

Sky-Watcher Infinity-76

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £49
- ▶ **APERTURE** 76mm
- ▶ **FOCAL LENGTH** 300mm (f/4)
- ▶ **FINDER** None supplied
- ▶ **SUPPLIED EYEPIECES** 15x, 30x
- ▶ **MOUNT** Altazimuth
- ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WWW** opticalvision.co.uk

- ▶ **FOR** Easy and intuitive to use
- ▶ **AGAINST** Non-standard eyepieces

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	92%
OPTICS	81%
EASE OF USE	88%
BUILD QUALITY	73%
MOUNT	62%
OVERALL	79%

Although this instrument is aimed at the children's market, it definitely has wider appeal. Mind you, you'll have to be thick-skinned enough to use a scope that looks like a stubby Space Shuttle when the lens cap is on.

The Infinity-76 abandons a conventional mount in favour of a rugged plastic bowling-ball style altazimuth design, strikingly like the Edmund Scientific AstroScan. It works like this: instead of fiddling with locks and slow-motion controls, the scope swivels on its spherical base to point at any region of the sky. Once you've located your target, just let go and the scope stays wherever it's pointed. And unlike the rest of the scopes in this *Group test*, the Infinity-76 can be used straight out of the box.

The scope uses the same parabolic 76mm f/4 (300mm focal length) primary mirror as the equatorially mounted Sky-Watcher SkyHawk-76.

Consequently, this diminutive instrument delivers a far better performance than you'd expect.

The views with the supplied 15x and 30x eyepieces are sharp, contrasty, and of a wide enough field that a separate finder isn't necessary. In fact, at the lowest power you can hand-hold the scope comfortably.

It's sad to end on a bad note, but the helical focusing mechanism prevents the use of standard 1.25-inch eyepieces.

