

The optical center of the known Universe.™

Why buy a telescope from a website that sells pots and pans, hammocks, sunglasses, and radar detectors in addition to telescopes? If you want a real telescope, don't go to a department store. Go to a *real* telescope store.

## A passel of Hot Products for 2007! (Plus some older ones that are still hot!)

The dictionary defines a passel as "a fairly large group or amount." And that's exactly what we have at *astronomics*, a passel, nay, a veritable plethora of scopes

### The TMB 5.1" triplet apo is a 2007 Hot Product!

Tired of being on a multi-year waiting list for apo optics that never come? Here's a better idea. The **TMB Optical TMB-130** 130mm f/7 triplet apo – a *Sky & Telescope* Hot Product for 2007 that's available now!

The superb TMB-130 *Signature Series* refractor uses the highest grade FPL-53 ED glass in its fully multicoated air-spaced triplet lens for a level of apochromatic color correction that impresses even its creator, renowned optics designer Thomas M. Back.

It has a collimatatable temperature-compensated lens cell; a rotating 4" dual-speed rack and pinion focuser for medium format, 35mm, and CCD photography; 2" and 1.25" compression ring eyepiece holders; retractable lens shade; dust covers; and fitted hard case. It's available now and it's priced right!

### Your car's back seat will hold a 16" Meade LightBridge.

The **Meade LightBridge Dobsonians** – all of them named *Sky & Telescope* Hot Products for 2007 – use a truss-tube design that lets you break down even the largest 16" model into a few small packages that fit comfortably into the back seat of most compact cars.

All Meade LightBridge Dobsonian reflectors have a smooth 2" machined aluminum Crayford-style focuser with a separate 1.25" eyepiece holder; a 2" 26mm QX eyepiece with a very wide 70° field of view, and an illuminated wide field non-magnifying red dot-type finder with four different reticle patterns.

Steel roller bearings in the base provide smooth hitch-free azimuth motion at the touch of a finger. Altitude tension is adjustable. A battery-operated fan on the metal primary mirror cell assures fast cooling of the diffraction-limited BK7 optical glass mirror. No tools are needed to assemble and break down each Meade LightBridge in the field.

The prices below include shipping from Meade.

- 8" f/6 LightBridge ..... \$599
- 10" f/5 LightBridge ..... 799
- 12" f/5 LightBridge ..... 999
- 16" f/4.5 LightBridge ..... 1999

### You can put the sky in your pocket with this Hot Product.

*Sky & Telescope* named this inexpensive 6" x 9" 110-page/84 chart **Pocket Sky Atlas** a Hot Product for 2007. They called it the atlas of choice "for naked

eye or binocular observing . . . a favorite for anyone using a telescope with a red dot finder. One editor even reported hunting down more than 60 galaxies in the Virgo Cluster in an hour and a half using just one of the atlas's 84 charts."

### Big chips are a-comin'. Their sales are in sight.

Some not-yet-on-the-market products were named *Hot Products for 2007* – **SBIG and Finger Lakes Instrumentation** CCD cameras using Kodak's new KAF-09000 and KAF-16803 imaging chips. According to *Sky & Tel*, these 9 and 16 megapixel "full-frame (as opposed to interline) chips use microlens technology to boost quantum efficiency, have

lower noise, and now provide antiblooming protection. Best of all? Price. The new CCDs cost roughly one-third . . . making cameras with the new detectors, while still pricey, within range of many amateurs' budgets." When they ship, *astronomics* will have them.

### Own a digital SLR camera? Here's a Hot Product just for you.

The **AstroPix "Guide to Astrophotography with DSLR Cameras"** is a book on a CD-ROM and a Hot Product for 2007.

It tells you everything you need to know about taking astrophotos with a digital SLR, plus how to process the images after you shoot them, with step-by-step directions that produce beautiful results.

### Burgess/TMB Planetary eyepieces – 2007 Hot Products!

The *Hot Product* **TMB Planetary** eyepieces at \$99 may shake up your beliefs about how much you have to pay for a quality eyepiece from a famous designer.

