

# Cloudy Nights Telescope Reviews

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◀ [Previous](#)▲ [Index](#)▶ [Next](#)📄 [Threaded](#)Pages: [1](#) | [2](#) | [3](#) | [4](#) | [5](#) | ([show all](#))**Tom Trusock** 


★★★★★



Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

 **UWAN's**  
**Arrive - w/  
photo**

#747187 -  
12/26/05 04:18 PM  
[Attachment](#) (180  
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The William Optics UWANs - 28 (6 elements), 16 (7 elements), 7 (7 elements) and 4mm (also 7 elements). All 82 deg AFOV, ~18mm eye relief on the 28, 12mm on the rest. These were delivered on the 24th (along with one of their 105mm triplets) - and I haven't looked through em yet.

The fit and finish is better than the Meade 5k's - right up there with the Pentax and Tele Vue eyepieces. It will be interesting to see what the performance is. Despite their focal lengths, they do NOT look to be a scaled or barlowed design (except maybe for the 7 and 4) the 16 and 7 are different widths.

Weights

28 - 2lbs 2 oz  
16 - 8.5 oz  
7 - 7.75 oz  
4 - 7.5 oz

They are really kinda neat. The eyecup is about the most unusual thing I've ever seen. It twists up, but the cup portion is attached to a piece that slides inside the outer barrel so the outside of the eyepiece does not rotate, only the eye guard. It's hard to describe, but if you take a look at the photo the 28 is part way extended, the 16 completely extended, and the 7 and 4 completely retracted. There's no sign of the grease you get with the 5k's. Even the caps are different - they are a semi-soft rubber instead of the hard caps you usually see.

I'm told performance is excellent at least down to the f5/f6 region. We'll find out just how fast they can go. 😊

T

(Apologies to Beast - this thread was up before, but I went to edit a post and I accidentally deleted it - Opps.)

-----  
M is for Molecular Cloud, a protostellar batter  
N is for Neutron Star, the densest of matter  
O is for Oort Cloud, that beyond Pluto lies  
P is for Photon, the coveted prize

*Edited by Tom Trusock (12/26/05 05:07 PM)*

Post Extras:   

**Lawrence Sayre**

Pooh-Bah





★★★★★



Reged: 10/16/04  
Posts: 1407  
Loc: N.E. Ohio

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo NEW [Re: Tom Trusock]**

#747225 -  
12/26/05 04:52 PM

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
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|--|---|---|---|

Wow, they do look sharp! Has the price range been announced yet? Are they generally available to the public yet? Do you have access to scopes with which to test them down to the ~F/4 to F/4.5 range?

-----  
My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a moral being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute.

Ayn Rand (in the appendix to 'Atlas Shrugged')

Post Extras:   

**Tom Trusock** A





★★★★★



Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo NEW [Re: Lawrence Sayre]**

#747251 -  
12/26/05 05:13 PM

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
|  Edit |  Reply |  Quote |  Quick Reply |
|--|---|---|---|

Lawrence,

They look cooler in person than they do in photos.

They are all available for purchase and as I understand are shipping now. Chris S on the forums has one of the 28's and from what he's posted seems very pleased with it. The prices are lower than comparable Pentaxes and Naglers, about on the order with the Meade 5k's - or better. The 28 is currently on sale for \$398 (normal price \$448).

The prices on the 1.25" versions are here:

[https://www.william-optics.com/wo\\_shop/catalog/index.php?cPath=25\\_45](https://www.william-optics.com/wo_shop/catalog/index.php?cPath=25_45)

~\$240 for the 16, and ~\$200 for the 7 and 4.

If they perform as good as the Meade 5k's, they will be an excellent deal (IMO, the fit and finish is \*much\* better than the Meades).

More information can be found on the WO site.

My fastest telescope is an 18" f4.5 Obsession with an OMI mirror (.979 strehl). I have an f5 10" swayze in for review at the moment - it's clear right now, if it stays clear, I'll use em in that tonight. Per other focal lengths - the next steps I can currently take are all refractors at f6, f7, f8, and f8.6.

