# Library Loaner Telescope

### Blast Off to the Stars

#### Orion<sup>®</sup> StarBlast<sup>™</sup> 4.5 Astro Reflector

LEVEL 1 Here is a fun little telescope that's sure to inspire the whole family's natural inclination to explore. A perfect telescope for beginners, everyone in the family will enjoy using the StarBlast thanks to its uncomplicated design.

Fascinating craters and mountains on the Moon pop out in sharp detail through the pint-sized StarBlast 4.5. The StarBlast can display pleasing views of Jupiter and Saturn with its stunning rings. Thanks to its precisely crafted, wide-field f/4 optics and significant aperture, the StarBlast 4.5 can reveal views of galaxies, cloudy nebulas, and sparkling star clusters.

The telescope comes pre-assembled and ready for action right out of the box! With a weight of just 13 lbs., set up is easy for an educational night full of astronomical adventures. Two included eyepieces

provide magnifications of 26x power and 75x power.

Get the StarBlast 4.5 today and have a blast with the whole family.

#9814 \$199.99

Optical design	Reflector		
Aperture	114mm		
Focal length, Fratio	450mm, 1/4.0		
Focuser	1.25" RAP		
Eyepiece(s) Explore	sr II 17mm, damm		
Finder scope	EZ Finder I		
Wainht manhlad	13 lbs		

-----



### Orion StarBlast 4.5 inch Reflector: Not too small, not too large



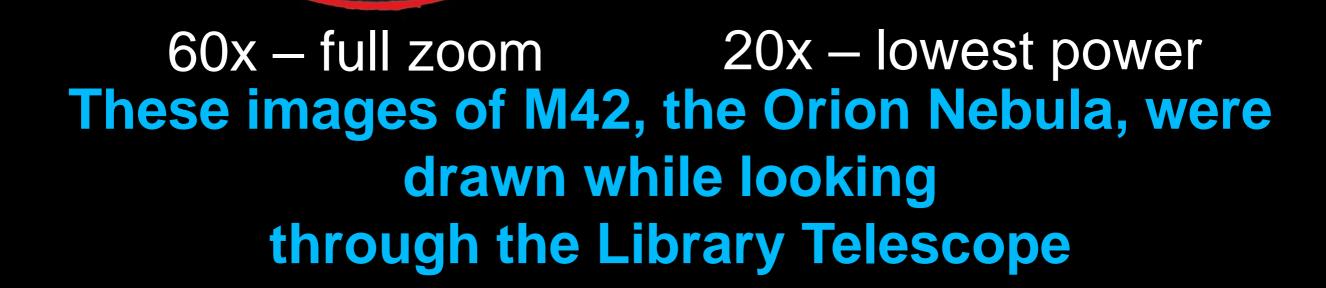
Mark Stowbridge, originator New Hampshire Astronomical Society

### Features

• 4.5 inch aperture lightweight sturdy mount • 8-24 mm **Celestron Zoom** Eyepiece • User's Guide



### Star Forming Nebula: M42 in Orion







## Screwing eyepiece in to Focuser • tapping into focuser ring



Stiffening the eyepiece travel by adding a 1/2 x 1/2 inch section of velcro, loop side

Securing the eyepiece with set screws





## Making a protective end cap

The collimation screws are now inaccessible to unauthorized fingers.





Moon port: 1-3/4 inch mask for bright lunar viewing



Locating a target

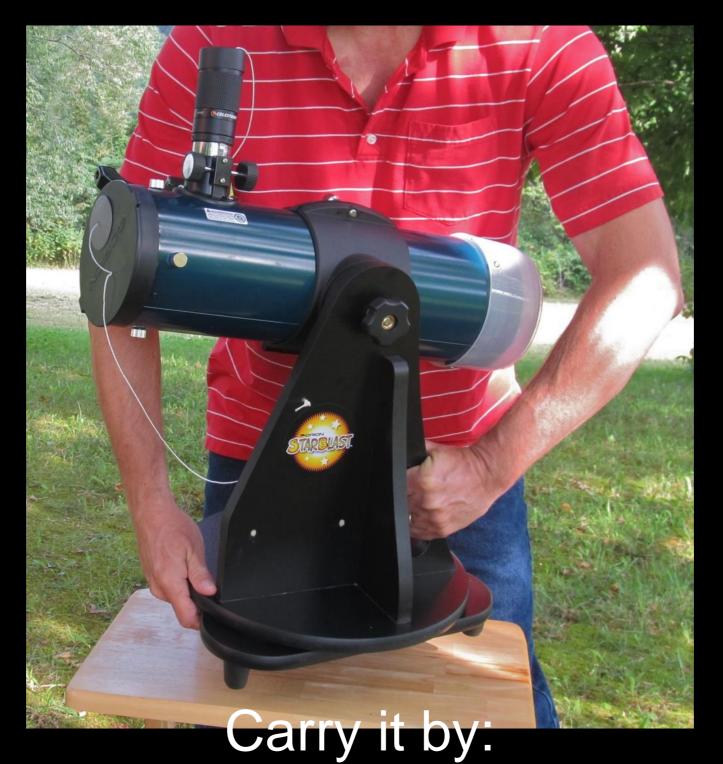
 Use the zoom setting of 24 mm, because it has the widest field of view.
 Move the scope so that the target is centered in the finder.
 The target should be in the eyepiece or just outside of it.

