

*A Novice's Adventures
(Misadventures) in
Astronomy*



A Beginners Guide to
Astronomy

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Do's And Don'ts



- Don't
 - Rush out and buy a telescope
- Do
 - Join an astronomy club
 - Attend local star parties

Star Party Etiquette



Or

What Not To Do

Do's And Don'ts

- Don't
 - Show up after dark and drive up with your headlights on!
- Do
 - Show up early and back in.
 - That way when you leave, those daytime running lights don't light up the star party

Do's And Don'ts



- Don't
 - Bring the WHITE light flashlight out of your garage
- Do
 - Bring a RED light flashlight

Sky Maps



- Planisphere
- Books
- Magazines
- Computer programs

Be Prepared



Don't Freeze Your Butt off

Dress Warmly



- Wear layers of clothing
 - Ski bibs
 - Stocking cap or hat
 - Gloves
 - Boots

If All Else Fails

- For those that just can't seem to get warm
 - Electric socks and hand warmers
 - Sportsman 'Hot Packs'

*How in the World Am I
Going to Stay Awake
ALL Night*



Be comfortable

- Dress warmly
- Bring plenty of coffee, tea or whatever suit's your fancy
- Bring a comfortable chair

Can I Start Observing Yet?



Yes, but will you use
binoculars, a telescope or
do naked eye observing?

Naked Eye Observing



- **Benefits**
 - Low cost
 - Easy
 - Time
- **Drawbacks**
 - Can't see faint objects

Binoculars



- Benefits
 - Time
 - Can see fainter objects
 - Wide field of view
- Drawbacks
 - Shaky views

Telescopes



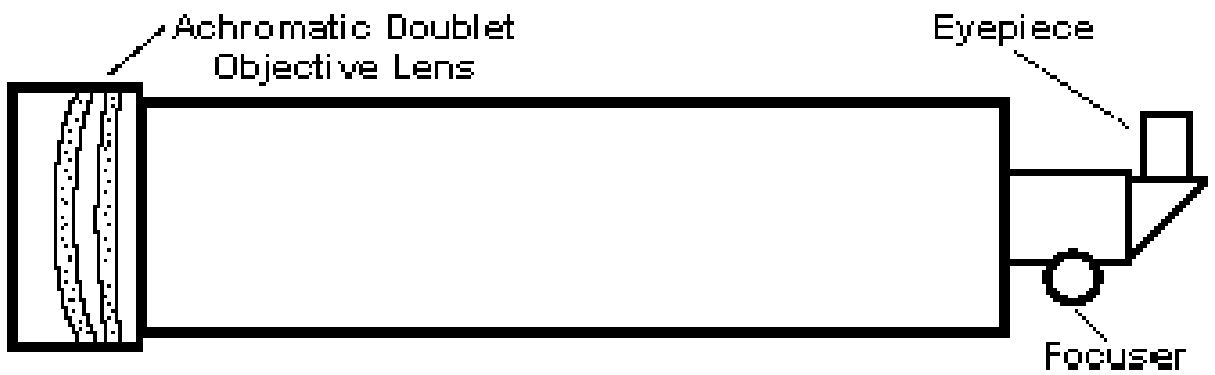
- **Benefits**
 - Can see faint objects
 - Make out the most detail
- **Drawbacks**
 - Expense
 - Time
 - Complex