They were created by noted optics designer Thomas M. Back to complement the performance of his state-of-the-art apochromatic refractors, like the new

**TMB-130**, above. When you design premium apo scopes, you design eyepieces that get the most out of them. The 2.5, 3.2, 4, 5, 7, 8, and 9mm 1.25" long eye relief TMB eyepieces do just that, and they will get the most out of your scope, too.

At *astronomics*, we specialize in telescopes and always have. Our family-owned business has been helping people choose the right telescope since 1979. We have the experience (a staff total of over 150 years of experience

and accessories named *Hot Products* by *Sky & Telescope Magazine*. Here are just a few of the *Hot Products* you'll find in stock at *astronomics* . . .

### The \$699<sup>95</sup> Astro-Tech diagonal is a 2007 Hot Product, but truth be told, these could all be called hot products.

The **Astro-Tech dielectric 1.25" star diagonal** was named a *2007 Hot Product* by *Sky & Telescope*.

Like all the hot Astro-Tech diagonals, it has advanced 99% reflectivity 46-layer dielectric coatings on its 1/10th wave BK7 optical glass substrate, plus a brass compression ring eyepiece holder that won't scratch the barrels of your costly eyepieces.

The 2" diagonals have either a 2" barrel for refractors or a threaded ring that connects to a Schmidt-Cassegrain rear cell,

plus a separate non-marring compression ring adapter for 1.25" eyepieces.

The 2" quartz diagonals provide 1/10th wave peak-to-valley surface accuracy – even after being coated – and include a Zygo interferogram as proof of performance.

Here are the prices of the **Astro-Tech dielectric** diagonals that we stock:

- 1.25", a Hot Product for 2007 ..... \$69.95
- 2", with 1.25" adapter ..... 139.95
- 2" SCT, with 1.25" adapter ..... 149.95
- 2" quartz, with 1.25" adapter ..... 189.95
- 2" quartz SCT, w/1.25" adapter .... 199.95

### Go ahead. Give in to your urge to own a TeleVue is-Series Hot Product.

TeleVue scopes have been reengineered for astrophotography. They have larger non-vignetting focusers with advanced features, a Focus-mate 6:1 ratio manual fine focus system, a photo accessory adapter, carrying case, and more.

*Sky & Telescope* said the TeleVue Nagler-Petzval refractors were "among the most highly rated" scopes they had ever tested when they named the entire **TeleVue is-Series (imaging system) refractors 2007 Hot Products**. The is-series photo/visual apochromatic

refractors have been reengineered for astrophotography. They have larger non-vignetting focusers with advanced features, a Focus-mate 6:1 ratio manual fine focus system, a photo accessory adapter, carrying case, and more.

### Big chip CCD? Fast focal ratio reflector? A Hot Product says "no" to coma in your pics.

This **TeleVue Paracorr** – a *Hot Product for 2007* – lets you use a big 35mm-size chip SBIG STL CCD camera on a fast focal ratio Newtonian reflector without

seeing the coma that normally turns stars at the edges of the field into seagulls.

The Paracorr STL threads directly into the front cell of SBIG STL-series cameras and provides "pinpoint star images from simple Newtonian optics as fast as f/4."

### It may be a 2006 Hot Product, but a TeleVue Dioptrx still eliminates eyeglasses when observing.

**Dioptrx** astigmatism-correcting lenses attach to TeleVue eyepieces so you don't have to wear eyeglasses to observe.

They come in 0.25 diopter steps from 0.25 to 2.50 diopters, plus 3.00 and 3.50 diopters. Each precision-ground multi-

coated optical glass lens works with TeleVue eyepieces only: 22, 40, 55mm Plösslis; all Type 4 Naglers; 26, 31mm Type 5 Naglers; 22, 27, 35, 41mm Panoptics; and Radians.

### Hot product solar observing for the cost of an eyepiece!

For less than cost of some premium eyepieces, the sub-Angstrom hydrogen alpha filter in the **Coronado PST** (Personal Solar Telescope) lets you see the

ever-changing drama of solar flares and prominences growing and subsiding before your eyes. The PST was a 2005 *Hot Product* and it's still a best-seller today.

