



# FOGHORN

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*Twobirds Flying Publications*

## X-VISION OPTICS SHADOW 100 MINI VIEWER



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The X-Vision Shadow 100 is a digital night vision monocular designed for casual night observers and hobbyists. This compact device offers a glimpse into the unseen world after dark, with a surprising range of features for its budget-friendly price tag.

The Shadow 100 is the latest offering from Minnesota based X-Vision Optics. If you are not familiar with X-Vision Optics, they specialize in night vision optics and related technologies, including thermal imaging. They cater to hunters, hobbyists, and outdoor enthusiasts with a range of night vision devices including binoculars, monoculars, and rangefinders.

Their night vision devices are priced for everyday enthusiasts, but still packed with features that make them easy to use and enjoyable for exploring the world at night.



X-Vision went out of their way to make the Shadow 100 easy to use. Some of the competing units I have used require complex button pressing, not the case with their Mini Viewer.

Press and hold the power button to power up or power down the unit. Pressing and holding the plus button adds magnification, the minus button reduces magnification. The Shadow 100 gives you 2-8X magnification. A single press of the + or - button will activate the IR illumination.

Pressing the menu button opens a configuration screen with a cornucopia of options like language selection, date stamping, media resolution, and several more.



The mode button selects between video, photo, and view modes. The Vision 100 accepts a 32GB micro SD to store your photos, images, and videos. The card can also be formatted via the device Menu.



The Vision 100 features a focusable monocular shown on the right and the IR illuminator on the left.



I challenged its optical performance by taking a picture of a shipyard crane 583 yards away from my point of observation.

The picture was taken over water in high heat and humidity. Color rendition and image clarity are good. Lighting conditions

prevented a clear rendition of the crane's boom.

I took additional pictures of a docked ship's antenna array. The smart device photo below clearly reveals the antenna configuration, whereas the picture taken with the Shadow 100 could not resolve the array suggesting an absence of some form of exposure compensation in the Shadow 100.



Taken with a smart device.



Taken with Shadow 100



Low light images were outstanding. If you zoom through the image, you can clearly see a road sign at the end of the street, an approximate distance of 720 yards. The Shadow 100 does better under low light than in bright sun.

Unfortunately, I did not have access to a wooded environment in total darkness, but under general conditions, the IR did extremely well. At an IR level of 5, I was able to identify objects beyond 300 yards. Both photos were taken at approximately 20:53.



The Shadow 100 features a 2.4" TFT LCD display for viewing. While not the highest resolution, the screen provides a clear image quality. The 2x to 8x digital zoom allows you to get a closer look at objects at a distance. It is important to note that

this is a digital zoom, so the image quality will deteriorate slightly as you zoom in.

X-Vision also enhances your Shadow 100 viewing experience by providing a  $\frac{1}{4} \times 20$  tripod mount. A feature that will serve you well for extended viewing and improving your image and video quality.



The Shadow 100 is powered by an internal rechargeable battery. On a full charge you will get 9 hours of run time, but mileage will vary with ambient conditions as well as how much IR

illumination you use. Recharging the battery is done via the USB-C port.

In closing, the X-Vision Shadow 100 is a fantastic option for beginners or budget-minded users who don't need top-of-the-line night vision performance. The Shadow 100 is perfect for observing wildlife at night or navigating in low-light conditions. Drop it in your pocket and enjoy the night.

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#### Manufacturer Specifications

- Accessories Included: Lanyard, Neck Strap, USB-C Charging Cable, Charging Adapter, Carry Sleeve
- Night Distance: 325 YD
- Magnification: 2 to 8x
- Field of View: 52.5ft @ 100yd
- Pixel Size: n/a
- Power Supply: Polymer Battery 2600MAH
- Photo and Video: Yes
- Objective Lens: 24mm
- IR Output: 850 nm
- Display Resolution: 2.4" 720x320 TFT LCD
- Battery Life: 9hr Day/5hr Night
- IP Rating: n/a
- IR Brightness: 7 Levels
- Screen Brightness: 7 Levels
- Day Distance: 600 YD
- External Memory: 32 GB
- Mount: Tripod Mount
- Weight: 0.45lb
- Dimensions: 4.25" x 3.5" x 2"
- M.S.R.P. \$149.99