



Enhance your view of the thin crescent of Venus

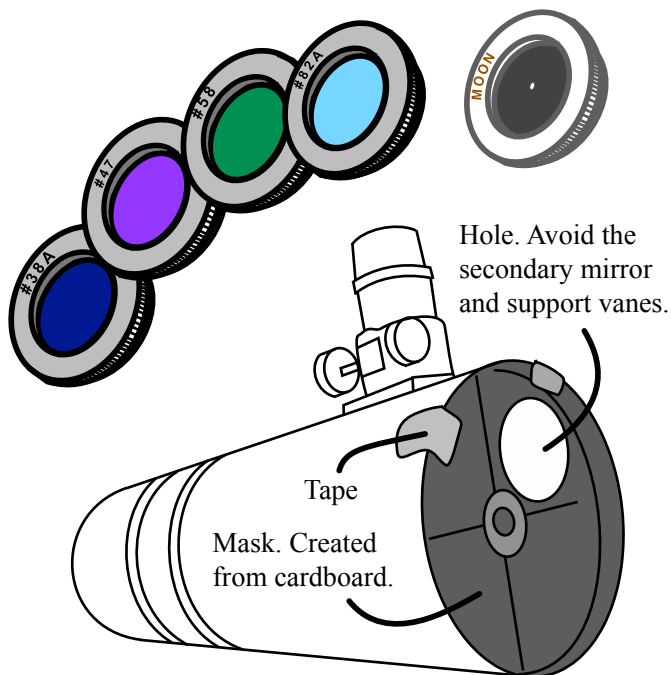
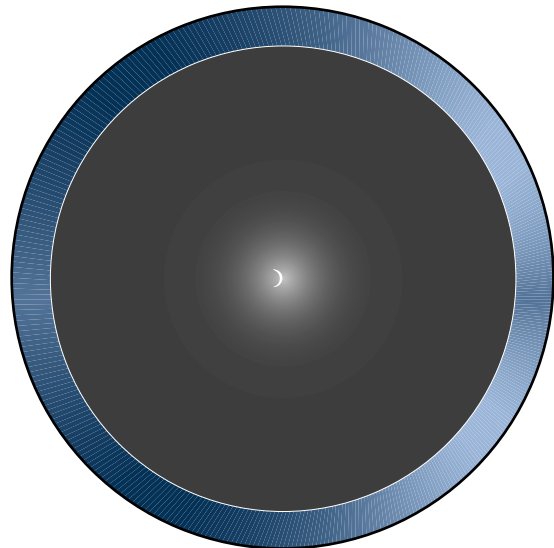


Venus is bright. So bright that's its glare becomes interfering, especially when viewed in its beautiful crescent phase. Many people see it as a bright blur.

For a more satisfying view, take one or more of these steps:

1. Place a **moon filter** over the eyepiece.
2. Depending on telescope aperture, try **colored filters** such as #38A (dark blue), #47 (violet), and #58 (green). #82A (light blue) works well in general. They may bring out very subtle details in that planet's cloudtops.

Because they transmit little light, the darker filters are better suited for apertures greater than 8-inches.



3a. Use an **aperture mask**. Since Venus is bright – really *too* bright – reducing the effective aperture won't hurt viewing. Doing so will also increase the scope's f ratio.

3b. If an SCT or reflector is used that has an aperture of 8-inches or larger, place an **off-axis mask** over the entrance of the optical tube. (Smaller apertures won't have the spacing for large enough holes.) Center the hole in the mask so that light enters the optical tube unobstructed, avoiding the secondary mirror and any vanes. The result – a dimmer, but sharper image.

4. **Daytime viewing.** Being higher above the horizon just might improve viewability!

- Place the sun behind a building. Make sure you can't inadvertently view the sun.
- Find the alt-az coordinates of Venus and its elongation from the sun.
- Scan that area of the sky with binoculars. Once you spot it, aim your scope at it.
- Consider using a variable polarizing filter, a Wratten #15 (deep yellow), or a #21 (orange) filter to improve sky contrast.

