



Sky at Night MAGAZINE

KEY:
WINNER
HIGHLY COMMENDED

EQUIPMENT REVIEW GUIDE

Everything we've ever tested in one place

ISSUE 1 JUNE 2005

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' TELESCOPES

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------|
| Bresser Mars Explorer 70/700 | 77% |
| Orion US Starblast Astro | 85% |
| Orion Transporter 70mm Min-EQ | 74% |
| SkyWatcher Skymax 90 (EQ1) | 83% |
| SkyWatcher SkyHawk 1145 | 86% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 130M | 82% |
| Tal-1 | 84% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 150 (EQ3-2) | 84% |

FIRST LIGHT

Meade Deep Sky Imager

ISSUE 2 JULY 2005

GROUP TEST: PLANETARIUM SOFTWARE

| | |
|----------------------|------------|
| Redshift 5 | 54% |
| The Sky Pro 6 | 91% |
| Guide 8 | 89% |
| StarryNight Pro 5 | 82% |
| Desktop Universe | 44% |
| SkyMap Pro 10 | 87% |

FIRST LIGHT

Revelation 12 Dobsonian

ISSUE 3 AUGUST 2005

GROUP TEST: 10X50 BINOCULARS

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Celestron Upclose 10x50 | 67% |
| Helios Fieldmaster 10x50 | 74% |
| Bresser Travel 10x50 | 71% |
| Bresser Cobra 10x50 | 74% |
| Celestron OptiView LPR 10x50 | 76% |
| Helios Naturesport-Plus 10x50 | 83% |
| Bresser Corvette 10x50 | 79% |
| Helios Ultimate -HR 10x50 | 82% |

FIRST LIGHT

Starry Night Pro Plus 5.0

ISSUE 4 SEPTEMBER 2005

GROUP TEST: GO-TO TELESCOPES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|
| Celestron 8 inch CPC XLT | 93% |
| SkyWatcher Evostar 100ED/HEQ5 Pro | 89% |
| Meade 8 inch LX90 LNT | 92% |
| SkyWatcher Skymax 150/EQ6 Pro | 92% |

FIRST LIGHTA

Meade RCX400

ISSUE 5 OCTOBER 2005

GROUP TEST: COLOUR CCD CAMERAS

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Meade DSI | 81% |
| Artemis ART 285C | 83% |
| ATIK ATK-2C | 80% |
| Starlight Express SXV-M5C | 85% |

FIRST LIGHT

Cape Newise Catadioptric 200mm

ISSUE 6 NOVEMBER 2005

GROUP TEST: WIDE-ANGLE EYEPIECES

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Celestron 34mm Axiom | 79% |
| Orion US Deep View 35mm | 70% |
| Meade 28mm S 5000 SWA | 85% |
| Celestron 32mm E-Lux | 69% |
| Tele Vue 31mm Nagler Type 5 | 85% |
| Moonfish 30mm Ultrawide | 86% |
| Moonfish 30mm Superview | 68% |

FIRST LIGHT

Orion Express 80mm Refractor

ISSUE 7 DECEMBER 2005

GROUP TEST: IMAGE-STABILISING

| | |
|-----------------------|------------|
| BINOCULARS | |
| Zenit Bst 16x40 | 83% |
| Canon 18x50 IS | 92% |
| Russian BS 16x50 | 49% |

FIRST LIGHT

Eclipse MAK6 150mm F12 Mak-Cass

ISSUE 8 JANUARY 2006

GROUP TEST: INTERGRATING VIDEO

| | |
|------------------------|------------|
| CAMERAS | |
| Mintron 12V1-EX | 85% |
| Watec 120N | 83% |

FIRST LIGHT

Vixen-Orion Porta 150+

ISSUE 9 FEBRUARY 2006

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' TELESCOPES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Bresser SkyLux 70 | 83% |
| Celestron PowerSeeker 660 | 60% |
| Jessops Reflector 700-76 | 39% |
| KonusStart 900 | 83% |

Skywatcher Capricorn 70

85%

SkyWatcher Infinity 76 79%

SkyWatcher SkyHawk 1145 86%

Skywatcher SkyHawk 114M 82%

FIRST LIGHT

William Optics ZenithStar 66SD

ISSUE 10 MARCH 2006

GROUP TEST: REFLEX FINDERS

Baader 30mm Sky Surfer III 67%

Orion US Baader 40mm Sky Surfer V 74%

Burgess Optical TMB MRF 85%

Astro Engineering Easy Aim 89%

Astro Engineering Laser Mate 81%

Telrad Reflex Sight 92%

Vixen Zero Power 84%

FIRST LIGHT

Celestron 130 SLT

ISSUE 11 APRIL 2006

GROUP TEST: 10-INCH DOBSONIAN

TELESCOPES

Celestron StarHopper 10 84%

Orion US Intelliscope XT10 88%

Orion Optics OD250L 89%

Telescope House Revelation 10 84%

FIRST LIGHT

Starry Night AstroPhoto Suite

ISSUE 12 MAY 2006

GROUP TEST: BINOCULAR VIEWERS

Moonfish Binoviewer 76%

Revelation Binocular Viewer 79%

Burgess Optical Binocular Viewer 82%

William Optics Binoviewer 86%

Baader Maxbright Binoviewer 85%

Baader Stereo Binocular Viewer 79%

FIRST LIGHT

Meade LightBridge (10" Dob)

