

Sky-Watcher Skymax-90 (EQ1)

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £220
- ▶ **APERTURE** 90mm
- ▶ **FOCAL RATIO** f/13.9 (1250mm)
- ▶ **FINDER** red dot
- ▶ **SUPPLIED EYE PIECES** 10mm & 25mm
- ▶ **WEIGHT** 8kg
- ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WEB** www.opticalvision.co.uk

- ▶ **FOR** Compact design
- ▶ **AGAINST** Small aperture

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	75%
OPTICS	95%
EASE OF USE	85%
BUILD QUALITY	85%
MOUNT + DRIVE	75%
OVERALL	83%

Up until this point our review telescopes have been firmly divided between refractors (those instruments using an achromatic lens to gather and focus light from the object under scrutiny) and Newtonian reflectors (using, as the name suggests, mirrors to perform the same function).

The Skymax-90 is a fine example of a catadioptric – an instrument that manages to encapsulate the best of both the refractor and the reflector in a very compact package. The optical tube assembly may be placed on a sturdy photographic tripod for terrestrial viewing, or the supplied EQ1 mount for observing. For extreme compactness – and ideal as aircraft carry-on – a slightly more expensive version of the scope is

available on the same table-top mount as the Orion Transporter.

The optics of the review instrument were staggeringly good, giving superb views of the Moon. The supplied eyepieces delivered magnifications of 50x and 125x. The scope also excels at double star observations, though it has to be said that the aperture is too small for the majority of fainter deep-sky objects. Jupiter and Saturn, while appearing very crisp, were lacking in finer detail.

If your location is prone to dewing, your observing sessions will be curtailed by the front corrector lens fogging up rather rapidly. A dew shield would therefore be a wise investment.

