold = Fold-down eyecup

Twist = Twist-up eyecup

SPECIAL GLASS:

Yes = Has special low-dispersion glass

COATINGS:

FMC = Fully multi coated on both surfaces of all glass elements

MC = Multi coated on some surfaces of glass elements

SCORES FOR IMAGE QUALITY, FOCUS KNOB, AND ERGONOMICS:
5 is best. 1 is worst.

RESOLUTION SCORES AT 30X AND 60X:
5 is best. 1 is worst.
5 represents the resolution score of the reference scope.

OVERALL SCORE:
Composite score, taking into account all the other scores, weighted for resolution at 30x.