

Re: Good Binoculars Around \$60?

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<rdeol85@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
news:1d24803e-8bd4-490a-9f60-8a281fcc2457@xx

I am looking to pick up an introductory pair of binoculars to start viewing the night sky. I have done some research and now just need to settle on an item. I'm a poor college student so my budget is limited. Hopefully I can find something with BAK4 coating in the 10x50mm range. Any ideas? Models to avoid? Can I see the Messier 110 (I live in Iowa, lots of dark sky)?

I don't remember if I can see M110 in our 7x50 binos or not, but the much larger M31 is a nice view (M110 is a satellite galaxy of M31). Note that many folks have trouble hand-holding 10x50 binos (especially at night), and you might be better off with 7x50, or 8x42. Why don't you attend a meeting of the local astro club and let it be known that you are looking for a pair and your price limit? Make sure you try any bino out at night, and make sure that you can easily resolve individual stars. If you can, then you will know that the optics are not misaligned (a common problem) and that they are not too heavy/high-powered for you to hand hold. If the stars appear doubled and/or won't stop wiggling around, then you should not purchase them.

You can see dozens of Messier objects in small/low-power binos, as well as lots of other non-Messier targets (e.g. Double Cluster, Milky Way, star clouds, dark nebulae, double stars, Moon).

Dennis

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