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Konus 7121 20-60x70mm Review

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Review Konus 7121 20-60x70mm Review

Konus Model #7121 20-60x70mm

Join Date: Nov 2007
Posts: 5,476



The selection of a spotting scope, especially in the lower to middle price range, can be daunting due to the nearly limitless selection in the \$200-\$300.00 price range.

This review will focus on the Konus Model #7121 20-60x70mm zoom. With a listed street price of \$249.99 at www.scipecity.com, the Konus 7121 (also known as the 'Konuspot70') adds another consideration for the nature watcher, range shooter, hunter, or observer. The sample I received contained no instruction manual or specification sheet, so for the purposes of this review I referred to the Konus USA website at www.konus.com. When looking at the model 7121, the following information was provided:

- TABLE TRIPOD INCLUDED
- CARRYING CASE INCLUDED
- CAMERA ADAPTER INCLUDED
- MULTI-COATED OPTICS
- MAGNIFICATION 20X-60X ZOOM
- OBJECTIVE DIAMETER 70mm.
- FIELD OF VIEW AT 1000MT/YDS: 35M/118FT AT 20X - 18.6M/62.2FT AT 60X
- EXIT PUPIL: 23.5MM AT 20X - 7.43MM AT 60X
- WEIGHT: 1600GR./57.14OZ
- LENGTH: 450MM./17.7"



The first impressions of the Konuspot-70 came before handling the scope itself. Konus states that the Konuspot-70 comes with a "beautiful carrying case." I found this not to be the case with the sample I received. The case is a rather thin canvas/nylon material with virtually no padding or protection for the scope.



The included case makes the case for a hard case.

Even lesser-priced scopes come in a hard case, padded soft case, or some combination of the two. Anyone seeking to protect their investment from the elements and the hard knocks that come with hard use will have to add the purchase of an adequate case when considering the Konus.

The other issue I found with the Konuspot-70 was the included tripod. This seems to be a weak spot for many spotting scopes throughout the price ranges and is no exception with the Konuspot-70.



The tripod looks to be little more than an adapted camera tripod and was not the one pictured on their website. It was flimsy, unstable and had a gritty, non-responsive head.

In order to be used properly, the mount had to be attached in a manner where nearly half of it was not in direct contact with the scope.



It should be noted that this set-up as tested is not recommended to support a digital or film SLR camera—it will tip over!

It is adequate as a range-use tripod, but does not lock up true enough to keep the scope on target between shots while sitting on the bench with anything but a small caliber rifle. Hopefully, as this is a new scope to the Konus product line, the scope pictured on their website addresses these issues.

I found the included camera adapter somewhat problematic.



Even with a Nikon D-90 properly mounted to the Konuspot-70, manual override was not possible and only marginal photographs could be achieved. Of the several attempts to produce adequate photographs for this review we were only able to produce a few results, none of which fairly portrayed the image quality of the Konuspot-70.



The 5th bullet perspective.

With the aforementioned issues out of the way, it came time to sit down and really get a good look at--and

ultimately through--this spotting scope. The first thought that came to my mind when I removed the Konuspot-70 from its bag was "substantial." The Konuspot-70 is not a slight scope by any means. At nearly 18 inches long and 3.5 pounds, there's little doubt that the scope was intended to be rugged. The build quality seems more than adequate, with rubber armor covering the scope body.

I would have liked to to see more "grippy" lens covers, possibly tethered, as they fell off nearly instantly upon removing the scope from the case.





The rear lens is protected by a roll-down rubber eye-cup and the front lens is recessed nicely and rimmed by a retractable sunshade.





I would have liked to see more positive lock-up from the front shade however. Another notable feature is the scope cant adjustment, which allows the user to easily rotate the scope to the desired position.





The scope locks up accurately and positively, bringing the angled eyepiece to the right angle.

Most notable on the Konuspot-70 is the innovative and superb focusing knob. On most spotting scopes a small, unwieldy focusing knob is found just forward of the rear eyepiece. In the case of the Konuspot-70, the focusing knob is located on the right side of the scope body itself. This I find to be among the Konus' most pleasing features, as it makes focusing the Konuspot-70 more instinctive and positive to me. I'd love to see the adjustments fine-tuned just a tad, but for the most part focusing is terrific.



Bringing things into focus.

The Konuspot-70 comes together and many of the negative features fade when you look through the lens. Eye relief is ample, images are bright, crisp, and well-defined and the multi-coated lenses really make the images pop. The 70mm objective lens lets plenty of light into the scope, to make low-light or dawn/dusk viewing enjoyable. The sunshade provided more than adequate cover for sunny days, as well. When comparing it to a sub-\$200.00 Tasco spotting scope, the image differences are obvious. The Konuspot-70 is a joy to look through and at its price point offers a beautiful viewing experience for consumers. The only optical issue I could find was the claimed 60x magnification. With no scientific magnification instrumentation available to me, I had to

do some side-by-side comparisons with my 15-45x tasco and a Vortex 20-60x. I tried to chalk it up to my eyes playing tricks on me, but I really could not differentiate between the Konus at 60x and the Tasco at 45x. This is where the ability to photograph through the Konus would have been beneficial.

To conclusively endorse the Konuspot-70 based on the sample I was given to review, I would need to see the unit with the tripod as shown on the Konus website, a better-fitted and protective carrying case, better-fitting lens caps, and confidence that the scope I was purchasing was truly 60x magnification.

Even as tested, though, the Konuspot-70 is a scope I would seriously consider. The non-functioning camera adapter was not an issue, as I have photographic lenses and would not even consider this for serious photography. The scope rotation lockup, focusing knob, build quality, rubber armor and beautiful image quality make the Konuspot-70 a contender in my book. Like all of us, it's not without faults, but has enough positives to overcome what's lacking.

Editors notes: Special thanks and attention go to Massmark for this honest review of the Konus Scope. We suffered a few technical difficulties in getting it to print from photograph loses to laptop losses to a disturbing lack of sunshine. He stepped up to the plate to be harangued and harassed in the background but humble and honest in the foreground for this article. Thanks again.



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