

## Re: Binocular help...

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> *I am quite intrigued*  
> *by the Bushnell falcon 10x50 wide angle binocs. Amazon is selling*  
> *those for 28.49 bucks. Is it worth the money ? I also noticed*  
> *that orion sells their scenix binos 7x50 and 10x50 both for the same*  
> *price ie 99USD. What might be the significant difference between*  
> *a bushnell 10x50 (29\$) and an orion scenix (99\$)*

One can spend about any amount for binoculars. As is usual, there are some bargains, but in general you get what you pay for...

Here are the specs on the Bushnell "Wide Angle Falcons" that Amazon is selling:

"Objective lens diameter: 50mm  
Magnification: 10x  
Prism: Porro  
Special lens coating: Coated optics  
Field of view: 288 feet at 1,000 yards  
Focus system: Insta-Focus  
Tripod socket: Adaptable"  
Included in box: Binoculars, carrying case, and strap  
Weight: 27 ounces  
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Some observations:

1. These binoculars are called "wide angle" and yet have only a 5.5 degree field of view (288ft at 1000 yds.) Marketing hype.. To be wide angle at 10X they ought to be somewhere around 7 degree FOV...
2. Instafocus: Not a good thing, in fact this is a bad thing. Instafocus does makes the fine focusing necessary to get sharp stars difficult. A fine adjustment is desired for astronomy and if the focuser is robust, then they should stay in focus the rest of the evening..
3. Coated optics generally means that some of the optics are coated, not all though. Coatings reduce internal reflections and glare and increase the light transmission.

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4. I believe these have BAK-7 prisms rather than the more desirable BAK-4.

There are quite a few binoculars available for \$30, the ones I have seen are marginal, they do show the sky, you can see something with them, but they are dim, the focusing is erratic, and in general they are not a good long term investment.

Rating: Marginal...

Orion Scenix 10 x50's.

I have a pair of these. I use them on a regular basis. They are decent quality, well made, comfortable binoculars that I expect will last for many years.

Specs:

Prism type Porro, BAK-4  
Anti-reflective coatings Fully coated+multi-coatings  
Magnification 10x  
Eye relief 12.0mm  
Objective Lens Diameter 50mm  
Field of view 7.0°  
Near focus 16 ft.  
Exit Pupil 5.0mm

Important things here are the fully coated optics, the BAK-4 prisms, the 7 degree FOV. Decent binoculars that will provide bri