

Re: What does it cost for a newcomer to astronomy?

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-07/msg01812.html>

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 - *Date:* Sun, 24 Jul 2005 19:12:03 -0500
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There are a few old platitudes that haven't been spouted yet, so I'll go ahead and spout them...

In the past, it was always recommended to learn the sky before you buy a telescope. Learn the major constellations naked eye, and learn how to find deep sky objects with a decent pair of binoculars. Now days, with GOTO telescopes that can find things for you, this is often disregarded. I still remember doing this as a fun, rewarding, thrill, and I still think it's good advise. There is a LOT of stuff you can see with a pair of 7 or 10 by 50 binoculars, and you'll use 'em even after you get the scope of your dreams.

Astronomy doesn't have to be expensive. There are a number of guys in this group who are "financially challenged" who are staples of the group. Of course, a wonderful, and expensive, scope is a treasure, but if you go out under a dark sky with only your naked eyes and a planisphere and begin to recognize some of the constellations, I promise you that you won't be able to sleep that night. The same thing goes when you pick up that first deep sky object in a pair of binoculars. If these things don't give you a charge that keeps you awake that night, you probably won't get much out of a telescope anyway.

When it comes time to buy a scope, the advice given about going to a star party and looking through various type of scopes and talking to the people that the telescopes own, :) is good. If there is nothing like that around you, READ READ READ, and check out the scope buying advise from this group.

Have a good time! This is a hobby that can make your entire life better!

Marty

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- *References:*
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