

Telescope Q & A's

Q: Why is the image in the telescope upside down and reversed from right to left?

A: An upside down and reversed image is a common characteristic of most astronomical telescopes. Since telescopes are used for astronomical viewing orientation is not important. The image in the finderscope will also be upside down and reversed.

Q: How do I determine the power of my telescope?

A: The power of your telescope can be determined by dividing the focal length of the objective lens by the focal length of the eyepiece. The eyepiece focal length is the number printed on the eyepiece. (For example: 1000 divided by 25=40X)

Q: What can I see with my telescope?

A: Telescopes with power ranging from 25X to 50X can be used to view Star Clusters and Nebulae. 90X to 120X telescopes can view galaxies. Most planets can be seen at 150X and higher.

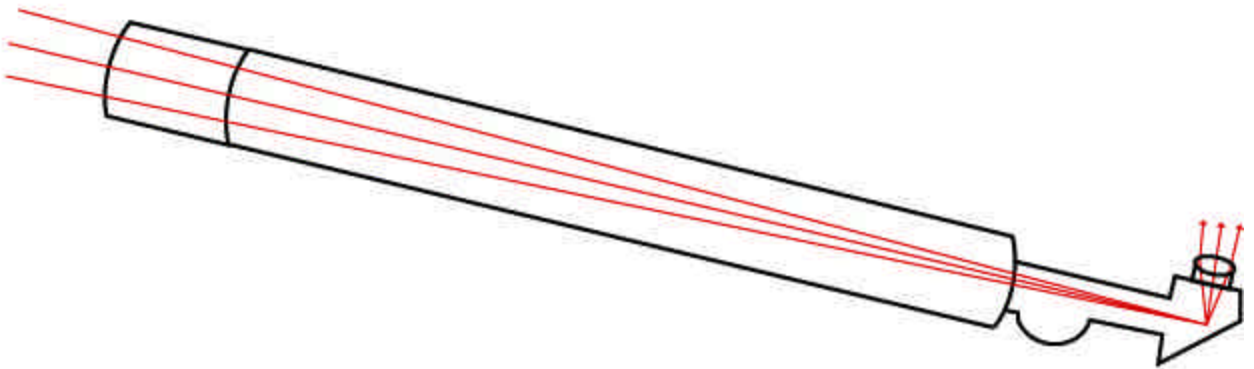
Q: What do the numbers on the eyepiece mean?

A: The numbers of the eyepiece represent the focal length of the eyepiece.

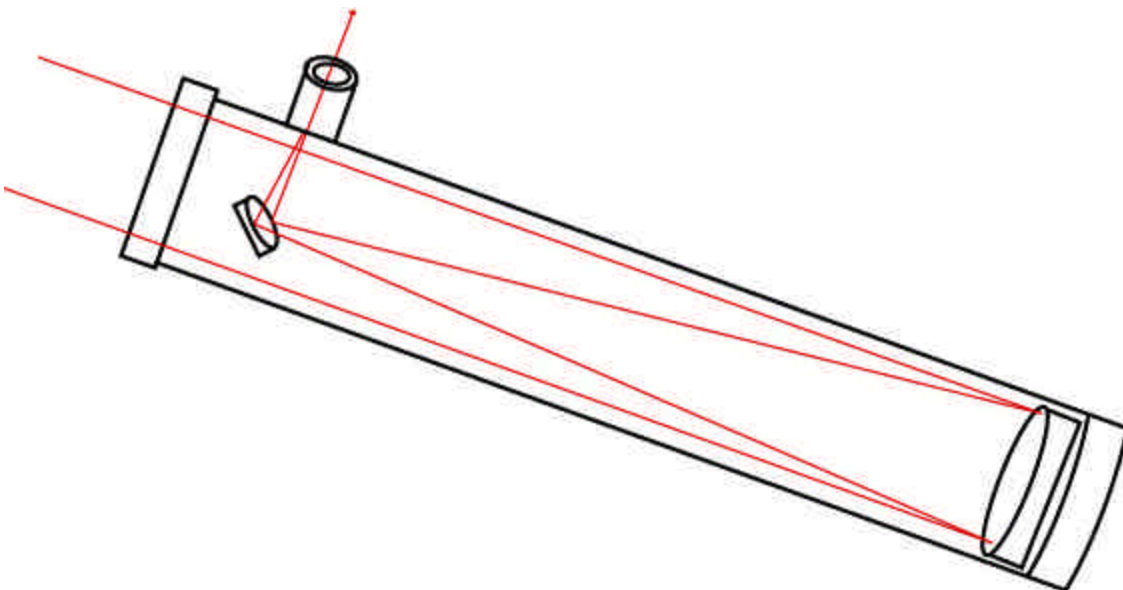
Q: What is the difference between a Refractor Telescope and a Reflector Telescope?

A: Refractor telescopes use lenses only (no mirrors or prisms). The refractor is essentially a closed tube design. It is mechanically uncomplicated and basically maintenance free. Refractors are generally used for astronomical viewing; however, they can be used for terrestrial purposes beyond 100 feet.

Reflector telescopes primarily use mirrors rather than lenses and prisms. Light enters through the front objective lens, travels the length of the tube to the main mirror then travels back to a flat second mirror. At this point, the eyepiece lens magnifies the image. The advantage of reflectors is that they generally offer brighter images for deep sky viewing due to their greater light gathering ability. Reflectors are designed for astronomical viewing.



Light path through a refractor.



Light path through a reflector.