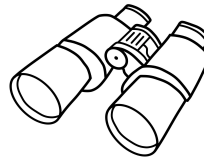


What telescope is best for me?

★ *The best telescope for you is the one that you will use!* ★

1 Consider trying binoculars first.

- ★ Easy to use, easy to store, ultra-portable.
- ★ Can see large sections of the sky at once.
- ★ Can use them for daytime activities.



An excellent size is 10 x 50:
10 = magnification
50 = the diameter in millimeters of the front lens.

2 Before you buy a telescope, ask yourself these questions...

- ★ How well do you know the night sky? Finding objects is not easy without practice. A quality "go-to" computerized telescope is costly and its operation must be mastered.
- ★ How hard is the scope to assemble? If it is too complicated, you won't use it.
- ★ Where will you do most of your observing? A city resident will likely need to cart it to a dark site.
- ★ Where do you think you'll be in the hobby in three years? If you really like astronomy, you'll outgrow a small scope in six months.
- ★ Will you eventually pursue astrophotography? You'll need a sturdy, motor driven mount that tracks accurately.

★ Telescope Diameter Dilemma ★

Since most sky objects are relatively dim, a telescope needs to gather large amounts of light. Therefore, larger diameter telescopes are better than smaller ones. However, they are also bulkier – and less likely to make it outside in cold weather!

3 Telescope and observing tips:

- ★ Magnification – low power is used for most objects.
- ★ Finder scope – a small one is nearly useless.
- ★ The larger the telescope's diameter, the better views it gives, but the less portable it is.
- ★ If the scope has poor optics or a wobbly mount, it will be frustrating to use. Hence, it won't be used.
- ★ Finding celestial objects requires practice and patience.
- ★ Never point the telescope at the sun without the proper filter installed ON THE FRONT of the scope.
- ★ Don't expect what you see in the eyepiece to closely resemble what you see in photographs.

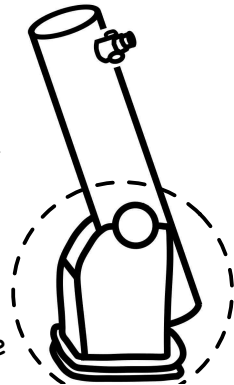
4 Visit your local amateur astronomy club!

- ★ You can see and try the various sizes and types of telescopes.
- ★ Some clubs have programs for lending telescopes.
- ★ Members will be happy to guide you through the scope selection process.

★ Common Telescope Designs ★

Reflector

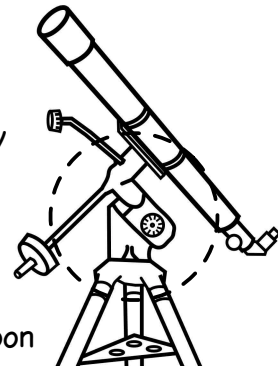
- ★ Easy to use
- ★ Least expensive scope design
- ★ Great for clusters, nebulae, and galaxies
- ★ Can be bulky
- ★ Generally not suitable for astrophotography



Shown with a Dobsonian Mount

Refractor

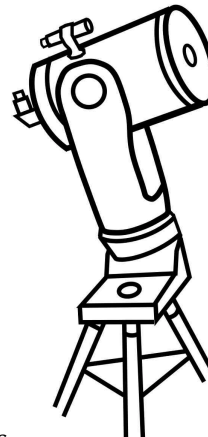
- ★ Easy to use
- ★ Tend to be costly
- ★ Not suitable for dim objects
- ★ Can be used for astrophotography
- ★ Great for the moon and planets



Shown with an Equatorial Mount

Schmidt-Cassegrain

- ★ Portable, but heavy
- ★ Tend to be costly
- ★ Suitable for astrophotography
- ★ All purpose scope





The Astronomical League
www.astroleague.org/outreach

The Best Telescope for Kids

Source: www.telescope.com

Best Telescopes for Kids

Sort by: Default

View Options:  



FREE SHIPPING!

Orion GoScope III 70mm Refractor Travel Telescope

★★★★☆

This ultraportable day and night telescope is perfect for on-the-go beginners. It is very easy to set up, and includes a 5x24 finder, two eyepieces (20mm and 9mm) and a MoonMap 260. Use the included backpack to take the telescope anywhere you want!

\$89.99

Compare



FREE SHIPPING!

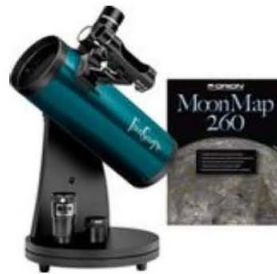
Orion GoScope III 70mm Refractor Telescope Kit

★★★★☆

This ultraportable day and night Telescope Kit is perfect for on-the-go beginners. Use the included backpack to take the telescope anywhere you want! Kit includes the telescope, Exploring the Cosmos book, MoonMap 260, and Star Target planisphere.

\$104.99

Compare



FunScope 76mm TableTop Reflector Telescope

★★★★★

The FunScope is a great telescope for beginners and families to explore astronomy affordably. The FunScope Moon Kit includes the Orion MoonMap 260, a 20mm eyepiece for 15x views, a 10mm eyepiece for 30x views, and a red-dot finder.

\$73.99

Compare



FREE SHIPPING!

FunScope 76mm Reflector Telescope Kids Kit

★★★★★

This complete kit is packed with extra accessories at a great value. Includes the FunScope 76mm reflector which comes with 2 eyepieces, a Red Dot Finder, a MoonMap, Moon Filter, Star Target Planisphere and the Orion Exploring the Cosmos book.

\$94.99

Alternatives

You do not have to own a telescope to get a child interested in astronomy:

- Subscribe to an astronomy magazine (e.g. Sky & Telescope).
- Join the Astronomical League, or visit their website.
- Visit a local astronomy club. The Astronomical League has a list.
- Attend a star party (held throughout the US in the summer). You do not need to bring a telescope!
- Visit popular dark sky locations like Cherry Springs State Park in PA. You do not need to bring a telescope!
- Buy a pair of binoculars.



Orion Observer II 60mm Altazimuth Refractor Telescope

The Observer II 60mm is a full-fledged refractor telescope complete with everything you need to start enjoying the night sky right out of the box. This telescope will make a great gift for any child interested in exploring starry skies!

\$74.99

Compare



FREE SHIPPING!

Orion Observer II 60mm AZ Refractor Telescope Starter Kit

This complete telescope and accessory kit is a great gift for any child interested in space. Includes the complete Orion Observer II 60mm Altazimuth Refractor Telescope, Exploring the Cosmos book, MoonMap 260, Star Target Planisphere, and more!

\$89.99

Compare

Telescope Types

The first two telescopes shown above are spotting scopes. Like binoculars, they show an image that is as you see with your own eyes. The other telescopes are for astronomy and show an inverted image.