T

-----  
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O is for Oort Cloud, that beyond Pluto lies  
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Post Extras:   

**Lawrence Sayre**

Pooh-Bah  
☆☆☆☆☆




Reged: 10/16/04  
Posts: 1407  
Loc: N.E. Ohio

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo NEW [Re: Tom Trusock]**

#747271 -  
12/26/05 05:42 PM

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 Quick Reply

The 18" Obsession should speak volumes about the optical quality of the UWAN's. What do you intend to benchmark them against?

-----  
My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a moral being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute.

Ayn Rand (in the appendix to 'Atlas Shrugged')



Post Extras:   

**Tom Trusock** 

★★★★★





Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

 **Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo**  [Re: **Lawrence Sayre**]

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#747293 -  
12/26/05 06:18 PM

Mostly Naglers with a few others (Burgess / TMB, Speers) thrown in for good measure.

It's clear.

Took a quick peek at m45 with the 28 and an 80mm f7 - appears flat to the edge. I'm headed out for a few hours.

T

-----  
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Post Extras:   

**Tom Trusock** 

★★★★★





Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

 **Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo**  [Re: **Tom Trusock**]

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#747507 -  
12/26/05 10:05 PM



LAwrence,

Just got back in from three or so hours with them in a 10" f5.

First impressions are they are optically as good as the meade 5k's and just a touch behind the naglers. The general perception (myself and a buddy) was that the naglers had slightly tighter stars (quite possibly owing to differences in magnification) and a little less scatter. (My "guess" is perhaps just a better figure overall). However, if I hadn't been looking at them side by side, I sincerely doubt if I would have been able to spot a difference.

These are nothing to sneeze at. From what I see at this point, they look to be pretty much as good as anything out there. Mechanically, they certainly are top notch.

In general these were pretty much pinpoint out to the edge at f5. No obvious signs of astigmatism in the eyepiece. You know it's a well corrected eyepiece when you plop it in an f5 scope and your biggest issue is coma.

The 28 is a beast, but at \$400 a good value - considering you'd be looking at \$450 for a meade or \$600 for a nagler. The 7 is probably my initial favorite of the series (wish I still had my 7t6 to compare it too). The 16 turned in a nice performance as well. Seeing didn't really permit me to make a call on the 4.

I do need to check lunar and planetary performance - in particular I want to be certain to check for glare like we've been seeing in so many different eyepieces of late. I saw no signs of it tonight, but I didn't look at the moon either.

I also want to check them at different focal lengths. There's quite a bit of difference between f5 and f4.5 - it will be very interesting to see how they perform in the obsession.

These are just initial results, but so far, extremely encouraging. From here on out, we get picky. 😊

T

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Post Extras:   





**erik**  
telescope surgeon  
☆☆☆☆



Reged: 01/30/04

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: **Tom Trusock**]

#747515 -  
12/26/05 10:11 PM

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
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|--|---|---|---|

Posts: 15141  
Loc: san francisco bay area

those look pretty sharp, tom! sounds like they perform well too. do you know if these are similar to a particular current design, or are these something totally new? ...also, did you test out the stratus yet? 😊

-----  
Erik Wilcox  
16" f/4.5 Custom Four Pole Truss Dob  
Destiny Curved Spider, Moonlite CR-1 Focuser, Paracorr, Lumicon Laser Finder, Telrad, 9x50 RACI  
Woden Optics refigured mirror, UO Aluminum Cell, Birch Collapsible Base, AstroSystems 14.5" hubs  
Meade 114NT/500 4.5" f/8 Reflector "PortaDob"  
Orion 10x50 WorldView Binoculars  
35mm Panoptic  
24mm Panoptic  
16mm Nagler  
9mm Nagler



Post Extras:

**Tom Trusock**

★★★★★



Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** **NEW** [Re: **erik**]

Edit Reply Quote Quick Reply

#747521 -  
12/26/05 10:15 PM

Hey Erik,

I don't know if these are based on something that's already out there, but from what I can see, these look to be something new. And from what I can see at the moment, they are pretty dang nice.