# The telescope is sturdy, but keep these two important points in mind:

1. Never drop the telescope!

2. Do not look at the Sun with this Telescope! Severe, permanent eye damage will result!





grabbing the handle with one hand,
grabbing the base and platform with the other.

### Buckle up!

Seat belt the scope as you would a person.

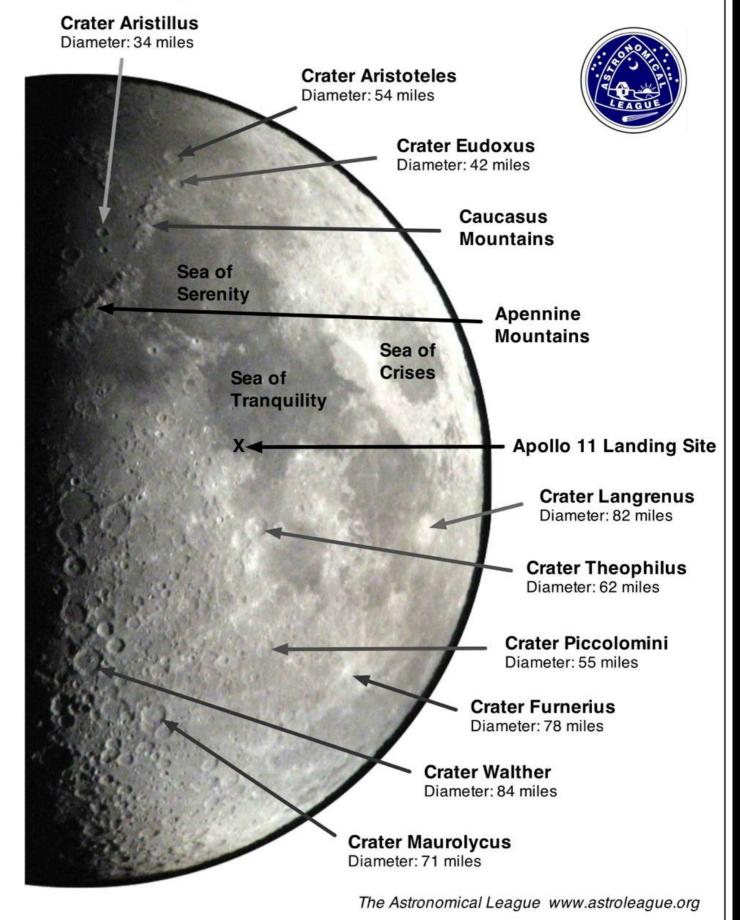




# Announcing the program to the media

Selected Iunar objects in the User's Guide

### Selected objects visible on the First Quarter Moon



### **Planetary Positions**

## Monthly sky positions of the bright planets –

## Crescent of Venus Mars at its brightest Jupiter Saturn

Of the bright planets, **Saturn** is the only one which doesn't dominate its area of the sky. It is about as bright as a bright star, so it doesn't immediately stand out. Through this telescope, both the planet and the rings are small. If the telescope is sharply focused, though, the rings can be easily seen, as well as Saturn's large moon Titan.

Saturn, when it is seen 90 minutes after sunset									
Constellation	Scorpius	Ophiuchus	Ophiuchus	Sagittarius	Sagittarius	Capricor			
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020			
January									
February									
March									
April	Very low in the SE.	Very low in the SE.							
Мау	Very low in the SE. Best	Very low in the SE.							

When it is not near the sun, **Venus** is always bright, sometimes even brilliant. It exhibits a crescent phase when it it near Earth, passing it as it races around the sun. When Venus is far from Earth, it is still relatively bright but presents a small gibbous phase in the telescope. **The months below are only for its more interesting crescent phase**.

#### Venus,

during its crescent phase, either in the west 45 minutes after sunset or in the east 45 minutes before sunrise

	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
January			In the SW after sunset.			
February			In the West			

Mars is a suitable object through this telescope when it is relatively near Earth. This occurs for only four or five months out of every twenty-six. When it is far from Earth, i.e., near the opposite side of the sun, the planet presents a very small disk – too small to show any meaningful detail.