ISSUE 13 JUNE 2006

GROUP TEST: GO-TO MOUNTS

Vixen Sphinx SXW 91%

Celestron CG-5 91%

SkyWatcher HEQ5 Pro 92%

SkyWatcher EQ6 Pro 90%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron C6 Schmidt-Cassegrain

ISSUE 14 JULY 2006

GROUP TEST: 15X70 BINOCULARS
Helios Stellar 72%
Strathspey Giant 15x70 86%
Opticron Oregon 79%
Helios Quantum 4 75%
Celestron SkyMaster 90%

FIRST LIGHT
Phenix D102F600

ISSUE 15 AUGUST 2006

GROUP TEST:
Olympus E-500 80%
Fujifilm S3 Pro 90%
Canon 350D 93%
Nikon D50 86%
Pentax *ist DL 83%
Sigma SD10 48%

FIRST LIGHT
Sky-Watcher Skymax 80

ISSUE 16 SEPTEMBER 2006

GROUP TEST: OBSERVING AIDS AND ACCESSORIES
SkyWatcher Evostar 100ED2 Pro 91%
William Optics Zenithstar 110 83%
Borg 101ED 87%
TeleVue 102i 90%
Stellarvue 105ED 80%

FIRST LIGHT
SKYnyx 2-0M astro Camera

ISSUE 17 OCTOBER 2006

GROUP TEST: BINOCULAR MOUNTS
Horizon Heavy Duty 86%
Manfrotto Tripod 84%
UA T-Mount Light 89%
ScopeTeknix Binoflex 91%
Orion Paragon-Plus 89%
Epsilon Parallelogram 87%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron Onyx 80EDF

ISSUE 18 NOVEMBER 2006

GROUP TEST: NEWTONIAN FOCUSERS
ScopeStuff FNM2 Crayford 80%
JMI NGF DX1 Manual 81%
Moonlite CR2 Dual Rate Crayford 84%
William Optics Newtonian Crayford 78%
Orion US Helical Focuser 68%
Borg Helical Focuser 65%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron Skyscout

ISSUE 19 DECEMBER 2006

GROUP TEST: WINTER JACKETS
Berghaus Blast 84%
Blacks Fusion 3 in 1 83%
Snow and Rock Timberland Benton 86%
Snow and Rock North face McMurdo 92%
Snow and Rock Columbia High Route II 83%
Lowe Alpine Polar Star 83%

FIRST LIGHT
Vixen ED103S Refractor

ISSUE 20 JANUARY 2007

GROUP TEST: 6-INCH SCOPES
Celestron C6-N 84%
SkyWatcher Explorer 150P 87%
Canon 350D 93%
Phenix D150F750 73%
Orion Optics Europa 150 F5 Deluxe 93%
Astronomica 152 85%

FIRST LIGHT
Canon 400D

ISSUE 21 FEBRUARY 2007

GROUP TEST: 25X100 BINOCULARS
Helios Quantum 4 72%
Orion Explorer 80%
Revelation Giant 79%
Strathspey Giant 74%

FIRST LIGHT
WO/TMB FLT 110 mm Triplet APO

ISSUE 22 MARCH 2007

GROUP TEST: FINDER UPGRADES
Orion Optics 8x50 Straight through 91%
SkyWatcher 9x50 ST 91%
Vixen 7x50 ST 83%
SkyWatcher 9x50 RA 90%
Phenix Optics 8x50 ST 58%
William Optics 7x50 ST Erect 92%
Orion Optics 8x50 RA Erect 91%
SkyWatcher 9x50 RA Erect 93%

FIRST LIGHT
SkyMax 180 Mak-Cas

ISSUE 23 APRIL 2007

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' SCOPES
Celestron Firstscope 90EQ 87%
Bresser Messier N130 90%
Meade ETX 80TC Go-To 95%
SkyWatcher SkyLiner 200 93%

FIRST LIGHT
Redshift 6 V Starry Night 6 Pro

ISSUE 24 MAY 2007

GROUP TEST: CHESHIRE AND LASER COLLIMATORS
SkyWatcher Cheshire Eyepiece 71%

Baader Laser Colli 90%
Orion US Cheshire 91%
Kendrick Standard Laser 73%
Kendrick Barlowed Laser 75%
Astro Engineering Coli-Mate Deluxe 68%
FIRST LIGHT
Equinox 80ED Refractor

ISSUE 25 JUNE 2007

GROUP TEST: EYEPIECES
SkyWatcher 8mm SWA 70%
Tele Vue 7mm Nagler Type 6 84%
Meade S 5000 Ultra Wide 6.7mm 84%
Vixen Lanthanum LVW 8mm 90%
Celestron X-Cel 8mm 79%
William Optics UWAN 7mm 85%
Baader Hyperion 8mm 82%

FIRST LIGHT
EQ5 SynScan goto upgrade

ISSUE 26 JULY 2007

GROUP TEST: GO-TO TELESCOPES
STF Mirage 8inch deluxe 87%
Celestron CPC 800GPS 94%
SkyWatcher Explorer 200 83%
Meade LX90 GPS 89%

