

Re: Need Help In Purchasing First Microscope

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- *From:* "Kevin Cunningham" <smskjd@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Sat, 12 Aug 2006 19:00:17 GMT
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"Rick F" <rfulton@xxxxxxxx> wrote in message
<news:fguqd29e5uct5anofqr46hsd050h9p0jbe@xxxxxxxx>

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.

Just to make it simple, there all crap. Buy used either from a local dealer or from a quality, online dealer.

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A Few Questions:

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

Um, there all crap. One is not better than the other for obvious reasons.

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

All will frustrate the heck out of you. I bet you want to explore the micro world, instead you'll get a trip to Microscope Problem Land. That's always been the problem with cheesy little microscopes, they just don't work.

3) Are these three companies reputable to deal with?

Probably, just like the guys that justed to sell Yugo cars. At the end of the day they had sold a Yugo for a fair price.

4) Is there anything about these scopes that I really won't like?

Everything.

5) Are there other scopes and/or other companies I should be considering?

E-bay, Martin Microscope (www.martinmicroscope.com), Spectra Services (www.spectra.com) and Vermont Optech (www.scopeshop.com)

6) If you own one of these scopes, what can you tell me about your experience with it?

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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