

Re: Starter scope for 9 year old: StarBlast or SkyQuest?

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- *From:* "Bill Hudson" <oldgeek61-951@xxxxxxxxxx>
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LurfysMa wrote:

On Thu, 14 Dec 2006 02:31:24 -0700, W. H. Greer <sendnomail@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

LurfysMa wrote:

I'm not sure I fully understand the difference between the StarBlast and the StarBlast EQ. The magnifications are different (26x, 75x vs 39x, 75x) but I think that's because they come with different eyepieces (Explorer II 17.0mm, 6.0mm vs 3-Element 15.0mm, 6.0mm).

Ah-ha! You caught something I missed.

I just did a search (on the Orion website) for "StarBlast" then checked the "compare" box for the two StarBlast and then clicked on Compare. I got a side-by-side comparison chart. From there, it was easy to spot the differences.

The Expanse eyepieces that the EQ comes with provide wider fields of view and better (at least with the 6mm) eye-relief. Such eyepieces are easier for beginners to use with any telescope.

But I can buy other eyepieces for either scope, no?

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The big difference seems to be the mount type (altazimuth vs equatorial). According to Wikipedia, the altazimuth mount is simpler to build and use, but more difficult for tracking moving objects because tracking must be done on two axes. The equatorial mount is more complex, but eliminates the earth's spin as a variable. It then goes on to say that altazimuth are more appropriate for dobsonian scopes.

The differences you mention are accurate.

A Dobsonian is (by definition) essentially a low-budget Newtonian on an inexpensive, altaz mount. A Newtonian on an EQ mount is no longer (by mos