FIRST LIGHT
Orion StarShoot Solar System Color Imager

ISSUE 27 AUGUST 2007

GROUP TEST: TRIPODS
Marchwood Professional Tripod 85%
Celestion Heavy Duty Alt Az 87%
Horizon Heavy Duty Tripod 86%
AZ3 Alt az mount 84%

FIRST LIGHT
Konusmotor 130 Reflector

ISSUE 28 SEPTEMBER 2007

GROUP TEST: 5-INCH ACHROMATIC REFRACTORS
Celestron Omni XLT 120 83%
SkyWatcher Evostar 120 84%
Bresser Messier R127L 88%
Astronomica 127 79%

FIRST LIGHT
AstroTrac TT320

ISSUE 29 OCTOBER 2007

GROUP TEST: GIANT BINOCULARS
Helios Quantum 7.1 85%
Strathspey Super Giant 90%
Helios Quantum 5 89%
Helios Quantum 7.4 91%

FIRST LIGHT
Meade Mysky

ISSUE 30 NOVEMBER 2007

GROUP TEST: ANTI-DEWING DEVICES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Revelation Pro Single Channel | 82% |
| Kendrick 2001 Model VI | 87% |
| Kendrick DigiFire 7 | 94% |
| Rigel Dual Channel | 86% |

FIRST LIGHT

Celestron Omni XLT 127

ISSUE 30 NOVEMBER 2007

GROUP TEST: STAR DIAGONALS

| | |
|---|-----|
| William Optics 2" Fibre Dielectric Diagonal | 98% |
| Meade S 5000 Dielectric Diagonal | 90% |
| Revelation 2" ST Mirror Diagonal quartz | 78% |
| SkyWatcher Dielectric Diagonal | 84% |
| TeleVue Everbrite Dielectric | 75% |
| Celestron XLT 50.8mm Diagonal | 86% |

ISSUE 31 DECEMBER 2007

GROUP TEST: GO-TO ALTAZ MOUNTS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Meade ETX 125PE | 92% |
| iOptron SmartStar A-MC90 GPS GOTO | 79% |
| Celestron NexStar 5 XLT SE | 96% |
| Vixen/Orion optics SkyPod/OMC 140 | 91% |

FIRST LIGHT

DMK 41AF04.AS Mono CCD Camera

ISSUE 32 JANUARY 2008

GROUP TEST: CCD CAMERAS

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Meade DSI Pro II | 88% |
| Atik 16 | 89% |
| Astronomiser ASTSC3 II | 84% |
| Atik 16ic | 90% |

FIRST LIGHT

TeleVue Ethos 13mm Eyepiece

ISSUE 33 FEBRUARY 2008

GROUP TEST: 10-INCH NEWTONIAN SCOPES

| | |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| Orion Optics Europa 250 | 85% |
| First Light Instruments 10 inch | 84% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 250PX | 88% |
| Celestron C10-N | 89% |

FIRST LIGHT

Strathspey 120mm Giant Bins

ISSUE 34 MARCH 2008

GROUP TEST: 10X50 BINOCULARS

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Helios Weathermaster III | 86% |
| Strathspey 10x50 WP | 89% |
| Bresser 10x50s | 84% |
| Celestron Outland LX Porro WP | 88% |
| Strathspey Marine | 92% |
| Celestron Ultima DX Porro WP | 90% |
| Pentax XCF | 91% |
| Opticron Imagic TGA WP | 89% |

FIRST LIGHT

Stellarvue 102ED Refractor

ISSUE 35 APRIL 2008

GROUP TEST: CATADIOPTRIC TELESCOPES

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| Orion US Apex 127 | 89% |
| Intes Micro Alter M500 | 91% |
| SkyWatcher Skymax 127T | 90% |
| Orion Optics OMC 140 | 92% |

FIRST LIGHT

FPL53 ED APO Refractor/WO Megrez 72 APO

ISSUE 36 MAY 2008

GROUP TEST: EYEPIECES

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Meade S 5000 UWA 24mm | 76% |
| Celestron Axiom LX 23mm | 76% |
| TeleVue Nagler Type 5 20mm | 90% |
| TeleVue Nagler Type 4 22mm | 89% |
| Celestron Ultima LX 22mm | 83% |
| TeleVue Panoptic 22mm | 87% |

FIRST LIGHT

EXPLORER-300P NEQ6 PRO

ISSUE 37 JUNE 2008

GROUP TEST: SPOTTING SCOPES

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| Bresser Safari 20-60x80 | 83% |
| Celestron Ultima 20-60x80 | 93% |
| Revelation 20-60x80 | 90% |
| Visionary V80A 20-60x80 | 81% |
| SkyWatcher Startravel 80T | 87% |
| Jiehe 20-60x80 | 86% |
| Acuter Pro series ST20-60x80A | 92% |
| Olivon T80 | 89% |

FIRST LIGHT

Hutech Canon 40DH

ISSUE 38 JULY 2008

GROUP TEST: 12-INCH DOSONIANS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Orion Optics OD300S | 88% |
| Celestron StarHopper 12 inch | 84% |
| Meade LightBridge 12 inch | 89% |
| SkyWatcher SkyLiner 300P FlexTube | 85% |

