

Topic – Digiscoping

This is a work in progress, but I hope my efforts will spur interests of others in using this actually fairly simple technology.

Briefly, Digiscoping is nothing more than having a camera attached to your spotting scope, to record or view zoomed in images.

The camera can be anything from your smart phone, to a point and shoot camera, to a full blown DSLR high quality camera. There are various mounts for such applications. Again, anything from very simple and inexpensive, to complex and costly. It all depends on your needs and desires.

My initial reason for trying this was to be able to more easily monitor shooting targets at 100 and 200 yards. I'm at the TRIFOCAL stage of glasses in life, and it is a pain to get into an awkward position to squint through the scope. So I began researching this, how to hook up either a simple camera, OR my cell phone, to the scope.

Before going into detail, let's look at a simple example of what things look like, when doing this. See photos 001- through 007.

SCOPE – set at 40x zoom. CAMERA (Samsung Galaxy S3) set at 1x zoom to start, with 2 second delay for camera action (reason for this later)

001-scope-mounted-on-tripod
002-view-down-the-street
003-camera-mounted-to-bracket-and-scope
004-camera-photo-at-1x
005-camera-photo-at-2x
006-camera-photo-at-2x-panned
007-camera-photo-at-2x-panned

This series of photos show the scope, on the tripod, with the camera/phone mount at the rear. I then pointed this down the street, and focused on a mailbox, DISTANCE about 175 feet. Photo 003 shows how all this looks, with the camera mounted to the bracket.

Photo 004 shows the actual camera picture, taken by the camera viewing through the scope. Notice that the viewed image is round; the camera is taking a rectangle picture, but since the circle of view of the scope does not totally fill the camera lens field, there is the darkness surrounding the circle.

Photo 005, 006, and 007 show what happens when you zoom in the camera, from the 1x, to the 2x. The camera magnifies the view; and if the scope was focused well, the camera focus will also attempt to keep the image clear, even as it zooms. AND, the outer dark circle disappears, because the camera zoom, in magnifying the view, is eliminating the outer area of view.

Notice how in photo 007, even the letters on the banners are readable.