

Sky-Watcher Explorer-130

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £129
- ▶ **TYPE** Newtonian reflector
- ▶ **APERTURE** 5 inches (130mm)
- ▶ **FOCAL LENGTH** 900mm (f/6.92)
- ▶ **EYEPIECES** 25mm, 10mm, 2x Barlow (1.25-inch fit)
- ▶ **FINDERSCOPE** Red dot
- ▶ **WEIGHT** 13kg (28lb)
- ▶ **MOUNT** EQ2 equatorial
- ▶ **SUPPLIER** Optical Vision Ltd
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WWW** opticalvision.co.uk

FOR Good views of all objects
AGAINST Let down by finderscope

Our first test on the Sky-Watcher Explorer-130 was to check the collimation of the mirrors, which we found were well aligned. This scope has one of the largest mirrors in its price range, which

is a great asset because it means it can gather more light.

We found the scope fairly easy to set up. The EQ2 mount was stable, but the completed telescope was quite heavy. However, once set up it was easy to point around the sky.

It's a shame that this telescope has a finderscope that doesn't magnify. Some magnification, say a 6x30mm finderscope, would have been appreciated to locate some fainter objects.

Optically, the quality of the field of view while studying the star Altair was very good using the supplied 25mm eyepiece. The star remained sharp across 80 per cent of the view, with only slight distortion close to the field edges. Low magnification views were very good: every class of object we viewed could be seen clearly. We

even managed to tease the fainter Messier objects out of the background sky.

We split Epsilon Lyrae into its four stars using a high-magnification combination of a 10mm eyepiece plus a 2x Barlow lens, and we found we could use that magnification on some of the brighter globular clusters to tease out their stars too. Taking everything into account, this telescope made observing the night sky enjoyable and relatively hassle free.

VERDICT

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|------------------------|------------|
| BUILD QUALITY | 90% |
| EASE OF USE | 89% |
| FIELD OF VIEW | 89% |
| OPTICS | 90% |
| VALUE FOR MONEY | 92% |
| OVERALL | 90% |

