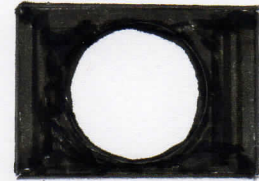
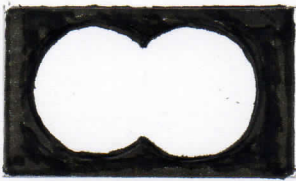


BINOCULARS 101

1. **First, put the strap around your neck!**

I know you'll be very careful, but binoculars seem to like bouncing themselves on rocks or cannonballing into bodies of water. Probably you won't trip and fall, I sure hope not, but maybe the person behind you will and both of you – and the binoculars – will go down in a heap. So, use the strap.

2. When a movie director wants to show that someone is using binoculars the audience will see something like the diagram below, on the left. But that's not what you're supposed to see. You should see things in a **ROUND** frame, like the one on the right, or no frame at all.



Close the angle of the glasses until there is only one round "frame."

3. Find the **EYECUPS** on the binoculars. If you wear glasses, **PUSH, TWIST, or FLIP** the eyecups **DOWN**. Then you can skip to **number 5**. Everybody else, keep reading.

4. If you don't wear glasses, or use contact lenses, **PULL, TWIST, or FLIP** the eyecups **UP**. Contact lens wearers can skip to number 5.

Now, everybody else, close your right eye, and using only your left, focus the binoculars on the top of a tree, utility pole, etc. Then, find the **DIOPTER** adjustment. [Other than the focus wheel or lever, the diopter is the only other part of your bins that will turn.] Close your left eye, and using only your right, use the diopter to focus on that same object. Very few people have exactly the same vision in both eyes and the diopter will correct for the difference between the two. [If you wear glasses/contacts and are still reading, that's OK, but you don't have to worry about the diopter adjustment because your optometrist has already made the correction between each of your eyes. Your diopter should be set to zero or the "middle."]

5. To work effectively, binoculars are supposed to be a certain distance from your eyes. You did this when you put the eyecups **UP** or **DOWN**. At this point it would probably be a good idea to focus on something in the middle distance and **REMEMBER** which way to turn the focus wheel in order to see something closer or farther. Now the hardest part, finding an object in the binoculars.

6. Look at the object that you want to see and, **WITHOUT LOOKING DOWN OR TAKING YOUR EYES FROM IT**, bring the binoculars up to your face. This is not as easy as it sounds but it's the best way. Practice this [practice is good]. It will save you a lot of time later.

7. Finally, when you see something and want to direct your friends, don't say, "There!" or even, "Right there!" That won't do it. Even "in the tree" won't be helpful. [Think about it, there are lots of trees.] Instead, direct birders to "the cedar tree" or "the tall/short/dead tree." Get the idea? An improvement on this is to imagine the tree or shrub as the face of a clock and if the bird is on the right side, it's at "three o'clock." Lower down might be "five o'clock," etc.