

| Some useful equations to fit your observing goals to your instrument | Types of Telescopes |
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| <div> <div>Maximum Useful Magnification</div> <div>=</div> <div>60 X Power per inch of Aperture</div> </div> <div> <div>Magnification</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>Focal Length of Telescope</div> <div>Focal Length of Eyepiece</div> </div> </div> | <div> <div>Refractors</div> <div> <div>Galilean</div> <div>It uses a convex objective lens and a concave eyepiece lens. Galilean telescopes produce upright images.</div> </div> <div> <div>Keplerian</div> <div>Invented by Johannes Kepler in 1611, is an improvement on Galileo's design. It uses a convex lens as the eyepiece instead of Galileo's concave one.</div> </div> </div> |
| <div>Dawes Limit - Theoretical Resolving Limit of Telescope</div> <div> <div>Resolving Power</div> <div>Seconds of Arc</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>4.56</div> <div>Aperture (Inches)</div> </div> <div>Seconds of Arc</div> </div> <div> <div>Resolving Power</div> <div>Seconds of Arc</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>11.6</div> <div>Aperture (cm)</div> </div> <div>Seconds of Arc</div> </div> <div>Note: Resolving power is a theoretical limit only. There are many other factors that effect the resolving power of any instrument</div> | <div> <div>Reflectors</div> <div> <div>Newtonian</div> <div>Invented by the British scientist Sir Isaac Newton (1643-1727), using a concave primary mirror and a flat diagonal secondary mirror. Newton's first reflecting telescope was completed in 1668 and is the earliest known functional reflecting telescope.</div> </div> <div> <div>Cassegrain</div> <div>The classic Cassegrain configuration uses a parabolic reflector as the primary while the secondary mirror is hyperbolic.</div> </div> <div> <div>Ritchey-Chrétien</div> <div>Invented by George Willis Ritchey and Henri Chrétien in the early 1910s, is a specialized Cassegrain reflector which has two hyperbolic mirrors (instead of a parabolic primary). It is free of coma and spherical aberration at a nearly flat focal plane if the primary and secondary curvature are properly figured, making it well suited for wide field and photographic observations</div> </div> </div> |
| <div> <div>f/stop</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>Focal Length of Telescope</div> <div>Aperture of Primary</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Actual FoV (degrees)</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>Apparent Field of View of Eyepiece</div> <div>Magnification (of eyepiece attached to OTA)</div> </div> </div> <div> <div>Exit Pupil</div> <div>=</div> <div> <div>Eyepiece Focal Length</div> <div>f/stop of OTA</div> </div> </div> <div>It is useful to have a spread sheet with all these equations for each instrument you have along with the eyepiece specifications when coupled with the instrument.</div> <div>Listing the specs of your instruments helps on those nights when every thing freezes up including your brain, and someone asks you, "What is the magnification of that?" Have such a spread sheet also illustrates where potential new purchases would be beneficial to your current setup or if you are better suited to yet another telescope.</div> | <div> <div>Catadioptric</div> <div>A catadioptric optical system is one where refraction and reflection are combined in an optical system</div> </div> <div> <div>Schmidt-Cassegrain</div> <div>Combines a cassegrain reflector's optical path with a Schmidt corrector plate to make a compact astronomical instrument that uses simple spherical surfaces.</div> </div> <div> <div>Maksutov</div> <div>The Maksutov is a catadioptric telescope design that combines a spherical mirror with a full diameter weakly negative meniscus lens at the entrance pupil (commonly called a "corrector plate" or "meniscus corrector shell") in a design that takes advantage of all the surfaces being nearly "spherically symmetrical".</div> </div> <div> <div>Maksutov Cassegrain</div> <div>Maksutov's design notes from 1941 explored the possibility of a 'folded' Cassegrain-type construction with a secondary silvered "spot" on the convex side of the meniscus facing the primary mirror</div> </div> <div> <div>"New fandangled stuff"</div> <div>Celestron HD range - Meade ACF range</div> </div> <div>This is by no means a complete list of the different types of telescopes, this list is some of the more prominent telescopes used by amateur and professional astronomers.</div> |