

CHOOSING YOUR FIRST TELESCOPE



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WHAT DO WE RECOMMEND

AT THE ASV WE'VE USED JUST ABOUT EVERY TYPE OF TELESCOPE YOU CAN IMAGINE. WITH THAT IN MIND, OUR FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE GUIDES US IN RECOMMENDING AN 8-INCH DOBSONIAN STYLE TELESCOPE AS THE BEST STARTER INSTRUMENT TO BEGIN OBSERVATIONAL ASTRONOMY.

- THE BRAND ISN'T IMPORTANT. SOME OF THE BRAND NAMES TO LOOK FOR ARE SAXON, SKY-WATCHER AND BINTEL.
- LOOK AROUND FOR THE BEST DEAL. KEEP IN MIND THE EXTRA SHIPPING COSTS IF ORDERING ONLINE
- THEY COME WITH 2-3 EYEPIECES AND A FINDERSCOPE AND YOU'LL NOT NEED ANYTHING ELSE TO BEGIN WITH.
- EXPECT TO PAY \$600 - \$700 AND DON'T PAY ANY MORE THAN THAT.
- DON'T LET THE DEALER CONVINCING YOU NEED EXPENSIVE EXTRAS.



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WE'VE FOUND THIS SIZE AND TYPE OF TELESCOPE IS THE-SIMPLEST, EASIEST AND QUICKEST TO SET UP AND USE. IT ALSO GIVES THE MOST 'BANG' FOR YOUR BUCK! YOU WILL GET GOOD VIEWS OF:

- THE MOONS OF JUPITER.
- RINGS OF SATURN.
- FINE CLOSE-UPS OF CRATERS ON THE MOON.
- BEAUTIFUL CLUSTERS OF STARS.
- AND FROM A DARK SKY - AWAY FROM CITY LIGHTS, IT WILL SHOW YOU NEBULAE AND GALAXIES.



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IF YOU CAN'T AFFORD THAT MUCH JUST YET, THEN WAIT UNTIL YOU CAN, ELSE YOU'LL BE DISAPPOINTED. ESPECIALLY DON'T GET TEMPTED TO BUY A CHEAPER TELESCOPE ON A TRIPOD WITH A RUDIMENTARY 'EQUATORIAL' MOUNT. AT THAT LOWER PRICE THEY DON'T WORK VERY WELL AND WOULD NEED AN EXPERIENCED OBSERVER TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THEM. ONCE YOU GET YOUR TELESCOPE:

- READ THE INSTRUCTIONS THROUGH CAREFULLY – TWICE!
- ASSEMBLE YOUR TELESCOPE DURING THE DAY.
- PRACTICE USING IT IN DAYLIGHT HOURS TO LOOK AT DISTANT HILLS OR BUILDINGS.
- DON'T LOOK AT THE SUN! NEVER DO THIS WITH YOUR TELESCOPE.
- IF OBJECTS ARE UPSIDE DOWN, DON'T WORRY, THAT'S NORMAL FOR ASTRONOMICAL TELESCOPES.
- MAKE THE MOON THE FIRST CELESTIAL OBJECT YOU AIM AT AND USE THE PHYSICALLY LARGER OF YOUR EYEPIECES TO BEGIN WITH – ALWAYS, WHEN TRYING TO FIND TARGETS.



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WHAT IF I CAN'T AFFORD A TELESCOPE

IF YOU DON'T WANT TO SPEND THAT MUCH MONEY ON A TELESCOPE, PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ASV HAS A FLEET OF THIS TYPE OF TELESCOPE AND WE LOAN THEM OUT TO MEMBERS FOR THREE MONTHS AT A TIME. THERE IS A MODEST MAINTENANCE COST OF \$60 PLUS A \$50 REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT WHEN THE UNIT IS RETURNED IN GOOD CONDITION. OUR LOAN SCOPES ARE POPULAR AND HAVE A WAITING LIST, SO ACT FAST IF YOU'RE INTERESTED.



WE ALSO RUN COURSES ON LEARNING ASTRONOMY AND ON USING YOUR TELESCOPE. WE HAVE A DARK SKY SITE FOR USE BY OUR MEMBERS WITH REALLY LARGE TELESCOPES IN OBSERVATORIES, AND OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION. PLEASE EXPLORE OUR WEBSITE AND FOLLOW THIS LINK TO SEE IF MEMBERSHIP OF THE ASV IS FOR YOU.

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