

# Sky-Watcher Startravel 80T

## VITAL STATS

- **Price** £99.99
- **Objective lens** 80mm
- **Focal length** 400mm; f/5
- **Optics** Air-spaced achromatic doublet
- **Focuser** 1.25-inch rack and pinion, single speed
- **Weight** 1.3kg
- **Length & diameter** 38cm (dewshield); 9.5cm
- **Extras** 6x30 finder, tube rings, tripod-threaded mount plate, 25mm and 10mm eyepieces, 45° diagonal, 2x Barlow
- **Supplier** Optical Vision Ltd
- **Email** info@opticalvision.co.uk
- **www** opticalvision.co.uk

THE STARTRAVEL 80T is a Sky-Watcher branded ST-80-type scope. We could see no discernible difference in the guiding performance between this scope and the other two ST-80s on test.

The Startravel 80T is £10 more expensive than the cheapest model reviewed here, but the additional outlay does get you some extras. There's a 6x30 finderscope

and tube rings on a tripod mounting plate included. There's also a 25mm wide-field eyepiece, a 10mm eyepiece, a 2x Barlow and a 45° diagonal. Although not strictly that useful for guiding, this does mean that this scope is ready for alternative use as a visual instrument if need be.

Like all the ST-80s on test the eyepiece holder has a 1.25-inch fit, which shouldn't present a problem for most cameras. The single-speed, rack-and-pinion focuser worked very well during tests. A slight turn of the focusing knob was all that was required to slightly defocus bright guide stars ready for guiding. We found we needed an extension tube to reach focus with this scope too.

As with the other ST-80s, the Startravel 80T makes a fine guidescope for long-



exposure autoguided imaging. Its extras also make it an attractive package if you want a cheap and portable scope for observing wildlife or the Moon.

## VERDICT

**FOR** Doubles as a visual spotting scope  
**AGAINST** Needs extension tube to achieve focus

<b>BUILD &amp; DESIGN</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>EASE OF USE</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>FEATURES</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>STAR FIELD QUALITY</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>OPTICS</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>OVERALL</b>	<b>92%</b>