

Sky-Watcher Evostar-100ED2 Pro

VITAL STATS

- ▶ **PRICE** £799
 - ▶ **FOCAL RATIO** f/9
 - ▶ **OBJECTIVE LENS** 100mm (4 inches)
 - ▶ **WEIGHT** 3.5kg
 - ▶ **MANUFACTURER** Sky-Watcher
 - ▶ **TEL** 01359 244200 (Optical Vision Ltd will provide a list of retailers)
 - ▶ **WWW** opticalvision.co.uk
- ▶ **FOR** Lightweight; good on deep-sky
 - ▶ **AGAINST** A bit of play in the focuser

The Sky-Watcher Pro series has gained an understandable reputation for high quality at reasonable prices, so we were interested to see how the Evostar-100ED2 Pro would perform.

Looking at it, the Evostar is a classically designed refractor with a fixed lens hood and what appears to be a normal rack-and-pinion focuser. Look a little closer though, and the focuser reveals itself to be of the 2-inch Crayford

variety. This is designed to give no backlash, its rubber grip-rings being smooth to touch and use. The focuser had a large range of travel and accommodated both standard 1.25-inch and 2-inch eyepieces. There was a screw that allowed for adjustment of tension on the focusing tube – which is useful to prevent the telescope going out of focus when used at high sky positions.

The Evostar gave a low field of view with the 20mm eyepiece, but we did find that only the inner two-thirds was pin sharp; star quality trailed away very slightly towards the edges. Even so, the view of the open cluster M39 was very pleasing, and the globular

M13 was particularly good both at low and high magnifications. Jupiter did have a slight colour fringe, but that could be down to the planet not being particularly high in the sky at the moment of our test. When we looked at Vega, it was clean, sharp and colour-free.

Focusing in on nebulae, we went first to M27, the Dumbbell. This was a fine sight, with hints of stars sprinkled across it. M57 was also a treat, considering how small it is. Lower in the sky was M17, the Omega Nebula, and it too looked good, despite being low in the sky.

Clean resolving

The double star epsilon (ϵ) Lyrae, the Double Double, was cleanly resolved into its four stars, while Albireo was also nice. Its colours were not quite as strong as expected, however. The bright summer nights meant galaxies posed a bit of a problem, but we were able to track down M51. It could just be recognised as a ghostly patch, and this would definitely improve under darker sky conditions.

The tube was light and easy to use, but there was a small amount of play in the focuser, which detracted a little from the good performance. Overall though, the telescope worked very well and despite its 'classic' design, the optics did what was asked of them, proving more than a match for the job in hand.

VERDICT

OPTICS	95%
BUILD QUALITY	85%
ERGONOMICS	95%
FEATURES	85%
VALUE FOR MONEY	95%
OVERALL	91%