#### Mars, when it is close to Earth. About 90 minutes after sunset.

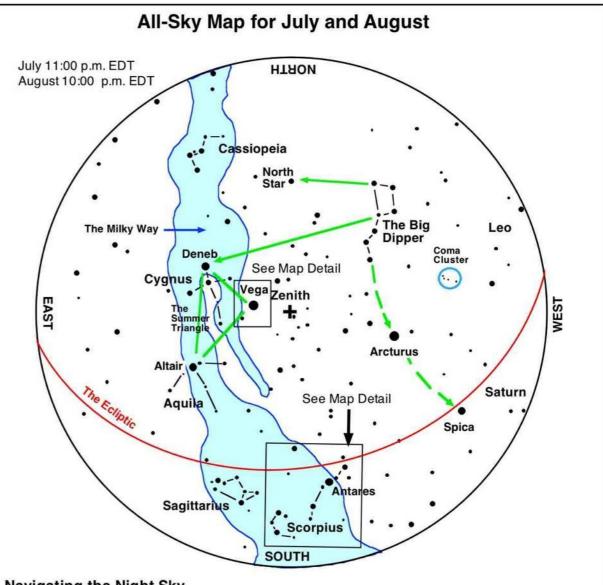
Constellation		ı	Scorpius, Libra		Sag., Cap.		Pisces, Aries	
2015		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	
,	January							
	February							
	/larch		Rises in the SE after midnight					
April Rises after 11 p.m.								

Jupiter is always bright and large when it doesn't appear close to the sun. Its atmospheric clouds can be glimpsed, its non-round, flattened shape can be discerned, and its four large moons – Io, Europa, Ganymede, and Callisto – can be found in any combination on either side of the planet. Jupiter is a fascinating object!

Best

Jupiter, when it is seen 90 minutes after sunset								
Constellation Cancer		Leo	Virgo	Libra	Scorpius	Sagittarius		
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020		
January	Low in the East.							
February	In the East. Best views in the week around 2/05.	Very low in the East.						
March	High in the SE.	Low in the East. Best	Very low in East.					

## All sky maps in the User's Guide



#### Navigating the Night Sky

Learn the sky by first finding those stars or constellations that you know, such as the Big Dipper. Judge the relative positions of the new stars from the ones you know. This time of year, the Big Dipper lies high in the northwest.

#### Use the Big Dipper as a guide to find:

The North Star, Deneb, and the other Summer Triangle stars of Vega and Altair, Arcturus, Spica The Milky Way stretches from the northeast, almost overhead, then to the south. Scan with binoculars and telescope along its length for many fascinating star clusters and small ill-defined nebulae.

To use this map: Face south and hold the map above your head. The stars on the map should match those in the sky.

# **Detail maps** of selected deep sky objects (Star clusters and Nebulae)

### Selected Deep Sky Objects in the July and August early evening sky



Beta

### Enjoy the Constellation Scorpius

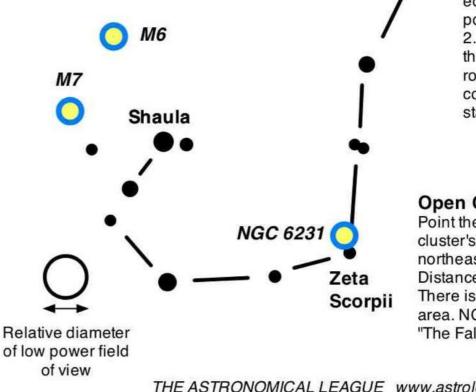
Look for its signature fish hook shape standing above the southern horizon after darkness falls in July and August.

#### Globular Cluster M80:

1. M80 is found half way between Antares and Beta Scorpii. 2. It appears as a round, mottled ball containing the 50% combined light of over 100,000 stars. Distance: 33,000 light-years. **M80** 

#### Open Clusters M6 and M7:

M7 is visible to the unaided eve from a dark site. These two clusters are best seen at low power. Many stars fill the field. M6 Distance: 1600 light-years. M7 Distance: 800 light-years.



Scorpii 509 Antares

#### Globular Cluster M4:

1. Place Antares on the eastern edge of the field of the lowest power evepiece setting (24 mm). 2. M4 is found near the center of the field of view. It appears as a round, grainy ball containing the combined light of over 100,000 stars. Distance: 7200 light-years.

#### **Open Cluster NGC 6231:**

Point the telescope at Zeta and the cluster's many stars sweep out to the northeast.

Distance: 6000 light-years. There is more than one cluster in the area. NGC 6231 has been called "The False Comet."

THE ASTRONOMICAL LEAGUE www.astroleague.org

# Enjoy!

- Craters on the moon
  - Crescent of Venus
- Large moons of Jupiter
  - Rings of Saturn
    - Star Clusters
      - Nebulae