

NUMA OPTICS REVIEW

With a spot of luck I made the acquaintance of "JB" of Numa optics at "Shot" 2010. He was glad to introduce us to the incredibly interesting line of near indestructible optics that Numa had to offer. This included rugged lightweight sport sunglasses and the new ballistic line of Tactical optics.

Shortly thereafter a set of tough flex frame "Point Ballistic" specs were on my door step.

Out of the box this seemed already to be a promising package. The Point Ballistic came with an incredibly well constructed clip on nylon carry case with inset slit pouches that housed a set of interchangeable clear and amber ballistic lenses. Included also was a light weight pull string carry pouch that doubles as a high quality lens cloth.



The only thing that troubled me was that I knew before the glasses arrived that there was a good chance that they were not going to fit the wide bridge of my nose. This is a trouble I have, finding glasses that fit my face. The nose bridge has built in rubber pads that make the bridge just a tad bit smaller than the bridge of the frame. Seeing as JB is former SF guy I figured that he would understand that all things MUST be modified. So, I did what I do with just about everything. Within the first ten minutes of owning it, I void the warranty.



I took a set of wire clippers from my tool box and went to town on removing the rubber nose pads. Clip, clip and they were almost gone. I might mention that these nose pads were the most securely attached nose pads that I have ever had the chore of removing. They were obviously designed to be part of the glasses for life. I did the finishing touches to my modification using my Spyderco Yojimbo. Everything was looking clean and the glasses now fit the troublesome bridge of my nose.

On the face the Point Ballistic specs provide an instantaneous sense of security. The wrap around design hugs the face close. Not enough to be a nuisance but quite close enough that I would feel comfortable ripping down the highway at 110mph on a motorcycle without taking wind on the eyeballs and losing your ability to see. The glasses are wide near the area just behind the lenses nearest the temple providing comforting safety glasses like feel. The overall sense of security of these glasses is something more than I have words to describe.

The lid test

The next of my primary criteria for any set of specs is how well they ride beneath the brim of a ball cap. The Point Ballistic passed this test with flying colors. I take issue with specs that have a width and height that causes the brim of my cap to widen out in order for a hat to seat properly on my head. The Point Ballistic passed this "test" readily.



It was time to change out the lenses and take them for a test drive. I followed the directions sheet and had the first lens popped out in no time. After replacing them both I realized the incredible resistance that the lenses had to being pushed through via pressure or impact to the front of the lens. I placed the glasses in my hands with my index fingers against the lenses and give it all I have got, these babies were SOLID!

I had swapped out from the dark smoke lenses to the amber lenses purposefully. For one, I am not a fan of amber lenses and for two, I had the intention of abusing them, badly!

The lenses are supposed to be scratch resistant so I decided to see just how scratch resistant they were.

"Scratch resistant" is one of my pet peeves. I have a Luminox dive watch that was supposedly scratch resistant, a Wenger chronograph that was also supposedly scratch resistant and also a few others. I approached the manufacturer of one of these watches at Shot 2009, showed them my scratched watch face and said to one of their representatives "I thought this was supposed to be "scratch resistant". He looked at the scratches and said, "I am certain that it resisted" and laughed. He then told me to send it back to them and that they would repair it. "I'm not interested in a scratch resistant watch that can be repaired", I told him. "I am interested in a watch that doesn't scratch".

So

I devised a test that involved a cardboard box, a tall can of Coors original, a camera on a tripod and a fist full of nails that I grabbed from my tool box.

I drank the can of Coors and washed it out. I then wrapped the Point Ballistic glasses around the can and set them in the bottom of the cardboard box. Once I had situated the camera, I grabbed a sizable handful of nails and dropped them on the glasses from slightly higher than shoulder height.

POW!

The can was covered in pock marks from the nails yet the amber lenses were unscathed.

I was impressed!

To push the envelope a bit further I returned to my tool box and grabbed a handful of sockets from a ratchet set. Not as sharp of edges as nails but an incredible difference in mass. I set up again and dropped them.

POW!!!

This really shook things up as can be seen in the photograph illustrating the incredible force of impact.

Still the Point Ballistic lenses came through unscathed!

The proof is in the pudding as they say. I have several pairs of "rugged" specs that I would not consider doing this to simply because I KNOW with all certainty that they wouldn't survive round one!

In conclusion, I would like to welcome on board Numa Optics Tactical Specs to our product line of Tactical accessories. I can honestly say that these are THE Toughest and most Rugged pair of purpose built specs that I have EVER laid my hands on!

