

Re: The first night out with my 10" dob.

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-09/0828.html>

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Date: 09/05/04

Date: Sun, 05 Sep 2004 02:12:26 GMT

On Sat, 4 Sep 2004 18:42:36 -0700, Tom wrote:

> *I have dreamed of seeing M31. From what I have read, I knew enough to find
> it. After searching and searching with the 2" in the area to the left of
> the "Great Square", I finally noticed a smudge of light that was in stark
> contrast to surrounding collection of stars in my field of view. I put the
> 9mm in to get a closer look, and the smudge got a bit bigger, but by no
> means did it give me a detailed view of a galaxy.
> I strongly assume this is M31 anyways. How can I make the most of this? 7mm
> Televue Plossl with a good 3x Barlow? The 9mm gave me a 140x mag. and this
> doesn't seem optimal for M31. People say that M31 is visible with the naked
> eye, which could suggest that light pollution in north Scottsdale is worse
> than I think. I never did find it again later that night.*

Hi Tom,

Congratulations on the new scope and welcome to the sleepless society!

Now for a little advice. . .when first viewing most any object, start with a lower power eyepiece and work your way up until you get the most revealing view your

As for M31, no eyepiece you can slip into the focuser of a 10" dobsonian is going to reveal something that looks like what many newbies imagine a spiral galaxy should. Expect to see a dark dust lane and a stellar-like nucleus on nights of good seeing when using moderate magnification. For a real treat, slip in that 2" EP and look for two other galaxies in the same field of view.

Have fun.

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Martin

"Photographs From the Universe of Amateur Astronomy"

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