

Need Help In Purchasing First Microscope

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Hi,

I'm new to the group and am looking for some advice on purchasing a microscope. Many years ago I took university courses in biology, botany, microbiology and genetics and would like to again enjoy the thrill of those earlier microscopic adventures.

I want a decent quality binocular biological scope for under \$400 if possible. I plan to use it just for hobby purposes. I've done a fair amount of research and shopping on the net and have come up with several scopes that seem to fit my needs and budget. But having no recent experience with scopes, I could really use some help and advice from the group.

Here are the three scopes that I am considering:

1) Model OM36 from: The Microscope Store – \$375

http://www.microscope--store.com/product_info.php/cPath/1_2/products_id/31

2) Model J-01217 from: The Microscope Depot – \$375

<http://www.microscope--depot.com/special.asp>

3) Model MRJ-03 from: Microscope Mall Online – \$350

<http://microscopemallonline.com/pro682277.html>

All of the above appear to be the same Chinese imported animal.

A Few Questions:

1) Are these scopes all the same product? Is one better than the other?

2) Will one or all provide me with a decent quality experience?

3) Are these three companies reputable to deal with?

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- 4) Is there anything about these scopes that I really won't like?
- 5) Are there other scopes and/or other companies I should be considering?
- 6) If you own one of these scopes, what can you tell me about your experience with it?

These are some obvious questions but I am sure there are other important ones I have failed to ask. So if you have some specific or general advise to help guide me along this road, it will be sincerely appreciated!

Thanks in advance.

Rick

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