

Orion StarBlast 4.5" Telescope

USER GUIDE

WARNING: Never look directly at the Sun through a telescope— even for an instant — as permanent eye damage will result. Do not point the telescope at the Sun, as parts will melt! Children should use this telescope only with adult supervision.

The Telescope Lending Program is brought to you by:



Discover the Night Sky

Stellar Vista Observatory (SVO), a 501c3 nonprofit based in Kanab, UT, received a grant from the Utah Governor's Office of Outdoor Recreation with matching funds from the Kane County Office of Tourism to launch its Discover the Night Sky program.

The program encourages and facilitates outdoor recreation opportunities for children of all ages and levels of experience to meet growing community interest in viewing southern Utah's starry skies.

SVO's project is designed to enable residents of Kane County who may not already own astronomy equipment to enjoy exploring the night sky.

Our Astronomy kits are maintained in great working order by SVO members. We hope you enjoy using them to explore Southern Utah's amazing dark night skies! For more information go to the web page

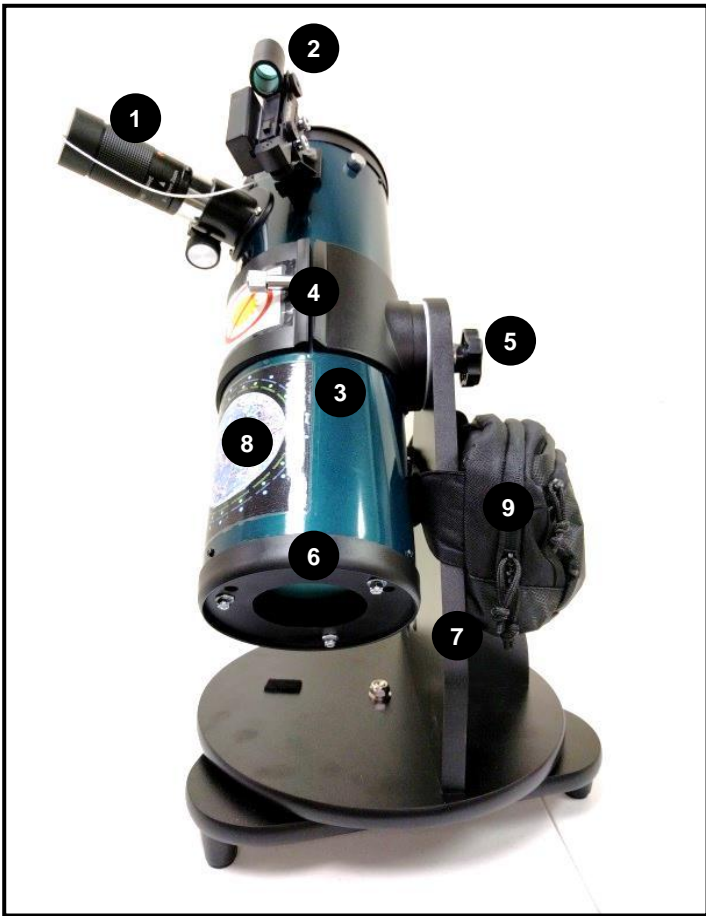
www.stellarvistaobservatory.org/discover-the-night-sky

Note: Adult supervision is recommended for all equipment setup

We suggest reading this user guide and practicing with the telescope inside before you take it out in the dark.

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Parts of the Telescope

- 1) Eyepiece (7-21mm zoom)
- 2) EZ Finder
- 3) Telescope tube
- 4) Tube clamp
- 5) Altitude clamp
- 6) Mirror assembly
- 7) Support & carrying handle
- 8) Moon map
- 9) Black accessory bag (not attached)
(including flashlights, maps, books)



Details

- 10) Focus wheels
- 11) EZ Finder (ON/OFF switch on other side)
- 12) Eyepiece zoom
- 13) Dust caps
- 14) Moon filter

Getting Started

Set-up: Place the telescope on the table provided. Remove the dust caps (13) from the eyepiece (1) and the telescope tube (3). This is a “push-to” telescope, meaning that the user manually points the telescope at the desired target. The telescope moves on two axes: altitude (up/down) and azimuth (left/right). To locate an object, you simply move the telescope manually until you find what you are looking for. Once you find an object, you will need to reposition the telescope occasionally, as objects will drift out of the “field of view” (what you see through the eyepiece) due to Earth’s rotation.

How to Focus: Try out the telescope during the day when you can see what you're doing. Aim the telescope in the general direction of an object on land (not the Sun) at least $\frac{1}{4}$ mile away. Look through the eyepiece (1) and slowly rotate either of the two focus wheels (10) until the object comes into sharp focus.

Note: like many reflector telescopes, the image in the eyepiece will be upside-down!

How to Zoom: The “power” or “magnification” of a given telescope depends upon the eyepiece you use. This telescope has a “zoom” eyepiece, meaning that you can change the magnification simply by twisting the eyepiece barrel (12). Always begin by using the lowest power setting to locate and center an object (turn the body of the eyepiece so that the pointer is at “21”). Low magnification shows a larger area of sky in the eyepiece, making finding and centering an object much easier.

The best view of celestial objects often comes at low magnification. Magnifying an object too much will make it larger, but also dimmer and blurrier. Once you have found an object, you can try increasing the magnification by twisting the barrel (12) until the white triangle points to “7”. This is recommended for small and bright objects, like planets and double stars. The Moon also takes higher magnifications well. You may have to refocus a little after changing power.

