

Re: Newbie with a twist

Source: <http://sci.tech--archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2006-01/msg00292.html>

- *From:* "Yogi" <artw.no.spam.at.all@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 3 Jan 2006 18:39:06 -0600
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"David Sleeter" <d.sleeter@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:t5idncwhpuYWjSbenZ2dnUVZ_tOdnZ2d@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

>

> "Yogi" <artw.no.spam.at.all@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message
> [news:6s0uf.237566\\$015.140029@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:6s0uf.237566$015.140029@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)

<original post snipped>

- > First off, as a "newbie", I THINK you've incorrectly described the scope
- > that I would recommend, and that's the 114 mm. Meade scope. As far as I
- > know, the 114 mm. diameter Meade scopes are all Newtonian reflectors.
- > Therefore they do NOT use a "lens" to form the image. They use a "mirror".

No doubt you're right there. I just pulled the description word for word from the rewards catalog.

>

- > As a general rule you get alot more telescope for your dollar with a
- > simple Newtonian reflector (a mirror-based telescope) than you get with a
- > refractor (a lens-based telescope). And the reason is that, for any given
- > aperature (i.e. lens or mirror diameter) it's a lot cheaper to make a
- > mirror than it is to make a lens. Therefore, when you describe the 114 mm.
- > Meade scope with the 1,000 mm. focal length, I THINK what you're
- > describing is actually a small Newtonian reflector with a 114 mm. dia.
- > mirror with an f-8.8 focal ratio, and a computer-controlled mount. And
- > THAT sounds pretty good.

>

Going to Meade's sight and finding the closest matching description brought me to the DS2114, which seems to fit you're description well.

- > If this is what you're talking about, then this is the one I'd recommend
- > WITH ONE MAJOR CAVEAT. In any given telescope, half the quality of the
- > image is generated by the lens or the mirror, and the other half by the
- > eyepiece, which is actually a small, low-power microscope used to examine
- > the image created by the lens or the mirror. To save money, the
- > manufacturers of these inexpensive telescopes will often give you the
- > CHEAPEST eyepieces they can get away with. The little Japanese eyepieces
- > labeled "H" for (Huygens) are the worst. The view through these eyepieces

Re: Newbie with a twist

- > is absolutely TERRIBLE, and ALL amateur astronomers consider them
- > worthless. The Meade "MA" eyepieces are noticeably better, but still
- > disappointing compared to a standard "Plossl"-type eyepiece.
- >

Super advice, this will be very helpful.

- > For my own use I consider the "Plossl"-type eyepiece as the
- > modestly-priced standard against which I measure all others. A Plossl
- > eyepiece is more complicated and expensive to make, but the view is
- > good-to-excellent, and some of these inexpensive scopes come with one good
- > Plossl eyepiece (normally a 1-1/4" dia. eyepiece with a 25mm. focal
- > length). If the 114 mm. Meade Newtonian reflector you're considering comes
- > with at least one good Plossl eyepiece, then you're home-free. If the
- > eyepiece or eyepieces are the "MA" or "H" type, I'd advise you to replace
- > them, so over-and-above your purchase, you'll have to buy at least one
- > good Plossl eyepiece.
- >

- > If you buy the 114 mm. Meade scope you describe, I'd advise a 1-1/4" dia.
- > 25mm. focal length Plossl eyepiece as described above. You'll see MANY
- > being sold on eBay both new and used. For a new eyepiece, the name-brands
- > like Meade and Celestron are excellent, and they cost around \$60. But as
- > telescope-officianados will tell you, their lenses are made in China, and
- > the NON-brand-name companies sell Plossl eyepieces with THE SAME lenses
- > for half the price (about \$30). The only difference is cosmetic. The
- > name-brand eyepieces have chrome-plated steel barrels, and the no-name
- > eyepieces barrels' are typically made of aluminum. The view through either
- > is THE SAME! If you want to save about \$30, buy the no-name Plossl.
- > Actually they're not a true "no-name". They're sold by numerous telescope
- > dealers on the Internet who typically market them under their own brand. A
- > good and honest dealer that I've dealt with for several years is Mark
- > Estes of digiteoptical.com. Gary Hand of Hands-on-Optics is also a
- > reputable dealer, and the prices quoted by both these dealers are typical
- > and reasonable.
- >

- > A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE. About 5 years ago my next-door neighbor bought one
- > of the 114 mm. Meade scopes that was made at the time. Though it lacked
- > the computer-controlled mount, the optics were probably identical to the
- > ones described above. Disappointed with the view, he asked my advice. When
- > I saw that the scope came with Meade's cheaper "MA" eyepieces, I loaned
- > him one of my 25 mm. Plossls, and the difference was STARTLING. As it
- > turned out, his little Meade 114 mm. scope had a good mirror, and as I
- > describe above, the problem was the cheap eyepieces. Per-my-advice, he
- > bought a 12 mm. Plossl, and a 25mm. Plossl. He bought them "used" on eBay,
- > and his total cost was about \$50. The 25mm. eyepiece gave him a
- > magnification of 40 power, and the 12 mm. eyepiece gave him a
- > magnification of about 80 power. From that point on, he LOVED his
- > telescope.
- >

- > The bottom line was that the 114 mm. Meade mirror was fine. All the scope
- > needed to make it a good-one was a good pair of Plossl eyepieces.

Re: Newbie with a twist

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I think that's how I'll go.

> Regarding the Bushnell scope, my impression is that just about everything
> made by Bushnell today is of questionable quality. Hope this helps,
>

I've heard that from more than 1 person. Yes, this helps immensely, thank
you.

Yogi

"Nobody goes there anymore, it's too crowded." – Yogi Berra

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• **References:**

- ◆ **[Newbie with a twist](#)**
 ◇ From: Yogi
- ◆ **[Re: Newbie with a twist](#)**
 ◇ From: David Sleeter

- Prev by Date: **[Re: Aftermarket v's Factory supplied mirrors](#)**
- Next by Date: **[Re: Aftermarket v's Factory supplied mirrors](#)**
- Previous by thread: **[Re: Newbie with a twist](#)**
- Next by thread: **[Re: Newbie with a twist – Thanks to all](#)**
- Index(es):
 - ◆ **[Date](#)**
 - ◆ **[Thread](#)**