

Binoculars Tips & Tricks

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Using binoculars takes practice... Here are some tips and tricks to help you get started! **Have fun!**

- **If you see a bird in a tree, how can you look for it with your binoculars?**
 - Listen and look for the bird first. Fix your eyes on the bird and then bring the binoculars up to your face without shifting your gaze.
 - Notice landmarks of the vegetation (such as a branch or a patch of leaves) close to the bird to help you find the bird once looking through binoculars.
- Another way to look for birds is to **slowly scan for birds** while looking through your binoculars. This works well for looking at birds on water or where you hear a bird but can't see it without binoculars.
- **How do you focus the binoculars to look at a bird?** For your first time focusing, choose something stationary to focus on.
 - Close right eye/cover right lens and bring binoculars up to eyes. Adjust the middle focus wheel/lever until image is in crisp focus
 - Close left eye/cover left lens and bring binoculars up to eyes. Spin the *diopter ring* until the object is in perfect focus with your right eye (*you only have to do this the first time; after that, you don't change the diopter ring unless it is twisted away from your personal setting*)
- Check out this video about **how to clean and take care of your binoculars!**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2iTIL8FutX8>



Diagram from <http://thecharmschooldropout.blogspot.com/>

- **Straps** (so that you don't drop your binoculars!)
- **Lens caps** (to protect your lenses when you're not using the binoculars)
- **Pivoting feature** (to adjust binoculars to match how far apart your eyes are)
- **Middle focus ring**
- **Diopter focus ring** (on right side)
- **Eye cups** (roll them out if you aren't using glasses; roll them down if you are using glasses)
- There are two numbers on binoculars (for example, 8x42 or 8.5x32) - first number is **magnification**; second is **how much light you have in low-light setting**