Types Of Telescopes

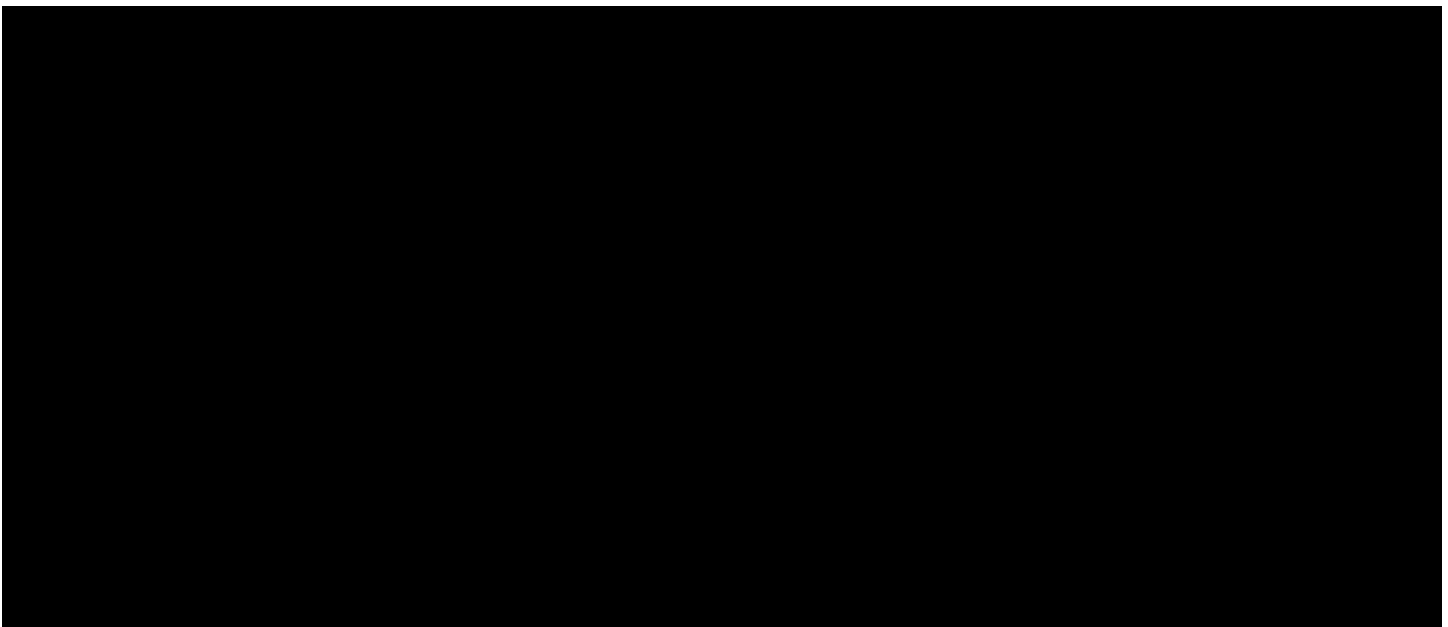
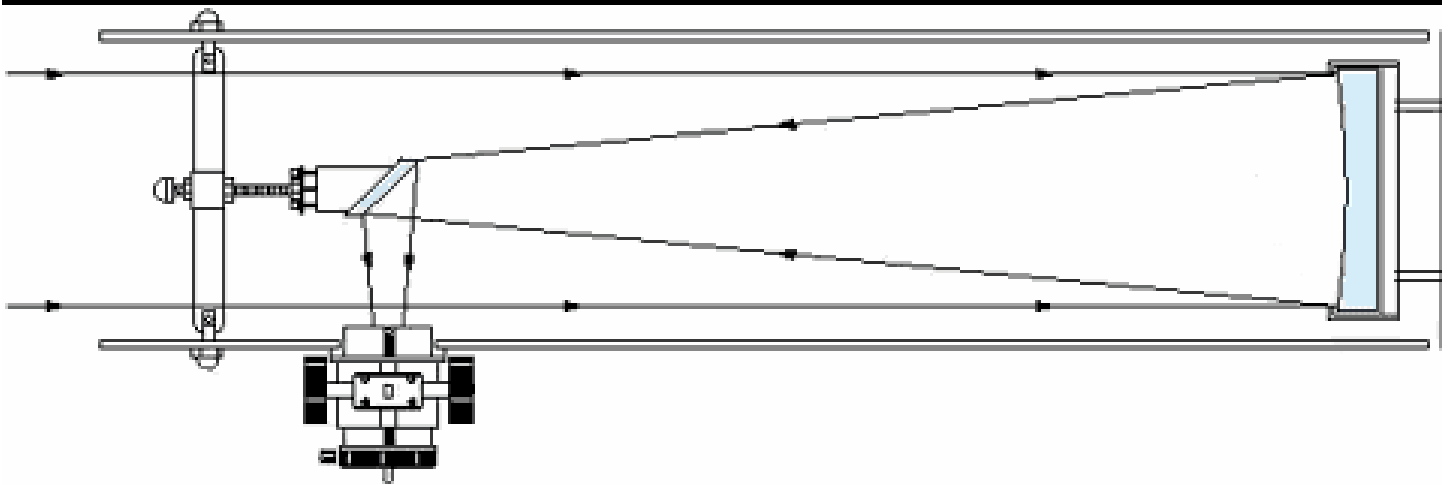


