

Helios Quantum-5 Series

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £799
- ▶ **APERTURE** 100mm
- ▶ **PRISMS** BAK-4
- ▶ **EYEPIECES** 20x & 40x (interchangeable)
- ▶ **FIELD OF VIEW** 2.5°
- ▶ **MOUNT** Not supplied
- ▶ **WEIGHT** 7kg (15.4lb)
- ▶ **SUPPLIER** Optical Vision
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WWW** opticalvision.co.uk

FOR Light and manageable

AGAINST View has tunnel effect

Despite having the same sized front lenses as the other three models they're up against, the Quantum-5s are the shortest, most compact and lightest binos in the test. They're also the cheapest, reflecting the fact that a tripod isn't included in the package. However, at 7kg (15.4lb), they can be attached to a standard photographic tripod, so we used a Slik Tripod for the test. The lightness of this setup meant we could leave them ready assembled to take out at a moment's notice.

The quality of finish was excellent: the pair looked particularly appealing in silver with the eyepieces and visible inner part of the extendable dew shields picked out in black. The carry handle comes ready attached and we were again able to use it to line up our intended test subjects without the use of a finderscope. The 45°-angled eyepieces allow for strain-free high-angle observations, provided that your photographic tripod is able to swivel the binoculars to a fully vertical position, while the in-built extendable dew shields

worked a treat: no dew formed, even after several hours outside.

All the binoculars had fully multicoated optical surfaces and the Quantum-5s were no exception. They still exhibited some scattered light in the form of faint haloes around the brightest stars, in keeping with what we'd found with the other models. Unlike some of the other binoculars, the rubber eyecups didn't cut into the delicate skin around the eyes, which made observing much more enjoyable.

A comfortable fit

We felt the ocular adjustment of the eyepieces was the best of all the binoculars we tested. It was very user-friendly and simple to use. There's also plenty of room for your nose between the two eyepieces, probably due to their lesser magnification of 20x. This still gave a 2.5° field of view, the same as the other binoculars on test.

Strangely, the view through the eyepieces seemed distant, as if we were looking down a short tunnel. The background sky seemed slightly brighter than the other binoculars, so that when we looked at the Moon it didn't stand out as much as it did through the other binos, although it retained plenty of detail. The quality of the view was just slightly less than the Strathspeys when we tested it on Vega. The star was sharp as it drifted across the inner 65 per cent with a little blurring towards the edges.

Turning to the night sky, all the objects viewed still performed well. The double star Albireo was nicely coloured, with the blue and golden yellow primary split well. These binos came with a second set of eyepieces giving 40x magnification, and training these on doubles gave very pleasing results. Galaxies were a little fainter, but the Andromeda Galaxy's disc still crossed the whole field of view. Nebulae and globulars contained subtle detail too, so despite being relatively light and compact, the Quantum-5s did the job.

VERDICT

BUILD QUALITY	90%
EASE OF USE	94%
FIELD OF VIEW	80%
OPTICS	89%
VALUE FOR MONEY	92%
OVERALL	89%