FIRST LIGHT

Solarscope 70

ISSUE 39 AUGUST 2008

GROUP TEST: 6-INCH CATADIOPTRIC SCOPES

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Celestron C6 XLT | 91% |
| Intes Micro Alter M615 | 92% |
| Astronomica 152mm | 94% |
| SkyWatcher Skymax 150 Pro | 93% |

FIRST LIGHT

OLIVON MC-105 Mak OTA

ISSUE 39 AUGUST 2008

GROUP TEST: TENTS

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Blacks Serpens Constellation II | 90% |
| Blacks Lupus Constellation II | 65% |
| Pop up observatory (Green Witch) | 75% |

ISSUE 40 SEPTEMBER 2008

GROUP TEST: 20X80 BINOCULARS

| | |
|----------------------------|-----|
| Opticron Observation 20x80 | 87% |
| Helios Stellar 20x80 | 86% |
| Visionary 20x80 HD | 89% |
| Revelation 20x80 | 85% |
| Opticron Oregon 20x80 | 86% |
| Monk Optics Observer 20x80 | 90% |

FIRST LIGHT

Atik 314L CCD Camera

ISSUE 41 OCTOBER 2008

GROUP TEST: APO REFRACTORS

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| Astronomica Maxvision ED127 | 91% |
| Vixen ED115S | 92% |
| Meade S5000 ED Apo 127mm | 90% |
| Skywatcher Equinox 120 | 94% |

FIRST LIGHT

Cyclops 110mm Bi-Ocular Telescope

ISSUE 41 OCTOBER 2008

GROUP TEST: WINTER COATS

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Surfanic Hustle | 93% |
| Surfanic Boogaloo | 89% |
| Keela Kandura | 72% |
| The North Face M Valkyrie | 56% |
| Helly Hansen Precon II | 84% |

ISSUE 42 NOVEMBER 2008

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' SCOPES

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| Bresser Pluto | 72% |
| Celestron AstroMaster 90EQ | 89% |
| Meade 114EQ-AST | 82% |
| Orion US StarBlast 4.5 EQ Reflector | 82% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 130 | 90% |
| Celestron AstroMaster 130EQ-MD | 86% |
| SkyWatcher Evostar 90 | 88% |
| Phenix D114F1000 | 81% |

FIRST LIGHT

Meade LX200ACF 8" UHTC Telescope

ISSUE 43 DECEMBER 2008

GROUP TEST: ALTAZ MOUNT

| | |
|------------------------|-----|
| SkyWatcher SkyTee | 89% |
| William Optics EzTouch | 91% |
| Orion US VersaGo | 88% |
| Vixen Porta | 93% |

FIRST LIGHT

WO FLT 98

ISSUE 44 JANUARY 2009

GROUP TEST: DIGITAL SPOTTING SCOPES

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Acuter Digital 70 | 81% |
| Bushnell Imageview | 62% |
| Celestron VistaPix IS70 | 82% |
| Phenix DSS154560 Digital Spotting | 64% |

FIRST LIGHT
Shelyak Lhires Lite Spectrograph

ISSUE 45 FEBRUARY 2009

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: EYEPIECE KITS | |
| Celestron Eyepiece/Filter Set | 84% |
| Revelation Photo-Visual Kit | 86% |
| Evergreen Eyepiece/Filter Kit | 80% |
| Meade Eyepiece and Filter Kit | 85% |

FIRST LIGHT
EXPLORER-190MN PRO Maksutov-Newtonian

ISSUE 46 MARCH 2009

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 8-INCH DOBSONIANS | |
| Guan Sheng Optical 200C | 87% |
| SkyWatcher SkyLiner 200P FlexTube | 92% |
| Orion US SkyQuest XT8 Intelliscope | 89% |
| Orion Optics OD200 S | 94% |

FIRST LIGHT
Lunt Solar Telescope

ISSUE 47 APRIL 2009

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: BARLOW LENSES | |
| Celestron Ultima SV Series 2x | 92% |
| Orion Optics 2x | 88% |
| Vixen Deluxe 2x | 90% |
| Celestron Omni 2x | 89% |
| TeleVue 2x Barlow | 96% |
| Meade #126 Barlow | 90% |
| SkyWatcher Deluxe 2x | 88% |
| Orion US Ultrascopic 2x | 91% |

FIRST LIGHT
WO FLT 132 Triplet APO Refractor

ISSUE 48 MAY 2009

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: DSLR CAMERAS | |
| Sony A350 | 76% |
| Canon 1000D | 85% |
| Olympus E-520 | 83% |
| Nikon D90 | 88% |

FIRST LIGHT
Konus Digimax-90

ISSUE 49 JUNE 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: SPOTTING SCOPES | |
| Celestron Ultima 100-45 | 92% |
| Visionary V100-A | 88% |
| Acuter Pro Series ST22-67x100A | 91% |
| Revelation 25-75x | 89% |

FIRST LIGHT
MySky Plus vs Skyscout

ISSUE 50 JULY 2009

| | |
|---|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 8-INCH NEWTONIAN REFLECTORS | |
| Konus Konusky 200 Motor | 86% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 200P (EQ5) | 93% |
| Orion Optics Europa 200 F4.5 De Luxe | 92% |

FIRST LIGHT
CGEM 11inch Computerised Telescope

ISSUE 51 AUGUST 2009

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: AUTOGUIDERS | |
| Orion US Starshoot Autoguider | 88% |
| QHYCCD QHY6 | 89% |
| QHYCCD QHY5 | 87% |

