

Re: Help Request – Best scope for \$300

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- *From:* cpiel <cpiel@xxxxxxxxxxx>
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On Nov 17, 8:13 am, cpiel <cp...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

For future readers, here is what I found:

There are basically 2 types of microscopes: Compound and Inspection.

Compound are for looking at slides (which need to be meticulously prepared with paper thin slices of the sample you are trying to view unless you buy prepared ones). They can go up to about 1600X which is considered high power although there are low power compound scopes available as well. To look at skin cells for example, you would need a compound microscope.

Inspection scopes are for looking at 3 dimensional objects such as insects (even tiny ones), gemstones, etc. They typically go up to about 90X which is considered low power

Both types come in Monocular, Binocular, Trinocular. Monocular is less expensive but can be harder on the eyes, Binocular is easier on the eyes and Trinocular just gives you an extra view for either a second person or a camera attachment if you want to add one later on.

For either type, be careful to look at the power (90X, 1600X etc.) because this number is obtained by multiplying the objective lens power by the eyepiece lens power. The objective lens is the one closest to the object you are viewing and determines the resolution/detail of the image. The eyepiece lens simply magnifies the image presented to it from the objective lens and does not help resolution whatsoever. Therefore, 2 scopes with 90X power could give very different quality of images. For instance, one with a 9X objective and 10X eyepiece would show much better detail than one with a 4.5X objective and a 20X eyepiece.

Since this scope is for my son for Christmas to view little creatures, I chose a Trinocular Stereo Zoom Inspection Scope. I purchased it from www.amscope.com

The reason I chose Trinocular (instead of Binocular) is so we can eventually buy him a camera attachment for it.

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