The PST includes a dedicated 40mm refractor, built-in solar filter, a safe built-in Sun finder, and a 20x eyepiece.

### Hot in December. Still hot today.

One of the hardest gifts to find last December was the **Celestron SkyScout**. This *Hot Product for 2007* is still in short supply, but you'll be able to get yours before warm spring weather gets here.

This GPS-based non-magnifying handheld personal planetarium locates more than 6,000 celestial objects visible to your

unaided eye. Earbuds tell you about each object, or you can read the scrolling 5-line text/graphics display.

The Celestron SkyScout makes the night sky as familiar to you as your own back yard. Your whole family will love it.

# Anyone can sell you a telescope. We'll sell you the right telescope.™

using and selling telescopes) to help you pick the telescope that fits your needs (and your budget). And, with our seven-figure inventory, we can usually ship you the right scope, right away, from the hundreds we stock.

## This Meade 2006 Hot Product gives "Ritchey-Chrétien-like" performance . . . at only a fraction the cost of a true R-C.

In 2006, *Sky & Telescope* said the new Meade RCX400 f/8 catadioptric "does indeed perform like a Ritchey-Chrétien," and named it a *Hot Product* for 2006. *Astronomy* also said it "delivers Ritchey-Chrétien-like performance at a fraction the cost."

Why pay \$14,000 to \$34,000 for the flat field of a true Ritchey-Chrétien reflector optical tube only – and still have to pay for a mount? Get the catadioptric that reviewers call "Ritchey-Chrétien-like" in a complete scope/go-to mount combo starting at \$5599!

Here are the *freight-paid* prices on the

- Meade RCX400 f/8 go-to catadioptrics:
  - 10" RCX400, with UHTC optics ..... \$5599
  - 12" RCX400, with UHTC optics ..... 6999
  - 14" RCX400, with UHTC optics ..... 9599
  - 16" RCX400, with UHTC optics ..... 16,999
- Meade LX200R scopes use an f/10 version of the RCX400 f/8 optics, and a few less bells and whistles, to make R-C-like performance even more affordable.
  - 8" LX200R, with UHTC optics ..... \$2699
  - 10" LX200R, with UHTC optics ..... 3699
  - 12" LX200R, with UHTC optics ..... 4699
  - 14" LX200R, with UHTC optics ..... 6499
  - 16" LX200R, without mount, w/UHTC .... 11,529
  - 16" LX200R, tripod, w/UHTC ..... 12,999
  - 16" LX200R, altaz pier, w/UHTC ..... 12,524
  - 16" LX200R, eq pier, w/UHTC ..... 12,779

## In 1979, a coffee cost 25¢ and a Celestron 8 cost \$1295. Today, \$1399 buys an even better go-to Celestron 8 with Hot Product SkyAlign technology.

As for the price of coffee, you practically have to mortgage your house to buy a cup at Starbucks.

A state-of-the-art 1979 C8 would cost \$3667.08 in today's inflated dollars – but it wouldn't have a *SkyAlign* go-to computer, multicoatings, a DC drive, or a Plössl eyepiece like today's \$1399 **Celestron NexStar 8 SE**.

But it would still have Celestron's superb Schmidt-Cassegrain optics, however. That's one advantage that hasn't changed over the years.

Here are just two of the many features of the **NexStar SE** scopes that were unavailable at any price only a few short years ago. A no-guesswork *SkyAlign* go-

to computer – a *Sky & Telescope* Hot Product for 2006 – automatically finds sky objects to make astronomy easy as 1-2-3. And Starbright XLT multicoatings give you brighter images and higher contrast. Unlike coffee and gasoline and all the other necessities of life, the cost of a Celestron has actually *deflated* over the years. You get more scope, but you pay less.

