

# A Field Review of the JJC EN-DK33 & the HoodMan HoodEye for Z 9



Robert Thompson



## The JJC EN-DK33 and the HoodMan HoodEye Eyecups for the Nikon Z 9 (A Field Review)



*The HoodMan HoodEye on the Nikon Z9. The silicone eyecup is a teardrop design compared to the oval shape of the JJC unit.*

### GENERAL OVERVIEW

Recently I ordered and received from Amazon the JJC EN-DK33 Z 9 eyecup which replaces the popular Nikon DK-33. Many photographers prefer to use accessory eyecups rather than the manufacturers default eyepiece. One of the first things I do when changing camera bodies is replace the standard eyepiece. The large silicone cup acts as a shield and prevents the ambient light from striking the viewfinder, reducing the clarity and the overall viewing experience. It's especially important for me when shooting macro as focus needs to be accurate.



*The JJC eyecup for the Nikon Z 9. The large eyecup does an excellent job of blocking the ambient light even on the brightest days.*





*The HoodMan has a larger diameter and the silicone eyecup has a slightly firmer feel to it compared to the JJC unit.*

I had also placed an order around the same time with Speed Graphic for the Hoodman HoodEye for the Z 9 when it became available. Having got both I thought I would share my thoughts about them having used them in the field for a while now. I should also point out that these units are designed for the Nikon Z 9 only.



*The JJC eyecup is much easier to rotate vertically than the HoodMan which requires a little more force to change its position. If you are shooting a lot of vertical compositions then it is defiantly worth while rotating the silicone eyecup each time. It only takes a few seconds and its much more comfortable on your eye. Both design do an excellent job of adapting to the natural contours of your eye.*



First impressions straight from the box and a close-up examination of both units indicated they were of excellent quality and well-constructed with high quality premium grade soft silicone. The mounts also looked solid and nicely finished. The eyecups of both units were rotatable through 360° degrees making it easy to shoot with either eye, or when switching between horizontal and vertical formats. Although when the eyecup is rotated into the vertical position the seal is not just as good for obvious reasons since it's not adapting completely to the natural contour of your eye.

The silicon in both units is smooth and soft with a mat finish and has excellent abrasion resistance. I also found them comfortable when depressed against my eye to form a seal. The eyecups do however differ in their design slightly and the ergonomics of the silicone eyecup is different in both. The JJC unit is an oval construction while the Hoodman conforms to the classic tear drop design. They also claim that the silicone is hypoallergenic for comfort when using the camera for lengthy periods. Both eyepieces provide a good seal and improve your viewfinder experience. They also help to protect the viewfinder from an accumulation dust and possible scratches. Both units do an excellent job of preventing access light from entering the viewfinder; an important factor if you use the EVF to edit or analyse your images in-situ. The silicone eyepieces have reasonable depth reducing the contact between your nose and LCD screen which in my opinion is more comfortable.

*I found the Hoodman design to be slightly better for me, but that's just a personal preference. Both do a good job and are comfortable when up tight against your eye. I like to brace the camera tight against the orbital bone for additional support.*





## SIZE

The JJC eyepiece is 72.6mm (2.9in) X 49.3mm (1.9 in) by 24.5mm (1.0 in).



*The JJC eyecup from different viewpoints.*



## SIZE

The Hoodman is 66.5mm (2.62in) X 52.3mm (2.06in) X 15.7mm (0.62in).







*Both eyecups attach easily and detach easily from the EVF guide*

### CONNECTION TO THE EVF

Both eyecups have a self-locking bayonet mounting system making it easy to secure the unit to the camera's electronic viewfinder (EVF) precisely with little effort. Replacing the Z 9's original eyepiece with either of these two units does not affect or inhibit the function of the LCD screen in any way.

### IN THE FIELD

Using any of these eyecups in the field is a better experience than the default design on the Z 9. However, having said that Nikon's design must accommodate the vast majority of photographers, which is understandable, not everyone wants, or

prefers to use a custom-made eyecup. I received the JJC eyecup first and took it with me to the west of Ireland where I was running a workshop. Initially, I had no serious issues, and it did make a noticeable difference when looking through the viewfinder in very bright conditions and also when viewing images already taken in bright light. However, after using the eyecup for a short time I found how easily the silicone cup became disengaged from its mount. For me this was the only real criticism I had with the unit. I retrieved it several times from the bottom of my bag. It would frequently become detached when taking the camera in or out. Also, it occasionally came off when carrying the camera especially if it came into contact against my clothing. Luckily, I was aware when it fell off each time. I have to say that this is the one issue which I found annoying. I had to be mindful each time I moved about or carried the camera on the tripod.

Hoodman has an excellent reputation when it comes to the design and fabrications of quality products and this eyepiece does not disappoint. It is solid well-constructed, and the self-locking mount engages over the Z 9's eyepiece rail and secures the unit in place. I preferred the tear drop design over JJC's oval shape cup and it was very comfortable when my eye was against it. I'm not criticising the design of the oval cup on the JJC unit, it comes down to personal preference. I could work with both if I had to however the Hoodman eyecup had the edge for me on the ergonomics. Another important factor is how secure the eyecup is on the mount. I don't want to be replacing units every few months.



Currently, I have been using the Hoodman unit a lot in recent weeks without a single issue. Even when taking the camera in and out of the bag or when the camera was braced against my clothing it has remained intact. Changing the orientation of the Hoodman requires a little more force, but that's not a complaint just an observation. It also indicates that the eyecup is pretty secure on the mount and not as easily detached. Some people might find it a little more difficult to use this unit with glasses. I prefer to shoot without my glasses on. I

don't think there is an ideal eyecup that meets everyone's expectations but this one is pretty good.

Overall both units are excellent however, if you are spending a lot of time in the field and working among vegetation in woodlands etc., you would have to be more vigilant with the JJC version as there is a greater risk of it dislodging itself from the mount when wading through branches and vegetation. When it comes to



Yellow Stagshorn fungus *Calocera viscosa*



*Robert Thompson*  
PHOTOGRAPHY



Robert Thompson is a professional freelance natural history photographer, author and naturalist. He is a Fellow of the Royal Photographic Society and the Irish Photographic Federation; an acclaimed macro specialist in the UK and author of a number of books on natural history and photography. He also sat on the Natural History Board for the Royal Photographic Societies distinction awards. His work is widely published in the UK, Ireland and internationally, with numerous photographic credits in a wide variety of publications including Nikon Pro, Nikon NPS, Nikon Owners Magazine and other media sources. He is a frequent writer and contributor to the photographic press and specialist natural history publications. He has had several solo exhibitions of his photography and has worked on several high-profile natural history projects in Ireland and the UK. He runs workshops in Ireland and further afield.





Robert Thompson  
© PHOTOGRAPHY  
Thompson

[www.robertthompsonphotography.com](http://www.robertthompsonphotography.com)