

Re: Reflector or Refractor?

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I'm looking to buy my first scope. I live in an area with light to moderate light pollution. Does this affect the performance of either a reflector or refractor scope?

I'm looking to observe a broad range of objects. What would someone recommend for a first scope?

Thanks for your help

Hi, While yes, moderate, to severe light pollution will affect any type scope of any size on Deepsky Objects (Galaxys, Nebulae, etc) light pollution has no impact on doing high quality observation on Planets, or the Moon.

What is needed in these cases, is steady, still air, and a themally equilibrated scope.

For a first scope, I wouldn't personally recommend going with too small a scope (like a Meade 90mm ETX), nor a too expensive one either (just in case you later get bored with the hobby)

I think the ideal first Astro Scope with the best bang for the buck, would be getting something like an 8"-10" Dobsonian Reflector, and a handful of 1/2 way decent relatively low cost eyepieces.

Not too complicated, relatively easy set-up, and with 8"-10" of aperture, this will display both Deep Sky, and the Planets/Moon with pleasing results.

Ultimately, the cost outlay by you will have to be determined on exactly how much money you wish to invest into this hobby. I'd definitely stay away from the \$79-\$129 Dept. Store bargain scopes, as they are essentially useless. Mark