What telescope is best for me?



The best telescope for you is the one that you will use!



I Consider trying binoculars first.

- ***** Easy to use, easy to store, ultra-portable.
- * Can see large sections of the sky at once.
- * Can use them for daytime activities.



An excellent size is 10×50 : 10 = magnification 50 = the diameter in millimeters of the front lens.

2 Before you buy a telescope, ask yourself these questions...

- ★ How well do you know the night sky? Finding objects is not easy without practice. A quality "go-to" computerized telescope is costly and its operation must be mastered.
- ★ How hard is the scope to assemble? If it is too complicated, you won't use it.
- ★ Where will you do most of your observing? A city resident will likely need to cart it to a dark site.
- ★ Where do you think you'll be in the hobby in three years? If you really like astronomy, you'll outgrow a small scope in six months.
- ★ Will you eventually pursue astrophotography? You'll need a sturdy, motor driven mount that tracks accurately.



🟲 Common Telescope Designs ⊀

Reflector

- * Easy to use
- ★ Least expensive scope design
- ★ Great for clusters, nebulae, and galaxies
- ★ Can be bulky
- ★ Generally not suitable for astroimaging



Shown with a Dobsonian Mount

Telescope Diameter Dilemma



Since most sky objects are relatively dim, a telescope needs to gather large amounts of light. Therefore, larger diameter telescopes are better than smaller ones. However, they are also bulkier - and less likely to make it outside in cold weather!

3 Telescope and observing tips:

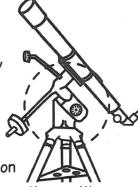
- ★ Magnification low power is used for most objects.
- ★ Finder scope a small one is nearly useless.
- ★ The larger the telescope's diameter, the better views it gives, but the less portable it is.
- ★ If the scope has poor optics or a wobbly mount, it will be frustrating to use. Hence, it won't be used.
- ★ Finding celestial objects requires practice and patience.
- ★ Never point the telescope at the sun without the proper filter installed ON THE FRONT of the scope.
- ★ Don't expect what you see in the eyepiece to closely resemble what you see in photographs.

Visit your local amateur astronomy club!

- You can see and try the various sizes and types of telescopes.
- **Some clubs have programs for lending telescopes.**
- Members will be happy to guide you through the scope selection process.

Refractor

- * Easy to use
- Tend to be costly
- ★ Not suitable for dim objects
- * Can be used for astroimaging
- ★ Great for the moon and planets



Shown with an Equatorial Mount

Schmidt-Cassegrain

- **★** Portable, but heavy
- Tend to be costly
- ★ Suitable for astroimaging
- All purpose scope



The Astronomical League www.astroleague.org/outreach