

Sky-Watcher SkyHawk-1145

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £131
- ▶ **APERTURE** 114mm
- ▶ **FOCAL RATIO** f/4.4 (500mm)
- ▶ **FINDER** red dot
- ▶ **SUPPLIED EYE PIECES** 10mm & 25mm
- ▶ **WEIGHT** 8kg
- ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
- ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200
- ▶ **WEB** www.opticalvision.co.uk

- ▶ **FOR** Crisp optics
- ▶ **AGAINST** Budget mount

VERDICT

VALUE FOR MONEY	95%
OPTICS	90%
EASE OF USE	85%
BUILD QUALITY	85%
MOUNT + DRIVE	75%
OVERALL	86%

The SkyHawk-1145 is a product of the latest generation of computerised optical polishing machines – machines capable of mass-producing mirrors with the complex paraboloidal curves needed to maintain image sharpness at smaller focal lengths. The design promises crisp views and shorter, more manageable telescope tubes.

The review instrument certainly delivered in every important respect. The optics were so good that the supplied eyepieces were a little conservative on power. On one memorable evening, I used one of my own quality eyepieces in conjunction with a 2.8x Barlow lens to boost the power beyond 200x on Saturn. The planet was jaw-droppingly beautiful, with a

host of fine detail visible. The supplied 25mm eyepiece delivers a magnification of 20x, with a field of view over 2° wide that captures star clusters and brighter nebulae beautifully under dark skies. The optical alignment was essentially perfect straight out of the box.

At just over £130, the SkyHawk-1145 would be incredible value for just the tube assembly, but the price includes an EQ1 German equatorial mount with slow-motion controls, and an adjustable aluminium tripod. A battery-operated motor drive (£40) is also available for automatic tracking. The EQ1 is a budget mount, but appropriately adjusted it can perform well and compliments this lightweight tube assembly nicely.

