

## Re: Scope Quality Question

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*Source:* <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.techniques.microscopy/2005-04/msg00093.html>

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- *From:* "GTO" <[gregor\\_o@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:gregor_o@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx)>
  - *Date:* Fri, 22 Apr 2005 04:29:55 GMT
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What scopes are recommended by this group?

There are those, who proclaim that everything besides Zeiss, Leitz (now Leica), Nikon or Olympus is junk. And there are those who recommend the "big" names in microscopy without entirely stepping other scopes into the ground.

You are asking about the differences between a \$500 and \$5000 scope, one made by Swift and the other one made by, for instance, Olympus.

I will now assume that your Swift is as well built as my old PZO from 1975. So, it is not junk and actually useful for microscopy.

What would you realize when working with your new \$5000 toy:

- 1) You have less money left on your bank account.
- 2) If you are married, your wife will purchase shoes for an additional \$4500 just to compensate for your crazy expenditure.
- 3) All your microscopy friends don't talk with you anymore since your scope is better (see below).
- 4) You are too much afraid of really using it since you would never be able to pay for repairs (...just kidding!).
- 5) You are always cleaning the scope and believe that with extensive cleaning you actually add value until you realize that you actually degrade optical performance through excessive cleaning.
- 6) Every gear works precise and smooth. It's ergonomical and you just feel the stability and comfort when working with your new \$5000 toy. You just have to look at it and your heart glows.
- 7) The illumination (including condenser) is far better.
- 8) The optics has more contrast and, if you purchased more expensive gears, has also more resolution.
- 9) You can expand the scope (if you have some money left or win in the lottery!).
- 10) You can mount a heavier camera on the frame and your stage does not start to drift when attaching a phase-slider condenser.

Yes, you can see and feel a difference.

BTW, stay away from the entry level scopes of the big names. If you want to

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save a bundle, embrace the used market patiently. Or just stick with your Swift if you are happy with it.

Gregor

"Charles" <ckraft@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message  
[news:1ftg61553ntbai7v4i7n6jre5jq15uvgmh@xxxxxxxxxx](mailto:news:1ftg61553ntbai7v4i7n6jre5jq15uvgmh@xxxxxxxxxx)  
> years ago I bought a Swift microscope. It 9is apparently one of the  
> Chinese brands.  
>  
> What am I missing? what difference would I see with one of the scopes  
> recommended in this group.  
>  
> I'm strictly an amateur, no training at all.  
>  
>  
> ---  
> Charles  
>  
> Does not play well with others.

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• *Follow-Ups:*

- ◆ [Re: Scope Quality Question](#)  
◇ From: Kevin Cunningham

• *References:*

- ◆ [Scope Quality Question](#)  
◇ From: Charles

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