

## Re: Would like advice on microscope purchase

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**From:** Kevin Cunningham ([smskjd\\_at\\_mindspring.com](mailto:smskjd_at_mindspring.com))

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"John Beckwith" <[windsprinter@frontiernet.net](mailto:windsprinter@frontiernet.net)> wrote in message  
news:pan.2004.09.11.22.54.05.614515@frontiernet.net...

> *I have enjoyed lurking in this group for sometime and now would like some  
> advice/opinions on a microscope purchase.*

>

> *Let me start by saying that I have always been interested in microbiology  
> and have used a microscope in my younger years. I was a camera  
> repairman and aquired enough pieces to fix up an older Zeiss scope.  
> Unfortunately having objectives from 3 different makers and some missing  
> parts made the experience unsatisfactory and I sold it for parts.*

>

> *Now I am in mid 50's and have built a pond in the backyard. I want a  
> scope to explore life in the pond, the backyard and around the house. I  
> will never be a professional. I just want to spend some time in my golden  
> years exploring the world around me. I want a scope that is optically  
> good. I can't spend a great deal – this is a hobby. I don't care about  
> bells and whistles but would like to use a digital camera on it at some  
> point. I am a miniature/model maker and can fabricate illuminators,  
> adapters etc. so that is no problem.*

>

> *I need advice on the scope but also the dealer. If no one can give  
> positive feedback on a dealer then I will be very cautious.*

>

> *I have looked at:*

>

> *Mel Sobel A B&L dynoptic at \$400  
> Steindorff monocular at \$189  
> Tiyoda monocular at \$299.  
> The Tiyoda looks like a good scope. Are accessories still available?*

>

> *Optics Planet New Lomo Multiscope at \$500*

>

> *Nightingale B&L Balplan flat field at \$435*

>

> *I realize these are not high end instruments but they are what I can  
> afford, enjoy looking and not wreck my budget.*

>

sci.techniques.microscopy: Re: Would like advice on microscope purchase

- > *Any opinions welcome. Perhaps I've overlooked a better choice?*
- >
- > *Thank you,*
- > *John*
- >

John, Welcome to the club! Lets start from the top. the only brands to buy are the "big 4" brands; Olympus, Nikon, Leica and Zeiss. What would be great is if you had the Zeiss and then equipped it with Zeiss optics. Ah well...Every other brand is usually not that good. Some brands are just names, no production facilities at all, just selling Chinese stuff.

Of the names in your list Nightingale stands out. They do good work but the brand, B and L Balplan, is not very good. Ask them again, you never know what a used dealer will have.

You can try e-bay but it's like going to a used car auction, you don't know what your getting but it is cheap.

Kevin Cunningham