FIRST LIGHT
Skyliner 300PX Flextube Auto

ISSUE 52 SEPTEMBER 2009

| | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: ZOOM EYEPIECES | |
| SkyWatcher 8-24mm Zoom | 87% |
| Celestron 8-24mm Zoom | 87% |
| TeleVue Click Stop 8-24mm Zoom | 91% |
| Meade S4000 Zoom | 93% |
| Baader Hyperion Clickstop Zoom | 91% |
| Pentax XW 8-24mm Zoom | 92% |

FIRST LIGHT
Orion Optics CT Ultra Newtonian OTA

ISSUE 53 OCTOBER 2009

| | |
|--|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 80MM APOCHROMATIC REFRACTORS | |
| SkyWatcher EVOSTAR-80ED DS-PRO | 91% |
| ORION USA 80 mm ED | 89% |
| Meade Series 5000 80mm | 92% |
| Astronomica ED 80mm F6 | 84% |
| William Optics Zenithstar 80 II ED Doublet | 90% |
| SkyWatcher Equinox 80 Pro | 90% |

FIRST LIGHT
Orion US Solitaire Standalone Autoguider

ISSUE 54 NOVEMBER 2009

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' GO-TO SCOPES | |
| SkyWatcher StarTravel 102 | 90% |
| SkyWatcher StarTravel 80 & Merlin | 88% |
| Meade ETX 80T | 86% |
| Meade SDS-2080 AT | 87% |
| Celestron NexStar 80 SLT | 89% |
| Celestron NexStar 102 SLT | 91% |

FIRST LIGHT
Meade ETX LS

ISSUE 55 DECEMBER 2009

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: IMAGE EDITING PROGRAMS | |
| AstroArt 4.0 | 93% |
| CCDSOFT 5.0 | 75% |
| ImagePlus 3.8 | 89% |

Maxim DL Pro 5.0 94%

FIRST LIGHT
Avian Starseeker 100mm refractor

ISSUE 56 JANUARY 2010

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: PLANETARY CAMERAS | |
| Celestron NexImage | 78% |
| Meade LPI | 84% |
| QHY5V | 86% |
| Imaging Source DFK21AU04.AS | 92% |

FIRST LIGHT
Orion US 8" Ritchey-Chretien Astrograph

ISSUE 57 FEBRUARY 2010

| | |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: WIDE-ANGLE EYEPIECES | |
| William Optics UWAN 7mm | 87% |
| SkyWatcher Nirvana UWA 7mm | 86% |
| Meade S5000 UWA 6.7mm | 91% |
| Celestron Axiom LX 7mm | 92% |
| TeleVue Nagler Type 6 7mm | 88% |
| Meade S 5000 UWA 8.8mm | 91% |

FIRST LIGHT
Vixen AX103 + Atalux

ISSUE 58 MARCH 2010

| | |
|---|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 6-INCH NEWTONIAN TELESCOPES | |
| Visionary Mira Ceti 150 1400 | 75% |
| SkyWatcher Explorer 150P (EQ3-2) | 89% |
| Phenix D150F750 | 74% |
| Bresser Messier N150 | 93% |

FIRST LIGHT
TeleVue Ethos 21mm Eyepiece

ISSUE 59 APRIL 2010

| | |
|--|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 6-INCH ACHROMATIC REFRACTORS | |
| Celestron Omni XLT 150 R | 86% |
| Bresser Messier R152S | 89% |
| SkyWatcher Evostar 150 (EQ5) | 88% |

FIRST LIGHT
TDM Kit

ISSUE 60 MAY 2010

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----|
| GROUP TEST: 7X50 BINOCULARS | |
| Opticron Vega II | 89% |
| Visionary HD | 90% |
| Olivon QB | 89% |
| Helios FieldMaster | 92% |
| Helios WeatherMaster III | 90% |
| Strathspey Marine | 91% |

FIRST LIGHT
Orion SteadyStar Adaptive Optics Guider

ISSUE 61 JUNE 2010

GROUP TEST: 10-INCH DOBSONIANS
 Guan Sheng Optical GSD 250C 88%
 Meade LightBridge 10 inch 90%
 SkyWatcher SkyLiner 250P FlexTube 89%

FIRST LIGHT
 CGE PRO 1100 HD

ISSUE 62 JULY 2010

GROUP TEST: GO-TO EQUATORIAL MOUNTS
 Meade LDX75 AT 84%
 SkyWatcher EQ5 Pro 87%
 SkyWatcher EQ3 Pro 84%
 Celestron CG-5 88%

FIRST LIGHT
 Orion XX14i Dobsonian

ISSUE 63 AUGUST 2010

GROUP TEST: SOLAR TELESCOPES
 Meade LDX75 AT 84%
 SkyWatcher EQ5 Pro 87%
 SkyWatcher EQ3 Pro 84%
 Celestron CG-5 88%

FIRST LIGHT
 QHY8 Pro CCD

ISSUE 64 SEPTEMBER 2010

GROUP TEST: PLANETARY EYEPIECES
 Celestron X-Cel 5mm 87%
 Baader Hyperion 3.5mm 84%
 Meade S5000 5.5mm 89%
 Orion US Epic ED-2 5.1mm 90%
 Celestron X-Cel 2.3mm 83%
 Baader Genuine Ortho 5mm 92%
 Orion US Epic ED-2 3.7mm 93%
 Baader Hyperion 5mm 91%

