# Helios Quantum-7.4 Series

## VITAL STATS

- **PRICE** £1,299
- **APERTURE** 100mm
- **PRISMS** BAK-4
- **EYEPIECES** 25x (interchangeable)
- **FIELD OF VIEW** 2.5°
- **MOUNT** Hardwood tripod and U-fork mount
- **WEIGHT** 13kg (28.6lb) binoculars + 7.1kg (15.6lb) tripod
- **SUPPLIER** Optical Vision
- **TEL** 01359 244200
- **WWW.**opticalvision.co.uk

**FOR** Best overall sky views
**AGAINST** Finderscope not included

The Quantum-7.4 binos look almost identical to the Strathspey Super Giant binoculars at first glance, but there are subtle differences between them. The overall finish of the Quantum-7.4s seemed to be of a better standard, with all surfaces exuding quality.

This pair also comes with a hardwood tripod and U-fork mount, which did the job perfectly and made observations at the zenith very comfortable with the 45°-angled view. The 25x magnification eyepieces fit snugly into their holders and are interchangeable. Helios offer 40x magnification eyepieces purpose-made for the Quantum-7.4s, or you can use your own eyepieces, provided they have 1.25-inch diameter barrels and you have two that match.

Looking through the supplied 25x eyepieces, the view seemed a bit sharper across around 75 per cent of the field. Consequently, there wasn't as much trailing off of image quality towards the edges. There was also less colour fringing around the Moon's edge than with any of the others tested, so it was no surprise to see that all of the optics appeared to be fully multicoated. Stars really filled the field of view with the Quantum-7.4s, and we felt like we were falling through the sky. This was matched by views of the Moon that were incredibly detailed.

The only thing that put us off the stunning views were the rubber eyecups, which did tend to rub the delicate eye area. However, with a smooth operation, it wasn't hard to get the ocular adjustment right. There's no finderscope with these binoculars, it's an optional extra. Generally though, the wide field of view made locating most of the brighter deep-sky objects easy.

### Crystal clear

Visually, the Quantum-7.4s seemed to have the edge on all the others. There was the aforementioned issue with internal ghosting and the resulting faint haloes round bright stars, but the effect was less apparent with this pair. The sky background appeared to be the darkest of the four on test, with better contrast, so deep-sky objects like faint nebulae stood out slightly better. Indeed, the nebula M17 displayed a mottled surface and was a wonderful smudge in the sky.

Studying the globular cluster M13 we enjoyed a strongly mottled appearance. Fainter objects are certainly within reach of the Quantum-7.4s. The galaxy near to M13, NGC 6207, could just be seen at mag. +12.1, and it became very apparent by switching to the higher-power eyepieces. The Andromeda Galaxy stood out well too. Its disc stretched across the field of view and its companions were clearly seen. Viewing double stars, Albireo displayed the best colour through the Quantum-7.4s, and they also split gamma (γ) Delphini the most cleanly.

The Quantum-7.4s just have the edge optically over the Strathspeys. They were a real delight to use.

## VERDICT

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| BUILD QUALITY | 89% |
| EASE OF USE | 89% |
| FIELD OF VIEW | 94% |
| OPTICS | 95% |
| VALUE FOR MONEY | 87% |
| OVERALL | 91% |