

## Re: Refractor vs. Reflector?

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**From:** Tom Royer ([troyer\\_at\\_mitre.org](mailto:troyer_at_mitre.org))

**Date:** 09/08/04

Date: Wed, 8 Sep 2004 14:02:27 -0400

"SCB" <[bradleyre@tns.net](mailto:bradleyre@tns.net)> wrote in message  
news:1094598775.970042@allergic.reaction.org...

> *MrAoD* wrote:

> > *Thanks to all who replied. The information supplied was very helpful.*

Based

> > *on that I've revised my initial decision as follows:*

> >

> > *1. Ixnay on the Bushnell line. I chose Bushnell for name familiarity  
from*

> > *hunting optics way back in the 80s. Either the brand has declined or  
their*

> > *astronomy line isn't comparable.*

> >

> > *2. Orion products look very tasty. I'm not hard up for cash and I  
didn't mean*

> > *to imply a \$200 ceiling was all I could afford, just that I wasn't sure  
his*

> > *Lordship's interest in astronomy would continue and didn't see spending  
a mint*

> > *on a passing fancy. It's more important to me that I don't kill his  
interest*

> > *by getting a scope that's inadequate.*

> >

> > *3. I'm now considering the Orion short tube 80, and the Starblast. I'd  
prefer*

> > *the 80 since I can use it for terrestrial viewing also, but the choice  
hinges*

> > *more on quick usability. Remember, I'm dealing with a 6 year old who  
can tell*

> > *you why Sol won't end up as a black hole but still has a 6 year old  
attention*

> > *span. More than 10 minutes of setup and he'll lose the mood (exactly  
the*

> > *opposite of dealing with the missus ;-).*

> >

> > *If I buy the 80 I'll need to buy a tripod and if I buy the Starblast  
I'll need*

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- > > *to figure out a platform for setup since most of our viewing will be in the*
- > > *field (camping, parks, beach). I'm assuming the DOB base of the blast either*
- > > *is or can be tapped for a tripod.*

You won't want to mount the Starblast too high, or you'll then have to find some way for your son to get to the eyepiece. When Sky and Telescope reviewed the Starblast, they commented that it was just the right height for young chi