FIRST LIGHT
 Synguider

ISSUE 65 OCTOBER 2010

GROUP TEST: 10X50 BINOCULARS
 Ostara Elinor 91%
 Viking Vistron 87%
 Opticron SR.GA 88%
 Pentax PCF WP II 90%
 Ostara Prophecy 89%
 Opticron Imagic 10x50 88%

FIRST LIGHT
 Altair Astro 8" F4 Imaging Newtonian OTA

ISSUE 66 NOVEMBER 2010

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' SCOPES
 SkyWatcher Capricorn 70 (EQ1) 86%
 Konus KonusMotor 70 84%
 Bresser Junior 70/700 EQ-Sky 83%
 Celestron AstroMaster 70 EQ 87%
 Meade NGC 70 AZ 88%
 SkyWatcher Mercury 705 86%

FIRST LIGHT
 Meade LT8 ACF

ISSUE 67 DECEMBER 2010

GROUP TEST: LASER COLLIMATORS
 Next Generation Laser Collimator 91%
 Meade Premium Laser Collimator 92%
 Baader LaserColli Mk III 94%
 Altair Astro Newtonian Collimator 92%

FIRST LIGHT
 10" Orion US Go-To Dobsonian

ISSUE 67 DECEMBER 2010

GROUP TEST: IPHONE APPS
 Planisphere 59%
 Pocket Universe 88%
 SkySafari 91%
 SkySafari Lite 83%
 StarMap Pro 85%
 Star Walk 78%

ISSUE 68 JANUARY 2011

GROUP TEST: DSLR'S
 Canon EOS 5D Mk II 91%
 Nikon D700 93%
 Sony A850 88%

FIRST LIGHT
 EthosSX ETH-03.7 eyepiece

ISSUE 69 FEBRUARY 2011

GROUP TEST: ASTRO PLANNING SOFTWARE
 AstroPlanner 88%
 Deep-Sky Planner 5 89%
 Deepsky 2007.01.03 91%
 SkyTools 3 Pro 93%

FIRST LIGHT
 Orion 10" f/8.0 Ritchey-Chrétien Astrograph

ISSUE 70 MARCH 2011

GROUP TEST: BINOVIEWERS
 Optical Vision Binoviewer 85%
 Ostara Binoviewer 2 84%
 William Optics Binoviewer 91%
 Baader MaxBright Binoviewer 90%

FIRST LIGHT
 APM 107 APO OTA

ISSUE 71 APRIL 2011

GROUP TEST: REFRACTORS
 Explore Scientific ED80 88%
 Vixen ED80SF 88%
 SkyWatcher Evostar 80ED Pro 90%
 Meade S 5000 80ED 91%

FIRST LIGHT

Tal 125R Apolar APO refractor

ISSUE 72 MAY 2011

GROUP TEST: COMPACT CAMERAS
 Fujifilm Finepix XP10 85%
 Sony Cyber-shot DSC W380 82%
 Nikon Coolpix S5100 87%
 Canon PowerShot SX210IS 90%

FIRST LIGHT
 LVI smartguider II

ISSUE 73 JUNE 2011

GROUP TEST: OFF AXIS GUIDERS
 Celestron Radial Guider 87%
 Meade Off-Axis Guider 84%
 Telescope Service Off-Axis Guider 88%
 Orion US Deluxe Off-Axis Guider 89%

FIRST LIGHT
 Orion Atlas 8" GoTo Newtonian

ISSUE 74 JULY 2011

GROUP TEST: 5-INCH ALTAZ GO-TO SYSTEMS
 Meade ETX 125 AT 92%
 Celestron NexStar 5SE 94%
 Celestron NexStar 127 SLT 91%

FIRST LIGHT
 Vixen AXD mount

ISSUE 75 AUGUST 2011

GROUP TEST: 80MM REFRACTORS
 Skywatcher Startravel 80T 93%
 Pentaflex 80mm Guidescope 91%
 Orion US Short Tube 80mm Guidescope 92%
 APM 80mm Guidescope 69%

FIRST LIGHT
 iOptron Cube Pro Go-To mount

ISSUE 76 SEPTEMBER 2011

GROUP TEST: 8-INCH COMPOUND TELESCOPES
 Celestron EdgeHD 8 XLT 91%
 Celestron C8-A XLT (CGE) OTA XLT 87%
 Vixen VC200L 88%
 STF MIRAGE 8D (1/6) Mak-Cass 89%

FIRST LIGHT
 WO Megrez 120 with ddg focuser

ISSUE 77 OCTOBER 2011

GROUP TEST: MEDIUM-POWER EYEPIECES
 Skywatcher LER 25mm 87%
 TeleVue 25mm Plossl 90%
 Meade Series 5000 26mm 89%
 Vixen NPL 25 87%
 Ostara 25mm 86%
 Orion US Highlight 25mm 88%

FIRST LIGHT
SolarMax II 90

ISSUE 78 NOVEMBER 2011

GROUP TEST: 8X40 BINOCULARS
Helios Naturesport 8x40 WA 89%
Opticron Aspheric WA 8x40 92%
Visionary B4 8x40 89%
Olympus 8x40 DPSI 91%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron CGEM DX 1400 HD

