Meet Our Test Subjects









Steiner Commander V

West Marine Marine II

Swarovski SLC 7X50B

Four products made the roster in our test of binoculars costing \$300 and up. The Steiner Commander V is a quality 7x50 binocular; it's smaller and more lightweight than the hefty Fujinon FMTRC-SX and Swarovski SLC 7X50B. The West Marine Marine II, made by Steiner, was the least expensive, but lost some field of view when testers wore glasses. Testers also reported seeing "soft edges" with the Marine II. With a \$1,550

pricetag, the most expensive binocular in our lineup is the Swarovski SLC 7X50B. It offers the sharpest view, but lacks the very important compass. The big daddy of the field, the Fujinon FMTRC-SX, outweighs the other test binoculars by about a pound. With top-quality optics, a rugged design, a lifetime warranty, and middle-of-the-pack price, the Fujinon gets the *PS* Best Choice honors.