

Sky-Watcher SkyHawk-1145

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £125
- ▶ **APERTURE** 114mm
- ▶ **FOCAL LENGTH** 500mm (f/4.4)
- ▶ **FINDER** Red-dot type
- ▶ **SUPPLIED EYEPIECES** 20x, 50x
- ▶ **MOUNT** German equatorial
- ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WWW** opticalvision.co.uk

- ▶ **FOR** First-class optics
- ▶ **AGAINST** No drive like the 114M

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	96%
OPTICS	90%
EASE OF USE	85%
BUILD QUALITY	85%
MOUNT	75%
OVERALL	86%

Readers of our very first issue may be feeling a touch of déjà vu, as this is the same model that won *Group test* number one.

So how is it that the scope made the cut this time? Due to fierce competition between UK dealers of Sky-Watcher products, the 1145 is even better value now that the price has dropped to our threshold of £125.

Having another chance to look at an off-the-shelf model gave us a good indication of how consistently the Synta Technology Corporation can machine-polish paraboloidal mirrors. The simple answer is very well indeed.

Having had the opportunity to look through three of these 114mm aperture, 500mm focal length (f/4.4) instruments, we're very impressed with their

performance. The shorter focal length means that you can employ low magnification for wide fields of view. This is ideal for looking at nebulae, galaxies and star clusters, as you have sufficient aperture to start bringing these objects to life.

For lunar and planetary viewing on the other hand, a quality Barlow lens can be used to deliver the higher magnifications that the excellent mirror is capable of.

We have seen that the EQ1 German equatorial mount and tripod is a proven performer. It's a shame that the motor drive from the SkyHawk-114M isn't included, but it can be purchased separately for around £30.