ISSUE 78 NOVEMBER 2011

GROUP TEST: BEGINNERS' SCOPES
ETX80 AT-BB 90%
SkyWatcher SKYHAWK-1145P 88%
Skywatcher EXPLORER-130M 90%
Orion US Starblast Astro 4.5 92%
Celestron Nexstar 102SLT 91%
Celestron AstroMaster 70 EQ 87%

ISSUE 79 DECEMBER 2011

GROUP TEST: 8-INCH NEWTONIAN REFLECTORS
Vixen R200SS 84%
TS UNC2008 80%
GSO 200 F4 88%
Skywatcher Quattro 8S 89%

FIRST LIGHT
Istar 150mm F12 with Moonlite focuser

ISSUE 80 JANUARY 2012

GROUP TEST: 100 DEGREE FIELD-OF-VIEW EYEPIECES
Explore Scientific 9mm 100 deg 91%
Televue Ethos 8mm 100 deg 91%
Televue Ethos 10mm 100 deg 92%
Skies the Limit SWA 100 - 9mm 84%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron SkyProdigy 90Mak

ISSUE 81 FEBRUARY 2012

GROUP TEST: IMAGE-STABILISED BINOCULARS
Fujinon TechnoStabi 14x40 92%
Canon 10x42L IS 93%
Canon 15x50 IS 94%
Nikon StabilEyes 12x32 92%

FIRST LIGHT
TS 65mm f/6.5 Quadruplet Astrograph

ISSUE 82 MARCH 2012

GROUP TEST: CATDIOPTRIC SCOPES
SkyWatcher Skymax 150 Pro 88%
Celestron C6-A XLT 87%
Altair Astro Mak 150-1800 Rumak 89%

GSRC6M GSO 6" f/9 90%

FIRST LIGHT
Celestron CPC 1100 DX HD

ISSUE 83 APRIL 2012

GROUP TEST: ASTRO-TRACKING MOUNTS
AstroTrac TT320X AG Vacation Special 93%
FORNAX 10 LightTrack 92%
Vixen GP2 PhotoGuider 89%
Losmandy StarLapse 87%

FIRST LIGHT
Konus 130 AZ GOTO Mak

ISSUE 84 MAY 2012

GROUP TEST: 2-INCH CRAYFORD FOCUSERS
Revelation Astro Crayford Focuser 90%
Lacerta Crayford 89%
OVL Dual speed Crayford 87%
OVL Low Profile Crayford 87%
Baader Planetarium 2" Steeltrack 93%
Starlight Instruments Feather Touch 94%

FIRST LIGHT
2012 ZS70

ISSUE 85 JUNE 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Vixen BT81S-A Binocular Telescope 4/5
iOptron Mini Tower II mount 4/5
Lunt LS152 Solar Telescope 5/5

ISSUE 86 JULY 2012

FIRST LIGHT
BackYard EOS software 4/5
Canon 60DA 4/5
StarWave 102ED refractor 4/5

ISSUE 87 AUGUST 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Orion 10-inch Newtonian Astrograph 4/5
Atik 428EX Monochrome CCD Camera 4/5
Altair Astro 60mm Finder and MiniGuider 4/5

ISSUE 88 SEPTEMBER 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Software Bisque Paramount MX Mount 5/5
Celestron NightScape CCD Camera 4/5

TRIED AND TESTED
Celestron NexStar 8SE Schmidt-Cassegrain 4/5

ISSUE 89 OCTOBER 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Avalon M-UNO Equatorial Mount 4/5
Celestron SkyProdigy 6 Schmidt-Cassegrain 5/5

QHY IMG0H monochrome CCD camera 4/5

ISSUE 90 NOVEMBER 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Visionary Saxon 4 4.5-inch reflector 3/5
Orion 15x70 Astronomy Binoculars 4/5

TRIED AND TESTED
Sky-Watcher Skyhawk 1145P Newtonian reflector 4/5

ISSUE 91 DECEMBER 2012

FIRST LIGHT
Orion US Starshoot G3 camera 4/5
Vixen SXP mount with Starbook TEN 4/5
Officina Stellare RH200 F3 OTA 4/5

ISSUE 92 JANUARY 2013

TRIED AND TESTED
Point Grey Flea3 monochrome CCD camera 4/5

GROUP TEST: 15MM EYEPIECES UNDER £60
Celestron Omni Series 15mm 3/5
Revelation Superview 15mm 3/5
Bresser SPL 15mm 3/5
Sky-Watcher Ultrawide 15mm 3/5
Starguider ED 15mm 4/5
GSO Super Plössl 15mm 3/5

FIRST LIGHT
Meade Series 6000 115mm apochromatic refractor 4/5

ISSUE 93 FEBRUARY 2013

GROUP TEST: Three Meade XWA 2-inch eyepieces
XWA 9mm eyepiece 4/5
XWA 14mm eyepiece 4/5
XWA 20mm eyepiece 4/5

FIRST LIGHT
LightWave 60mm Triplet apochromatic refractor 4/5
Orion US Starshoot AllSky II camera 4/5

