

Binocular Sky Review: Bresser Slider Mount

Manufacturer's Specifications

Weight (g)	14500
Payload (g)	3500
Tripod Mount	3/8" UNC + M10 adaptor
Instrument mount	1/4" UNC
Degrees of motion	5
Centre of mass adjustment	Yes
Body Material	Aluminium
Counterweights (kg)	2 x 2.5 2 x 1.25 2 x 0.5
Origin	Hungary
Warranty	5 years



Available from: [Bresser](#)

Price: £735 (without tripod). £939 (with tripod)

Introduction

The Bresser Slider Mount is an innovative binocular mount invented by Attila Madai, a Hungarian engineer. Its purpose is to properly support the binocular whilst simultaneously enabling a seated or reclined observer to access the entire sky without having to change the position of the seat. In order to achieve this purpose, the binocular must remain balanced by its counterweight while its distance from the fulcrum varies, and this is what the slider mechanism is designed to achieve.

Setting-up

We tested the "with tripod" option. Setting the mount properly is crucial to being able to use it successfully, so it is worthwhile to do this carefully and precisely. The key here is not to rush it the first time. First of all put the mount on the tripod and ensure that it is well tightened. You will need to balance the binocular perfectly with the counterweight. To do this you extend both arms of the mount to their full extent and place the counterweights on their shafts. Then mount the binoculars in

their cradle ensuring that they are well balanced. You can then tweak the amount of weight and their position along the arm in order to achieve good balance. Once you have done this you need to adjust the friction and tension screws so that the arm slides freely and smoothly. Don't rush this bit because getting it right will ensure that the mount works well, and once it is done you will not need to do it again unless you change the binocular. Bresser provides an instructional video, "[Bresser Slider Binocular Mount - Manual](#)" on YouTube and you can use this to help you.

You do not have to get the balance perfect because the tilting friction adjuster allows a certain amount of imbalance, but obviously you should get it as close as you can.

Note that you can adjust the cradle fulcrum so that it is in line with the centre of mass of the binoculars. There are also additional holes in the cradle to which you can mount useful additional devices such as a phone holder so you can use a planetarium program to help you choose your target object, or a finder to help you locate it.

Under the Sky

Once you're set up you simply take the caps off the binocular, sit yourself down and start to enjoy what the sky - and the engineering magic concealed in the slider mount's box - has to offer. The manufacturer suggests the use of a swivel chair to gain full advantage of the characteristics of the slider mount and, whilst swivel chair does make it more of a pleasure to use, I found that a simple stool was more than adequate and a lot less bulky to move around. However, the swivel chair, once in place, enables you to see the entire hemisphere of sky without you having to change your seating position.

There is a good range of movement. The lateral range of the binocular arm is 49 centimetres, and it has a vertical range that varies between 53 centimetres and 100 centimetres depending on how far the mount is extended. This should easily encompass the range of movement any single observer needs.



So the question is, "does it work?" The answer is that it does, and very well indeed. Once it is properly setup, it is a sheer pleasure to use. The sliders operate smoothly and you very soon get used to the fact and stop thinking about it. It genuinely gives the sensation that the binoculars are floating

in the air and can be “floated” to wherever you want, through a full 360° of azimuth and with an altitude range considerably more than 90°. The binocular I used for testing was a [Bresser Spezial Astro SF 20x80 ED](#), and the Slider Mount handled its 2700g weight with ease, using only two of the three pairs of counterweights.

So are there any niggles? There are a couple but they are relatively minor:

- When the cradle fulcrum is at its highest position, one of the mounting holes on each side is partly obscured.
- There is a sprung pin that secures the cradle assembly in a fixed position for use when you use the mount lying down. This pin is thin and if there is any weight on the cradle (such as when you have binoculars mounted) it can be difficult to unlock it.

Limitations

One other thing you should be aware of is that although it is suggested that the slider mount could be an alternative to a parallelogram mount, there is an important characteristic that it does not share with the parallelogram: when you change the height of the binocular on a parallelogram it remains pointing in the same direction, making it easy to share views with people of different heights. The slider mount does not do this and its strength is being used as a mount for individual observers.

It is also quite unwieldy. The binocular arm is 124 centimetres long which is substantially longer the arms of a parallelogram mount which rarely exceed about 75 centimetres.

It would benefit from having a bespoke carrier bag, with pockets for counterweights, made for it in order to make it more conducive to being transported.

Conclusion

My overall impression is that this is an ingenious piece of kit that is a delight to use once it has been properly set up. It would be most suited to an individual observer who uses medium to large binoculars (up to about 3.5 kg) and who wants a truly flexible mounting option that enables a view of the complete sky from a single position. The optional dovetail clamp enables it to be used with a small telescope as well.

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