



BIRDING BASICS

Equipment

Chuck Stirrat



Topics

- Introduction
- Binoculars
 - Background
 - Choosing a Set of Binoculars
 - Decide on Price Range
 - Where to Shop
 - Pick Magnification X Objective Lens Size
 - Choose Roof or Porro Prism
 - Test/Handle Multiple Models to Assess Features
- Other Equipment (*If time permits*)
- Wrap-up

Decide Your Price Range



Top-of-the-Line >\$2000



High-End \$1000-\$2000



Mid-Range \$500 - \$1000



---upper--- **Good-Value \$200 - \$500** ---lower-----



Get-in-the-Game <\$200

Where to Shop

- Retailers

- Local Birding Stores – Mother Natures*
- Sporting Goods – Bass Pro*, Dick's Sporting Goods*
- REI*

- On-Line Sales

- Amazon*
- B&H Photo*

- Miscellaneous

- Audubon Naturalist Society – Chevy Chase
- FeatherEdgeOptics* – Cape May Bird Observatory (annual sale)
- MOS Convention
- Birding Festivals/Conventions

* On-line shopping available

Magnification (Power)



6x



8x



10x



Naked Eye



8x



10x

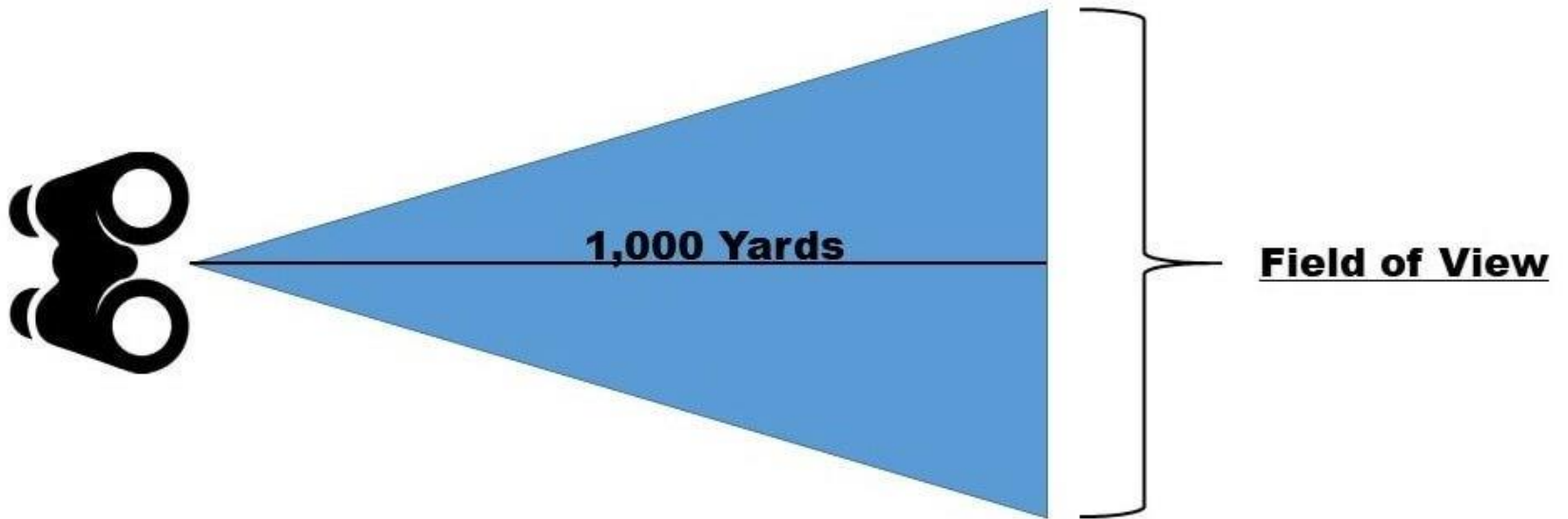


Naked Eye
(1x)



