

## Re: 1/6 or 1/8 wave

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- *From:* "Alan French" <[adfrenchremoveallthis@xxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:adfrenchremoveallthis@xxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
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"Dennis Woos" <[dpwoos@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:dpwoos@xxxxxxxxxx)> wrote in message  
<news:12qf60edbasro16@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>

I have a poster from AstroQuest that shows a similar comparison through  
an

8" scope, with additional comparisons of various secondary obstructions.  
I've done a fair of observing with good 8" and 10" scopes, and I don't  
think  
either the web site or the poster quite convey the amount of detail that  
can  
be seen under steady skies.

Clear skies, Alan

I agree with you about the amount of detail shown, but I also find it hard  
to directly compare detail in an image and detail seen through an  
eyepiece,

especially as I have been accused of having "averted imagination" by the  
more visually challenged members of our club. As an aside, these sceptics  
recently clamored for an eye doctor who was a guest speaker at a club  
meeting to give me a contrast sensitivity test that he had with him. To  
their chagrin, I scored higher than anyone else and above the "normal"  
range, and even a bit better than my older teenage son who I know has  
somewhat better visual acuity.

I would get the best optics I could afford, period. I have found that  
superior optics are a pleasure to observe with, and are less susceptible  
to

bad-seeing/bad-collimation/bad-cooldown/bad-eyepieces/bad-karma problems.

Re: 1/6 or 1/8 wave

Dennis,

Interesting. I think time behind the eyepiece can greatly improve our visual abilities.

I agree that fine optics are a joy, and provide some real advantages, but once you get to about 1/6 wavefront PTV (1/30 wavefront RMS) you'll be doing pretty darn well. In larger optics I suspect very few instruments are performing at this level, both because of the difficulty in making such