The Stratus comes friday. 😊

T

-----  
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Post Extras:

**erik**

telescope surgeon

★★★★★



Reged: 01/30/04

Posts: 15141

Loc: san francisco bay area

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: Tom Trusock]

#747525 -  
12/26/05 10:20 PM

Edit

Reply

Quote

Quick Reply

thanks tom! very interesting. i really like the "no-nonsense, straightforward" look they have to them. i need something in the 11-13mm range though, i wish that size was available. ...i'll be watching for your stratus report! 😊

-----  
Erik Wilcox

16" f/4.5 Custom Four Pole Truss Dob

Destiny Curved Spider, Moonlite CR-1 Focuser, Paracorr, Lumicon Laser Finder, Telrad, 9x50 RACI

Woden Optics refigured mirror, UO Aluminum Cell, Birch Collapsible Base, AstroSystems 14.5" hubs

Meade 114NT/500 4.5" f/8 Reflector "PortaDob"

Orion 10x50 WorldView Binoculars

35mm Panoptic

24mm Panoptic

16mm Nagler

9mm Nagler



Post Extras:

**Chris Schroeder**

Pooh-Bah

★★★★★



Reged: 12/11/04

Posts: 1482

Loc: N.E. WI

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: erik]

#747535 -  
12/26/05 10:29 PM

Edit

Reply

Quote

Quick Reply

Hey Tom, glad to see your first impression matches mine.

-----  
Chris

10" DSH with SC DSC **Big Blue**

CPC 800 XLT "Onyx"

ZS 80FD 10th Anniv **The Red Temptress**

ZS 66SD "Black Beauty Jr."

PST **Golden Boy**

WO Binoviewer



Post Extras:





**Tom Trusock** 

★★★★★



Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** **NEW** [Re: **Chris Schroeder**]

|  |   |   |   |
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#747563 -  
12/26/05 10:47 PM

I'll tell ya Chris, you really got my hopes up for these. 😊 The same people have been sitting at the tippy top of the widefield heap for a looonnngggg time. Make room up there folks - I think we may have a newcomer.



T

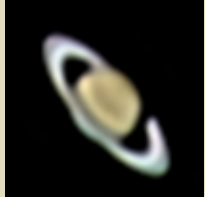
-----  
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Post Extras:   

**NewAstronomer**

Carpal Tunnel

★★★★★



Reged: 09/03/04  
Posts: 1968  
Loc: Scranton, PA U.S.  
A

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** **NEW** [Re: **Tom Trusock**]

|   |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
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#747622 -  
12/26/05 11:18 PM

If the 28mm stays around \$400 and stays in the same area (performance wise) as a 2" Nagler or 2" Meade UWA 5k, then its a great deal. Thanks for the report!

-----  
Chris  
10" f/5 Dob  
6" f/5 Newt  
3" f/9.4 Stellarvue 80/9D  
Skyview Pro, EQ-2, 15x70, WO BV's



Post Extras:   

**StarAngel**





Astrum Angelus

★★★★★



Reged: 06/11/05

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** **NEW** [Re: **NewAstronomer**]

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
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#747712 -  
12/27/05 12:48 AM

Posts: 2689  
Loc: North Texas

Oh my goodness, Tom actually got clear skies! Santa granted his wish! 😊  
Those look pretty cool and sound good, too. I don't really have a \*need\* for any of those sizes, but... 🤔

Thanks for the report, Tom!

-----  
Steph

10" RCX400  
6" CR150 (THE Beith Yard Cannon--returning home soon! 😊)  
4" TV102  
80mm SV Nighthawk Classic

Texas Star Party -- 4/23-30/2006 -- Clear Sky Clock:



Post Extras:

**square\_peg**

Postmaster  
☆☆☆☆☆



Reged: 03/26/04  
Posts: 10020  
Loc: Maple Valley, WA

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** [Re: **StarAngel**]

#747757 -  
12/27/05 01:31 AM

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I've been building my EP collection as though I would one day have a larger faster scope. If the 28mm UWAN turns out to be good at f/4.5, I might be interested in it. At that sale price it's starting to compete with the 35 Pan. It would produce almost the same TFOV in my 8" f/6 dob - 1.98\* TF for the Pan, 1.91\* for the UWAN. Something to think about.