- The **Celestron NexStar SE** telescopes. Great values? Yes! Here are the models we stock:
  - NexStar 4 SE, 4" Maksutov ..... \$599
  - NexStar 5 SE, 5" SCT ..... 799
  - NexStar 6 SE, 6" SCT ..... 999
  - NexStar 8 SE, 8" SCT ..... 1399

## You'll find thousands of equipment reviews from other observers like you at www.cloudynights.com

### Meade Deep Sky Imager Pro, \$399, a 2006 Hot Product.

The **Meade Deep Sky Imager Pro** in 2006, and the original \$299 single shot color **Deep Sky Imager** in 2005, were both *Hot Products*. The more sensitive DSI Pro takes monochrome astrophotos for only \$399 – a fraction the cost of a conventional CCD camera.

Buy the camera and color filter pack-

age shown here for \$499 (that's a savings of \$99 over the cost of buying the camera and filters separately) and the DSI Pro takes gorgeous tri-color images as well.

It works with any telescope, but you can use its NASA-developed "Drizzle" software with Meade Autostar-equipped ETX, LX90, LX200, or RCX400 scopes to take images up to 4.9 megapixels in size.

### Some think the Telrad is a Hot Product every year.

We don't know if the original **Telrad** bull's-eye non-magnifying finder was ever named a *Hot Product*. If it wasn't, it deserves to be. It's not just a finder. It's an icon.

The Telrad seems to project circles of red light on the dome of the sky that make it easy to aim your telescope or to star hop from object to object. We've sold literally thousands of Telrads over the years. It's one of our best-sellers. Isn't it time you had a Telrad of your very own?

I just wanted to let everyone know what excellent customer service I received from Ken. He went several extra steps to get an item I ordered shipped to my location in Iraq. For any

who ask me on my recommendations on a store, Astronomics will be my only answer. Great customer service all the way through. Customer Quote of the Month #180

*astronomics*. No hard sell. No guesswork. Just honest advice, the time to make sure you get the right telescope and accessories, and a good price. Call us toll-free at (800) 422-7876 and find out for yourself.

### Astro-Tech. The little telescopes that could.

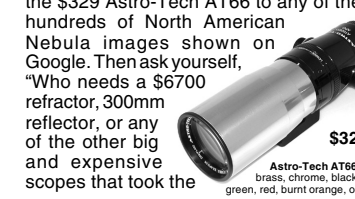
The image below was taken through the \$329 66mm **Astro-Tech AT66ED** refractor. You'll find the full size, full color version on our [www.astronomics.com](http://www.astronomics.com) website. Just enter "AT66" in the quick search box to get to the scope and click on the links in the scope copy to get to the original 20" tall full color image.

While you have that image open, open another web browser, go to Google images and enter "NGC7000" in the search box. Compare the image taken through the \$329 Astro-Tech AT66 to any of the hundreds of North American Nebula images shown on Google. Then ask yourself, "Who needs a \$6700 refractor, 300mm reflector, or any of the other big and expensive scopes that took the

other astrophotos on Google when I can get images as good as the Astro-Tech AT66 can take for only \$329?"

The **Astro-Tech AT66ED** has superb 66mm f/6 ED optics, rotating dual-speed Crayford focuser, your choice of eight tube colors, and a hard carrying case. It's an amazing value at only \$329!

And if the 66mm AT66ED can take images like this, imagine what you can do with the new **Astro-Tech AT90EDT** 90mm f/6.7 ED triplet apochromat at \$1295!



### An SBIG camera took the picture above.

Sure, it was one of the big SBIG CCD cameras on that \$329 Astro-Tech scope, but you don't have to buy a big SBIG to get SBIG quality and ease of operation.

The **SBIG ST-402XME** shown has the bells and whistles of a big SBIG camera, but a smaller price.

Its advanced *microlens* CCD imaging chip uses a tiny lens over each pixel to focus the light and increase sensitivity. The chip has a 765 x 510 array of

9 micron pixels with no column defects, high speed USB electronics, thermoelectric cooling with a built-in whisper fan, and more. The monochrome version is only \$1395. With an internal color filter wheel, it's \$1595. Either way, you get great images and SBIG's traditional ease of operation at a very attractive price. Quality SBIG CCD cameras are priced from \$1395 to \$12,995.