

Re: Looking for a good beginner's telescope, suggestions?

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From: Ken S. Tucker (*dynamics_at_vianet.on.ca*)

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mtmr02@yahoo.com (Mark Roberts) wrote in message news:<6e74a1a1.0411091126.1df78925@posting.google.com>...
> *Hi folks! My 12 year old son has been very interested in astronomy for the past year or so, and has been doing a lot of star gazing with the naked eye and a decent set of binoculars. I'd like to upgrade him for Christmas and get him a good beginner's telescope. (My definition of good would be probably run the middle between price and quality, as I don't want to go overboard and buy something expensive and then end up having him not use it!) He's primarily focused on the moon and constellations before and would like to check out the planets and maybe other objects further out. Anyone have any suggestions on what to get him? I would appreciate any information those with more experience than I could give. Thanks so much! – Mark*

If your boy has a good IQ, and takes geometry serious then ask him if he understands what an "Equatorial Mount" is and how it works.

Usually an interest in astronomy is indicative of high intelligence and spatial understanding.

Ask him if he would prefer an EQ mount or a less expensive Alt-azimuth mount, to see if he knows the diff. If he doesn't a week later, then you'll know to get a cheap Alt-az department store job.

OTOH if a 12 year old can explain to you why an EQ mount is better, then the geometry lesson alone for him polarizing an EQ is a cheap lesson.

The scope oughta be a refractor at 60mm or a bit more, to keep portability. Much larger will be tough on a 12 year old, and reflectors are less tolerant of abuse. That'll keep him busy until next X-mas.

Anyway, talk to him and get back to us about what he think's he knows. ok?

Regards

Ken S. Tucker