

Sky-Watcher Capricorn-70

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £125
- ▶ **APERTURE** 70mm
- ▶ **FOCAL LENGTH** 900mm (f/12.9)
- ▶ **FINDER** Red-dot type
- ▶ **SUPPLIED EYEPIECES** 36x, 90x
- ▶ **MOUNT** German equatorial
- ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WWW**.opticalvision.co.uk

- ▶ **FOR** Fine optics and accessories
- ▶ **AGAINST** Needs a taller tripod

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	95%
OPTICS	86%
EASE OF USE	82%
BUILD QUALITY	85%
MOUNT	77%
OVERALL	85%

The second 70mm aperture refractor in our budget telescope line-up offers a longer focal length of 900mm (f/12.9) compared to the Bresser SkyLux.

Assuming that the optical quality and coatings are similar, this immediately gives the Capricorn the edge when it comes to better correction of chromatic aberrations like false colours – a fact which is borne out in our tests.

Another factor in this scope's favour is the improved design of the air-spaced achromatic colour-correcting lens: the two glass elements are separated by three small spacers around the periphery of the lens.

Side-by-side tests of the two 70mm refractors using an eyepiece of known quality revealed a sharper, more faithfully

colour-balanced image of Saturn through the Capricorn.

Mechanically, the scope uses the tried-and-trusted EQ1 German equatorial mount and adjustable tripod. Given the long length of the tube, the same as the Konus, it feels like a taller tripod might be a nicer option when looking at the zenith. Thankfully, the supplied 1.25-inch star diagonal is of good quality and avoids the worst neck strain. A sensible set of eyepiece focal lengths, a 2x Barlow lens, and the red-dot finder completes the set.

Like every scope in this *Group test*, the Capricorn-70 is wholly manufactured in China, revealing the extent to which the Pacific Rim dominates the market in this area.

