

Re: Orion XT8 Classic vs XT8 Intelliscope

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- *From:* "Kickin' Ass and Takin' Names" <pilgriminabarrenland@xxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* 2 Dec 2006 15:33:44 -0800
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KenS wrote:

Hello all,

This is my first post to the group as I am new to the hobby – although I have had a lifelong interest in Astronomy and Cosmology. I am considering my first scope and have settled on the Orion XT8 – or, at least an 8" Dobsonian (I've don't a LOT of reading here and elsewhere, and the postings here have been invaluable).

My question is this: is there any reason to pay the extra money to get the Intelliscope over the Classic assuming that I am not interested in using the positioning electronics that the XT8-IS accept. Even without the goto module, the IS is \$120 > than the Classic. If that \$120 is buying me higher quality, important features, etc., then I'll consider it. But if the only meaningful difference is the electronics, then I see no reason not to get the XT8-C instead. I am intersted in learning the sky and it seems to me that the best way to do that is with a map and manual approach.

Am I missing something?

Thanks
Ken Sargent

No difference in the optics --- XT-8 and XT-8 Intelliscope are the same scope. The difference is in the Dobsonian mount --- the Intelliscope mount has sensors built in that tell the handheld controller where the scope is pointed.

I had an XT-8 that was drowned in Hurricane Katrina. I replaced it with an XT-12 Intelliscope.

You DO NOT have to use the Intelliscope function. I use my XT-12 without the controller half the time. If you want to use the scope without the electronics, just don't plug in the controller. Usually, I drag out the scope and do not plug in the controller. If I am not able

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to find the object I'm looking for, I plug in the controller, orient the scope, and let the electronics help me find what I can't find on my own.

Remember --- the Intelliscope is not a motorized function. That is, the electronics do not drive the scope --- you move the Intelliscope the same way you move the Classic --- just grab the scope and push or pull it.

If I had it to do over again, I'd still buy the Intelliscope --- it's nice to have the electronic help. In fact, I'm thinking about getting an XT-6 Intelliscope because it's a lot more portable than the XT-12 --- besides, you can never have too many scopes.

For what it's worth, here's my take on things:

<http://www.schlatter.org/Dad/Astronomy/my%20scopes.htm>

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