ISSUE 94 MARCH 2013

FIRST LIGHT
Cnon 1DX DSLR camera 4/5
William Optics GTF81 apo refractor 4/5
Skywatcher AllView Mount 4/5

ISSUE 95 APRIL 2013

FIRST LIGHT
iOptron Smart EQ Pro EQ Go-To mount 4/5
StarTools image processing software 4/5
Revelation 25x100 binoculars 4/5

ISSUE 96 MARCH 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Celestron AV-X Go-To mount 4/5
 Sky-Watcher Heritage-90 Virtuoso 3/5
 Orion Optics AG12 12-inch Astrograph 4/5

ISSUE 97 JUNE 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Mesu Mount 200 5/5
 Orion SkyQuest XX16g Dobsonian 4/5
 iOptron Sky Tracker 4/5

ISSUE 98 JULY 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Vixen Sphinx Deluxe 2 equatorial mount 4/5
 ZWO ASI120MM monochrome camera 4/5
 Takahashi FC-76DS 3-inch doublet refractor 4/5

ISSUE 99 AUGUST 2013

TRIED & TESTED
 Meade LX200-ACF 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain 4/5
 TS APO906 refractor 4/5
 Takahashi PM-1 mount 4/5

ISSUE 100 SEPTEMBER 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Explore Scientific ED127 4/5
 Sky-Watcher AZ-EQ6GT mount 5/5
 Celestron NexImage 5 Solar System Imager 4/5

ISSUE 101 OCTOBER 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Revelation 16-inch f/4.5 M-CRF Dob 4/5
 iOptron ZEQ25 GT EQ mount 4/5
 Celestron NightScape 8300 CCD 4/5

ISSUE 102 NOVEMBER 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Starlight Xpress Trius-H814 4/5
 Explore Scientific 9mm 120 eyepiece 5/5
 Starlight Xpress mini filter wheel with OAG 4/5

ISSUE 103 DECEMBER 2013

FIRST LIGHT
 Takahashi CCA-250 astrograph 4/5
 William Optics ZenithStar 71 ED 4/5
 Mallincam Xtreme video CCD camera 4/5

ISSUE 104 JANUARY 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Orion SkyQuest XT8 PLUS Dobsonian 4/5
 Opticron Oregon Observation bins 4/5
 Altair Astro Starwave 70 ED refractor 4/5

ISSUE 105 FEBRUARY 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 PixInsight image processing software 5/5
 Atik 490EX CCD Camera 4/5
 Vixen BT-ED70S-A binocular telescope 4/5

ISSUE 106 MARCH 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Vixen BT-ED70S-A binocular telescope 4/5
 Atik 490EX monochrome CCD camera 3/5
 PixInsight software 4/5

ISSUE 107 APRIL 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Meade LX600 ACF telescope 5/5
 William Optics GTF 102 telescope 4/5

TRIED AND TESTED

QSI 683WSG-8 CCD camera 5/5

ISSUE 108 MAY 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Sky-Watcher EQ8 mount 4/5
 Orion StarBlast compact travel refractor 4/5
 SkyVision 12-inch T300 Compact Dob 5/5

ISSUE 109 JUNE 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 ASI130MM monochrome camera 4/5
 Altair Astro RC 250 TT 4/5
 Sky-Watcher Esprit 100ED Triplet 4/5

ISSUE 110 JULY 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Revelation 10-inch M-CRF Premium Dob 4/5
 iOptron SkyGuider tracking mount 4/5
 Orion SSAIO camera 4/5

ISSUE 111 AUGUST 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Hutech Hinode solar autouider 4/5
 Sky-Watcher Heritage tabletop Dob 4/5
 Altair Lightwave Hyperwide eyepiece 4/5

ISSUE 112 SEPTEMBER 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Celestron NexStar Evolution 8 5/5
 Explore Scientific PN-208/812 4/5
 Altair Wave series 130 EDT refractor 4/5

ISSUE 113 OCTOBER 2014

FIRST LIGHT

Sky-Watcher Star Adventurer DSLR mount 4/5
 Daystar Quark HA eyepiece filters 5/5
 Vixen VSD 100 F/3.8 astrograph 4/5

ISSUE 114 NOVEMBER 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Orion StarShoot HD video camera 3/5
 HoTech Advanced CT Laser Collimator 5/5
 Avalon M-Zero mount and tripod 4/5

ISSUE 115 DECEMBER 2014

FIRST LIGHT
 Starry Night Pro Plus 7 software 4/5
 Olivon 10x50 QB binoculars 3/5
 Celestron Cosmos 90GT Wi-Fi telescope 4/5

ISSUE 116 JANUARY 2015

FIRST LIGHT
 iOptron CEM 60 equatorial mount 4/5
 William Optics Star 71 5 element refractor 4/5
 iNova NNB-Cx colour CCD camera 4/5

ISSUE 117 FEBRUARY 2015

FIRST LIGHT
 Moonraker Nebula Class 4-inch refractor 4/5
 Bresser EXOS 2 Go-To mount 4/5
 Atik One 6.0 CCD camera 4/5

ISSUE 118 MARCH 2015

FIRST LIGHT
 Sky-Watcher Star Discovery 150P Go-To
 Newtonian reflector 4/5
 Altair Lightwave 72ED-R refractor 4/5
 Celestion NexImage Burst colour camera 5/5