-----  
Tom (Pegster)  
114GT  
DSH-8  
15x70 Oberwerks



Post Extras:

**Lawrence Sayre**

Pooh-Bah  
★★★★★



Reged: 10/16/04  
Posts: 1407  
Loc: N.E. Ohio

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: **square\_peg**]

#747824 -  
12/27/05 04:33 AM

|      |       |       |             |
|------|-------|-------|-------------|
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Tom, I've had my 3 Nagler's on sale (as a set, so far with no takers) on Astromart for awhile now, and now this gives me something else to seriously consider if/when they sell. Many thanks!!!! Keep us in the loop when you put up the f/4.5 Obsession. Also let us know how they do on Saturn some night.

-----  
My philosophy, in essence, is the concept of man as a moral being, with his own happiness as the moral purpose of his life, with productive achievement as his noblest activity, and reason as his only absolute.

Ayn Rand (in the appendix to 'Atlas Shrugged')

Post Extras:

**kfred**

professor emeritus



Reged: 11/11/03  
Posts: 514  
Loc: Dayton, Ohio

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: **Lawrence Sayre**]

#747878 -  
12/27/05 06:43 AM

|      |       |       |             |
|------|-------|-------|-------------|
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|------|-------|-------|-------------|

Tom,

WO's is sure putting out some good stuff recently - they are sure doing some great things. IMO WO's really puts a lot of effort to make high quality astro gear \*consistently\*.

Fred

-----  
Cambridge, England – A place of history and science; a place of beauty.

Post Extras:

**square\_peg**

Postmaster  
★★★★★



Reged: 03/26/04  
Posts: 10020  
Loc: Maple Valley, WA

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: **Tom Trusock**]

#748149 -  
12/27/05 11:48 AM

|      |       |       |             |
|------|-------|-------|-------------|
| Edit | Reply | Quote | Quick Reply |
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Tom, the next time you're out can you have a look at the 28mm's light transmission? Do you have a 31 Nag or 30 UWA to compare it to?

-----  
Tom (Pegster)  
114GT  
DSH-8  
15x70 Oberwerks



Post Extras:

**Tom Trusock**

☆☆☆☆☆



Reged: 02/26/02  
Posts: 10418  
Loc: Not Up Nort enuf  
- ya, eh?

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** NEW [Re: [square\\_peg](#)]

#749491 -  
12/28/05 10:35 AM

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Tom

I have a 26 nagler to compare to the 28 WO (slightly closer in FL). I'm considering buying (another) 17t4 or 16t5 nagler to compare to the 16wo, and another 7t6 to compare to the 7wo. The 4 I'll put up against the nagler zoom, the tmb supermonos and the tmb planetary series, and maybe a barlowed 9t6 for kicks.

Transmission looked as good as you could expect from any large multi-element eyepiece, but I'll pay particular attention to it.

T

-----  
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Post Extras:

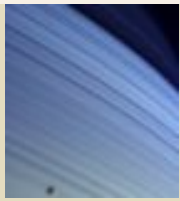
**Jim7728**

Pooh-Bah  
☆☆☆☆☆

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** [Re: [Tom Trusock](#)]

#749552 -  
12/28/05 11:03 AM

Edit Reply Quote Quick Reply



Reged: 04/10/05  
Posts: 1044  
Loc: Maspeth,NY

Tom

Just wondering if you plan on using a paracorr in your evaluation of the 28mm UWAN, especially in the f4.5 ?

-----  
Jim S. -12.5" Meade Starfinder, CR-150  
Meade 102 ED,CG5-GT,PST.



Post Extras:

**dvb**

sage

Reged: 06/18/05  
Posts: 229

**Re: UWAN's Arrive - w/ photo** [Re: Jim7728]

#749745 -  
12/28/05 01:17 PM

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How does the 2lb 2oz weight of the UWAN 28mm compare with the weight of the Nagler 31mm or Panoptic 35mm?

-----  
Skywatcher 100ED f/9 Grab N Go  
Antares 10" f/5 Dob Heave N Stagger  
Skymaster 15x70  
Minolta 10x50  
Nikon 8x30 EII

Post Extras:

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