10 x 42

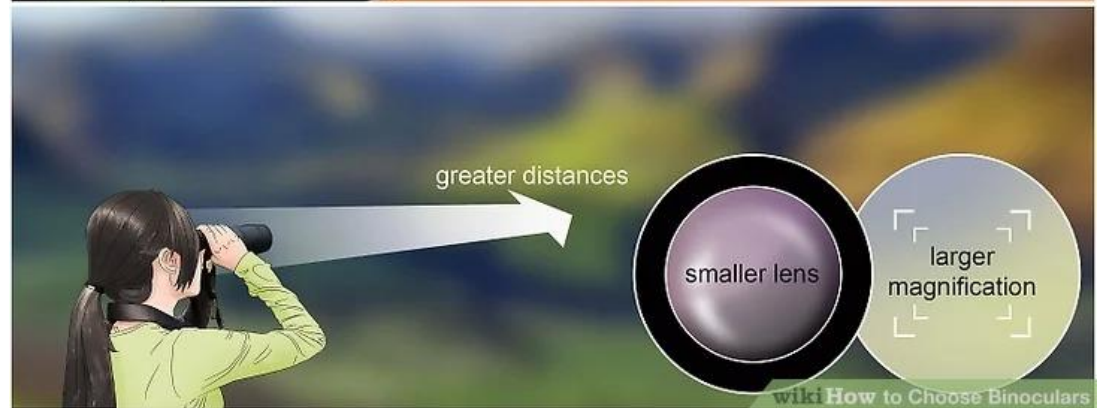
Field of View



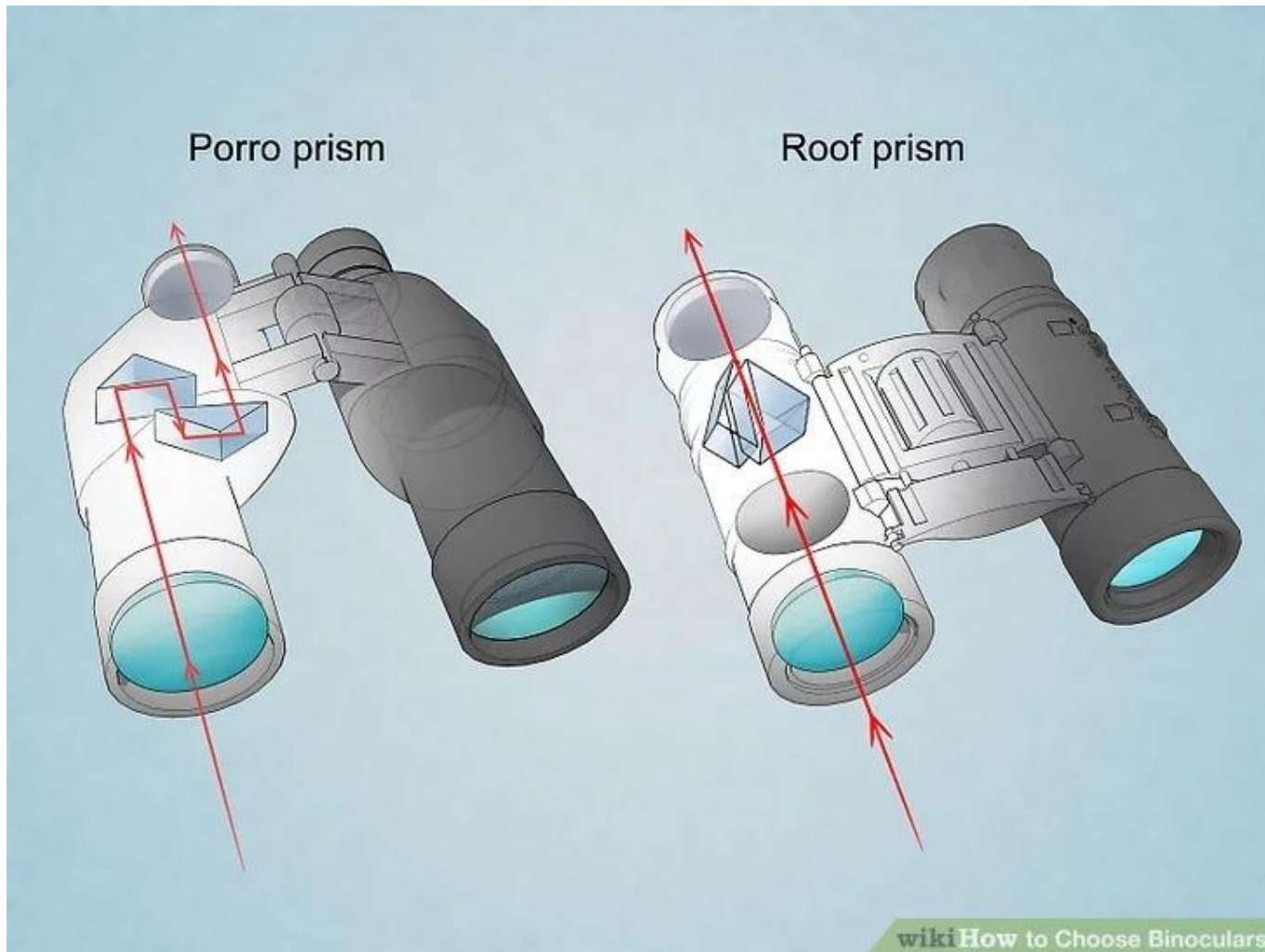
Objective Lens Size



Measured in Millimeters



Porro or Roof Prism Design



**Test, Touch, Feel, Handle Multiple
Models of Binoculars to Assess
Features for You**

Close Focus



Bad



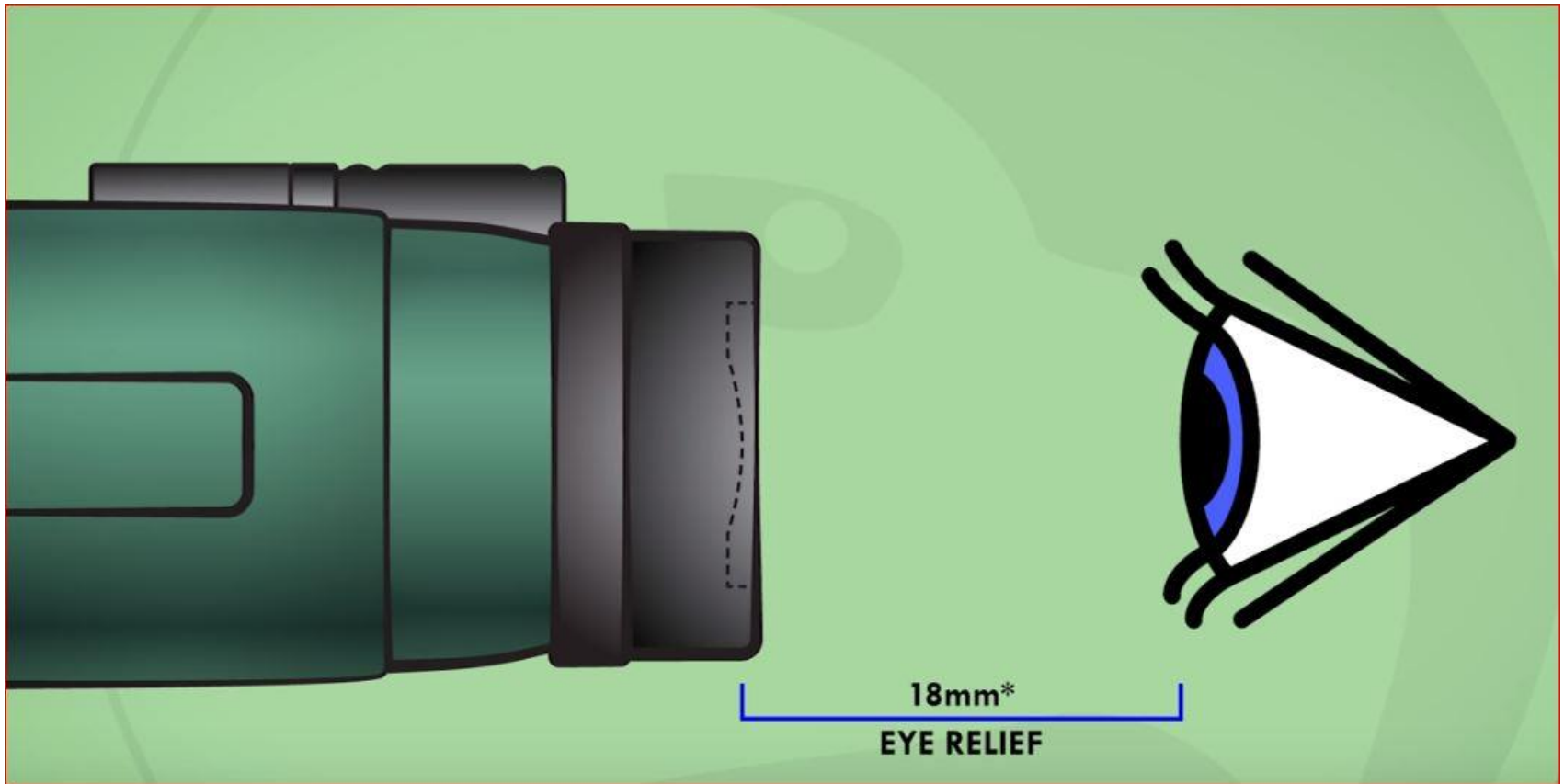
Better



Best



Eye Relief



Other Equipment



Wrap-up

- Key Recommendations for choosing a set of binoculars:
 - Decide your budget – Stretch, it's likely a long term purchase.
 - Familiarize yourself with specifications and features that are listed for each binocular you consider.
 - Test, touch, and feel as many different models as possible.
- Resources
 - Club Members (Feel free to ask for advice and help)
 - On-line resources (Google key word searches will be more current)
 - Sample search terms:
 - “binoculars for birding”
 - “best birding binoculars” – for recent years
 - “birding binocular reviews”