- Refractor
 - Alt-Az
 - Equatorial
- Reflector
 - Dobsonian
 - Equatorial
- Catadioptric
 - Fork mount
 - Equatorial

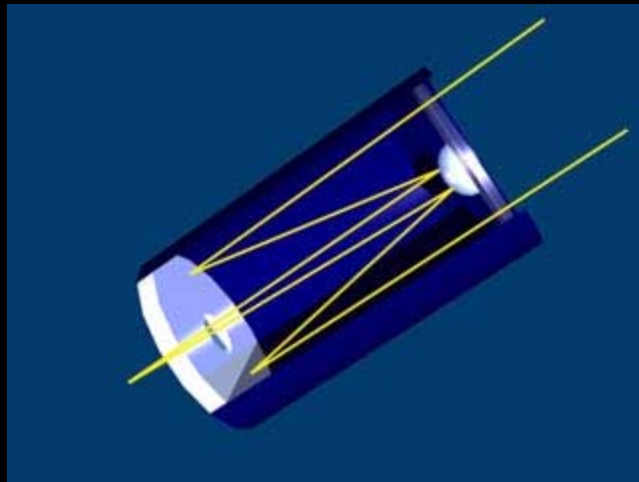
Refractor



Reflector



Catadioptric



Dobsonian Mount



Equatorial Mount



*Now That I'm all Set To
Observe, What am I
going to look at?*



Make a plan

Join an observing group

Planning



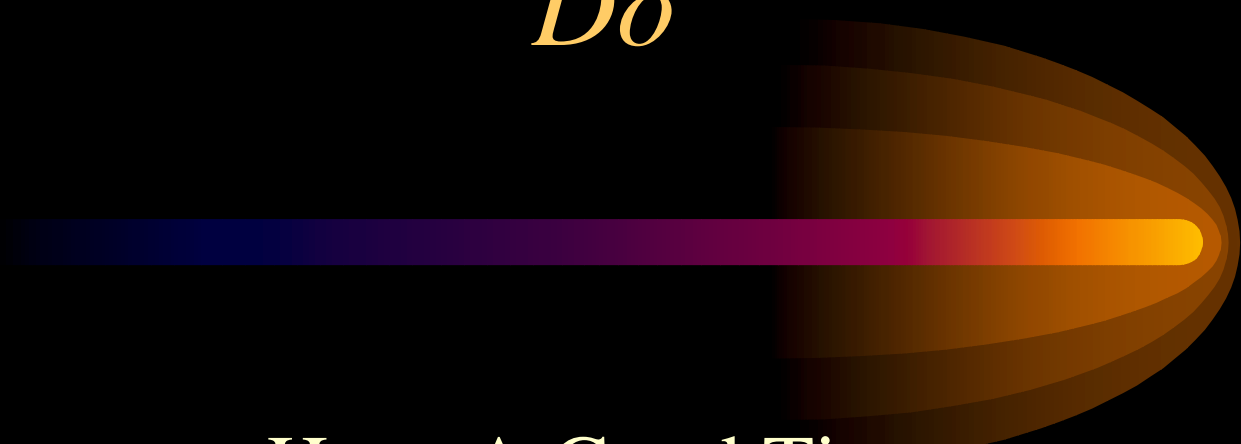
- An area of the sky
- A group of objects
 - Caldwell
 - Herschel
 - Messier
 - Galaxies
 - Nebulas
 - Planets
 - Etc.

Observing Groups



- Lunar Observing Group
 - Observers the moon
- Messier Observing Group
 - Observers the 110 Messier Objects
 - Messier marathon
- Planetary Observing Group
 - Observes the Planets of our Solar Systems and there moons
- Universe Sampler Group
 - Learn observing methods, Techniques, and general knowledge in the field of astronomy

Do



Have A Good Time