

The Importance of Good Binoculars in Bowhunting

I'm always surprised at the role that optics play in some hunter's arsenal, or should I say the non-role they play. Being bowhunters, there is one fact we all know too well, you must see game before they see you. With this being the first commandment of bowhunting I wonder how anyone could hope to realistically accomplish this feat without the assistance of good quality optics.

I must admit I've come a long way since my first pair of compact binoculars. I know I still have far to go but I am using the best that I can afford at the moment. Recently I purchased a pistol grip mount and a Bogen tripod from Floyd Green over at his store the Outdoorsman. With Floyd's help I was able to buy the best equipment I could afford on my budget. After using a better tripod I'm sold on the value of using one. As with any sport, equipment can and usually does make the difference between being mediocre or moving up to that next level.

I've always believed that before going into the field a hunter should be proficient with any weapon he hunts with, and I always will. Assuming you are accurate with your bow and know your maximum shooting yardage (I mean for hunting, not just shooting paper targets.) how can you increase your chances of being successful this season? By improving your hunting skills your percentages of harvesting an animal will go up dramatically. While watching an interview with one of the best shots with a bow in the world, he was asked if he would rather have great shooting skills or great hunting skills? His reply was, without question hunting skills. The best bow shots in the world still need to get close to game to make clean, ethical shots on game.

For what ever it is worth, in my opinion most bowhunters (including myself) need to improve on their glassing techniques. Why? Commonly bowhunters will overlook the glassing techniques required to spot game at a distance. I'm convinced this mind set comes from the fact that bowhunting is such a close range sport. In my way of thinking this is exactly why we need good glassing skills and equipment. Whether you plan on still-hunting, stalking an animal or hunting from a treestand you will need to prepare for the shot before the animal appears from nowhere. The element of surprise, and the ability to plan ahead is the only advantages we have over our prey. Take full advantage of them.