If you find it awkward to put your eye up to the eyepiece, you can rotate the telescope tube by loosening the knob on the tube clamp (4) and rotating the telescope tube (3) until the eyepiece and focuser are in a more convenient position for your eyes. Be sure to tighten the tube clamp again or the tube may fall out!

You may find that the telescope tube is either too hard to move or does not stay in place. Use the altitude clamp (5) knob (it holds the telescope to the upright part of the base) to find the right level of tension.

If you wear glasses, first try using them when you look into the eyepiece. You may find that you do not need to use them. People with severe astigmatism will generally obtain better views while wearing glasses.

Locating Objects using the EZ Finder

A “finder scope” helps you point the scope, rather like a rifle sight. The EZ Finder (2) works by projecting a tiny red dot onto a screen mounted in the front of the unit, so that when you look through the screen, the red dot will appear to float in space. When the EZ Finder is properly aligned with the telescope, an object centered on the EZ Finder’s red dot should also appear in the center of the telescope’s eyepiece. If not you may need to re-align the EZ Finder (below).

To use the EZ Finder, move the small switch on the battery pack (11) to the ON position. Then, with your eye positioned near the rear of the telescope, look through the EZ Finder with both eyes open to see the red dot. This dot shows you where in the sky the telescope is pointing. Move the scope so the red dot is on the object you want to view, and the object should appear in the eyepiece.

Once you have the object located in the eyepiece, be sure to turn the EZ Finder OFF!

Adjusting the EZ Finder: This should rarely be necessary if the telescope is handled gently.

Checking the alignment of the EZ Finder is easiest during daylight. Aim the telescope at a distant object, such as the top of a telephone pole or chimney and center it in the telescope's eyepiece. Now, turn the EZ Finder on and look through it. The object should appear near or under the red dot. If it does not, **without moving the telescope**, use the two adjustment knobs on the EZ Finder (one is located on the bottom of the EZ Finder, the second is located near the front of the EZ Finder on the side) to position the red dot on the object you have centered in the eyepiece. Once the red dot is centered on the object in the eyepiece, you're done!

Transporting the Telescope

To carry the telescope, simply grab the carrying handle (7) while placing your other forearm under the telescope tube to provide support.

When transporting the telescope in a car, place the scope on a seat and **use a seatbelt to secure it**. The lap belt goes across the base and the chest belt should cross the tube.

When and where to observe

Before you head out in the dark be sure to have everything you will need.

#Plan for what to observe

#Know where objects are in the sky

#Telescope

#Black accessory bag

#Table

#Be sure weather conditions are suitable

Note: Please do not use SVO equipment in rain, snow or windy conditions

Letting the telescope cool down outside for 20 minutes can improve image quality.

Our FAQs provide daily astronomical weather forecasts.

www.stellarvistaobservatory.org/discover-the-night-sky/#faq

When: Observing bright objects like planets and stars can be done on any clear evening. But if you want to observe star clusters, galaxies, or other deep-sky objects, selecting a night with no moon is essential.

Atmospheric conditions also vary significantly from night to night. “**Seeing**” refers to the steadiness of the Earth’s atmosphere at a given time. In conditions of poor seeing, atmospheric turbulence causes objects viewed through the telescope to “boil.” When seeing is good, star twinkling is minimal and images appear steady in the eyepiece. Seeing is always best directly overhead, and worst at the horizon.

Where: Southern Utah is famous for its dark night skies. But, if your home is surrounded by bright lights, you might need to drive a little bit to find them. For example, Dark skies are not required if you just want to look at the moon or planets, but important for most other celestial objects. For those living in Kanab, the boat ramp at Jackson Flat Reservoir (with some ambient light) or BLM campgrounds on Hancock Road, BLM trailheads off US 89 and Johnson Canyon Road offer very dark skies almost totally free of light pollution.

For a current map of light pollution, visit:
<https://cires.colorado.edu/Artificial-light>

Dark Adaptation: It takes 20-30 minutes for our eyes to adapt to the dark. Don't expect to take your telescope out into your backyard and see everything if you've just been inside under bright lights all evening. If you live in a city, true dark adaptation may be impossible unless you take the telescope to a darker location. Use the included red LED flashlight when observing to preserve your night vision. Red lights do not inhibit our night vision as much as white lights or your cell phone screen.

Observing the Moon:

When viewing the moon, it can be too bright, temporarily destroying your night vision as well as washing out the details of the moon's surface. To correct this, you can use the moon filter (14) by putting the telescope tube cover in place and sliding the filter aside to allow the correct amount of light into the telescope. This can bring an enormous change to the image seen through the eyepiece.

Keeping Equipment Clean

Cleaning the mirrors and eyepiece:

Please **DO NOT** touch or attempt to clean or align the mirrors inside the telescope. Let the caretaker know if they seem dirty.

To prevent dirt and dust build-up, always put the dust caps (13) back on the eyepiece and telescope tube at the end of your observing session! Always store the telescope with all the dust caps on and the dust cover over the telescope.

One more time:

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Support

SVO provides technical support from Noon to 7:00 PM daily. If you have any setup or observational issues, questions or believe equipment maintenance is needed, call 435-644-3735.

Please take care of the telescope as if it were your own! The cost to replace this kit can be as much as \$350! By treating the equipment gently and returning all pieces intact, others will be able to use it to observe the night sky well into the future!