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by [Jonas Forste](#) 04/14/04 | [Email Author](#)



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First impressions:

Well now, the scope sure is bigger than on any of the photos I have looked at on the net. The focuser is of Crayford type and very sturdy and super smooth, it also has a very good tension adjustment.

The tube is beautiful white paint with a gold ring at the back of the dewcap and a nice golden lenscap, the overall finish is superb, nothing to complain about here. The lenses have nice and very smooth coatings also, and the baffling consists of a one piece of some sort of foam material, a nice touch to keep the weight down.

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First light:

As you all know by now, every time you get a new "toy" it seems to be a few days of clouds. So the first day I spent looking at various tree tops, roof tops, and some cats walking by.

Second day, cloudy again, more tree tops and roof tops, but later that evening the clouds seemed to ease up, so I put the telescope out to cool down, after 20 minutes I couldn't wait any longer. Finally, I thought, time to put it to the test. I popped in a 25mm Ortho and started to look around the night sky, the first thing that struck me was the pinpoint stars, absolute points, fantastic.

Venus was shining bright to the SW, this would be a challenge for the Megrez I thought, putting a 10mm LV in the mirror diagonal showed me a pure white "half a Venus" against a dark blue sky. Next stop, Saturn, changing from the 10mm LV to a 6.3mm Plossl gave me a magnificent view of the ringed planet, more power I thought, putting the Plossl in a 2x barlow seemed like a good idea, Whoa, look at that, Saturn just popped in to focus, the gap between the planet and the rings was absolutely black, I could clearly make out the a, b, and c rings and of course the cassini division, the shadow on the rings was pure black and super sharp, changing to a 5mm Ortho gave me 192x, (60x / inch), no problems here either, focusing was a snap and the view fantastic. No trace of any secondary blue or violet color was visible, not on Venus or Saturn.

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Second light:

Two days later the clouds seemed to ease up a bit, well no time like the present, the scope mounts with ease on my Slik Classic photo tripod and setup takes about 2 minutes, this makes it good for those 5 minute views in the cloud gaps.

Not knowing where to start I just "scanned" around a bit in Auriga to see if I could find anything interesting, M38 looked very nice, almost filling the view in the 10mm LV, moving along to the double cluster, a precise fit in the LV. Another point for widefield views.

Time to split some binaries I thought, Castor was first in line, and what a nice split with the 6.3mm Plössl, the 10mm LV was not really able to completely split Castor. Off to the double-double, a little more of a challenge but I could see all four stars pretty good at 76x.

And as usual when you really get into it, the clouds come in again, but just missing Jupiter made Jupiter my next target for the evening. With the 6.3 in the diagonal all was perfect, the cloud bands, the moons and the GRS just visible on the side of the planet, what a wonderful view.

Putting the barlow in gave a even more fantastic view (as it should) and the moons became small round disks with Jupiter living up to its "king of the planets" reputation.

Having only 80mm at my fingertips I thought finding some galaxies in the Virgo area could be a problem with the clouds and all, after making a rough tube sighting (being without a finder) to where I was sure to at least one faint smudge, I got one right away, big and bright it was, surely this had to be M87.

The clouds had now caught up with me so it was time to head to bed. Third Light:

After a few days a good night finally arrived, I took out the scope at about 11PM and started to look around a bit, I looked at M35, which was very nice, M36, M37 and M38 were all great, M45 was really good, the 25mm Ortho gave me a very "complete" view of the cluster. Later on I moved to the driveway to see if I could get any good galaxy views with it, no disappointment here, M51 looked great with the two cores almost as big fuzzy stars, I couldn't see any spiral structure though. Moving along, to M101

which also was easy to find, and so was M65 and M66 also.

M3 was coming up over the treetops so I pointed the Megrez to where I think I would find it, 4 seconds later it was caught, a big round ball, I could not see any stars in it though, I thought M13 would be a better GC for this, and finding it was no problem, at 76x I could resolve the outer stars, but the core stayed fuzzy.

Finishing of the night with M104 which was low to the south and just between trees and streetlights was nice, M104 was something I really had to look for with my 5,3" newton, finding it with the Megrez80 APO was no problem. Summary:

The William-Optics Megrez80 APO surely is a portable and very nice scope for serious observing and for quick views. The scope comes with a very good backpack style carrying case with foam cut outs for various accessories such as a finder and several eyepieces.

The mechanical parts of it is of top quality, with a fit and finish that just makes you wonder, how do they do that?

I would strongly recommend this to anyone who is looking for a small portable scope to take on trips and whatnot.

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