

# Bitesized Review

By  
John Hallett Photography



## Bitesized Review: VFinder LCD Viewfinder Loupe

An LCD viewfinder loupe allows you to clearly see the LCD viewfinder screen on the back of your camera by masking out any surrounding light and applying a slight magnification. This is a boon not only when outside in bright sunshine but also in allowing you to inspect the composition of your shot more critically.

Note: It should be noted that this is not an LCD screen itself but is merely designed to **view** an LCD screen.

A quick trawl on e-bay shows that these can be purchased from as little as £10 to as much as £100 depending on the manufacturer and the sellers location.

This particular model is made by Vfinder and cost me £22 - but also comes with a lanyard, a cleaning cloth, an attachment frame for the camera and a small storage pouch.



Basically you can either hold the loupe at the back of the camera when required, using the lanyard around your neck to keep it handy or, especially if you are using it for video work, by attaching the self-adhesive frame to your camera's LCD and then letting the built-in magnets keep the loupe attached to the screen.

Personally I didn't fit the frame, preferring the lanyard - which has a clip to allow it to detach quickly if required.

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Obviously simply turning the loupe lets the eyecup change from right eye to left eye orientation.

The 2.8x (220%) magnification lens is 40mm diameter which gives a sharp, clear view and, of course, no batteries are required.



This particular loupe is 3:2 aspect ratio and measures 3" x 2". It is important to check the aspect ratio and size of your LCD screen before purchase. Other aspect ratios are available if you look around.

The rubber eyepiece is very soft - ideal if you wear glasses - and folds back over the loupe when not in use to make packing into the supplied pouch easier.

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The pouch itself, although flimsy, has a handy spring clip for attaching to the outside of your camera bag and a Velcro fastening to keep it closed.



Overall a very useful piece of kit and, with no moving parts or batteries required, it should last for years. It is quite startling when you first see how much clearer the image from the viewfinder screen is - in fact it actually shows up every pixel of the screen and show how inaccurate they could be. Great for checking composition and exposure but the viewfinder screens themselves just aren't to a standard to allow fine focusing control.

It certainly makes you more aware of the images composition and also makes you feel like those film-makers of old studying the final set layout through their monocle & loupe.

## Pro's

- Cheap
- Effective
- Lightweight
- Soft eyepiece
- No batteries
- Handy lanyard
- Makes it look as if you know what you are doing

## Con's

- Storage pouch flimsy
- Shows up the poor quality of the viewfinder screen

*Similar products from other manufacturers are also available*

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