

Re: Stereo Microscope Recommendations – Brand Names, Retailers ???

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.techniques.microscopy/2004–08/0067.html>

From: Gordon Couger (gcouger_at_NOSPAMprovalue.net)

Date: 08/18/04

Date: Wed, 18 Aug 2004 01:23:07 -0500

Ray,

Children often have trouble with binocular microscope heads because they may not close enough for their eyes and they growing eyes may not be able to adjust to accommodate the binocular vision of the microscope.

While I usually recommend used microscopes because you can get more for your money there is not much available in low power monocular microscopes. With that in mind I have a page for first time buyer at

<http://www.couger.com/microscope/links/gcnewbuy.html>

In new scope <http://www.microscopeworld.com/low/lpdis.htm> is available at 20x from a number of sources.

I am reviewing a Trekker <http://www.looksmall.com/> hand held that is a 32x with a removable eyepiece that is a 10X loupe. The 10x loupe has a very short working distance that is a trade off of the design. But it is one of the best 10x loupes I have ever used for transparent things. It has reflect lighting and its unique folded path makes manipulating things on the stage natural instead of reversed. At \$60 US it is a good buy. I don't know if there is a US distributor yet and if you import it from the UK the exchange and tariffs the are internal to the UK will make it a good deal more expensive. With the steel stage a magnet and needle with a small cork for a handle make a holding device for a lot of small things. I will have a web page up on it in a few days. It might be a bit much for an 8 year old but it would depend on the child. Judging your child's ability to handle complexity by age alone can't be done. There is a light than can be left on and it is not sealed to keep water out. But I am very impressed with the scope for tool both beginner and expedited users alike as tool to use in the field.

For an 8 year old I expect the simpler scope would be the best choice and the optics will not be too shabby. If you want a binocular head single power scope an Good AO Spenser can by had for less than 100 dollars or an old A O Cycloptic 7 –25x that has been rebuilt with the prisms cement with modern adhesives with guarantee can be purchased for about \$200. I use this scope in preference to zoom scopes because of the brighter images at low power. If

sci.techniques.microscopy: Re: Stereo Microscope Recommendations – Brand Names, Retailers ???

you are interested in the sources contact me by email.

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Gordon

Gordon Couger

I collect links on information related to light microscopes.

<http://www.couger.com/microscope/links/qclinks.html>

Please forward any links or information you think might be useful to others.

Microscope Manual at www.science-info.org

"Ray" <tlbxqx@aol.com> wrote in message

news:d07417c6.0408111207.3f28c9e5@posting.google.com...

> After seeing my eight year old son struggle while using a toy
> microscope, I am looking for a microscope that he can actually use.
> He is keenly interested in examining objects under microscopes (and in
> science in general).

>

> I'm looking for a stereo microscope with 10x - 80x range (probably a
> dual head with 1x and 4X objectives and sets of 10x and 20x eyepieces)
> with a post mount, 45 deg. inclined viewing head (that rotates 360
> deg. around the post) and I could get by with external lighting. I'd
> be willing to spend up to around \$300.

>

> Does anyone have any suggestions about reputable brand names for a
> stereo microscope in this class? I realize that I won't be getting
> top-notch equipment at this price range; if anyone has any
> recommendations on good value equipment, I'd be grateful. (Doing
> "hands-on" testing isn't easy in my location; it'll have to be
> mail-order purchasing.) Any recommendations for reputable retailers
> would also be appreciated.

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> Thanks,

> Ray