

## Re: New AP scope and more

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**From:** Craig Levine (*apoguy\_at\_\*spamkill\*ns.sympatico.ca*)

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Date: Sat, 30 Oct 2004 18:39:43 GMT

On Sat, 30 Oct 2004 12:11:49 -0400, "matt" <mariusrf@bellsouth.net> wrote:

>  
>nonsense, Craig . You forgot to say "with today's technology" .  
>If you believe you're right, please use a hand made , actually the best hand  
>made telescope of 200 years ago against a modern production line scope made  
>in China .  
> NASA or the large observatories use ion milling and other computer  
>controlled methods rather than hiring Mr. Zambuto or Swayze . Craftsmanship  
>my foot. It's only a matter of time. Your statement is from the slide rule  
>era and riveted bridge structures at best .  
>  
>best regards,  
>matt tudor  
>

Well, I do use one of the best APO's made today, crafted by a Mr. R. Christen. I also suspect that (modern glass coatings aside) an Alvan Clark & Sons achromat would best any comparable "...modern production line scope made in China". NASA's needs are well beyond the scope of any craftsman. Most craftsmen that I'm aware of won't tackle mirrors beyond 36"-42" inches simply because of the impracticality of physically working with a glass that size. Of course you need computerized technology to figure a mirror of that size.

I do hope that the quality of mass-produced items coming out of China and elsewhere gets better. I hate to see poor-quality items landing in the hands of unsuspecting consumers. Right now, the quality is uneven, and for every diamond, there's a pile of poop. I'm confident that the scopes coming out of AP are all quality.

Personally, I like your child-like exuberance for the future, but I think it's more than a little naive to say that the craftsman's time is coming. To use another comparison, we have mass-produced home fittings coming out of factories in the US and Asia and have been for decades, yet experienced carpenters and woodworkers - craftsmen - are booked up for months or years. The Industrial Revolution happened over

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a century ago, and the craftsmen have not gone away, nor will they. I suspect that the Roland Christens and TMB's of the future will have many SAA'ers bemoaning their long lead times for a long time to come.

Clear skies,

– Craig