Pocket monster

Although not promoted as a travelscope, Celestron’s 60 mm Landscout still fits the bill for lightness, compactness and portability, concludes Mike Alibone.

REVIEW

Celestron Landscout 12-36x60 telescope

IT’S not widely advertised as a travelscope but that’s essentially what this new offering from Celestron is. Moreover, with a 60 mm objective, its light-gathering capacity is potentially greater than the handful of conventional 50 mm ‘mini’ scopes currently available in today’s market. Picking it up for the first time I was amazed at how light it is: a featherweight 513 g, putting it well below the average weight of an 8x42 binocular. This can be attributed to a combination of a lightweight polycarbonate body covered with the thinnest of layers of hard rubber.

This is a ‘no frills’ telescope. The objective lens housing is protected by softer rubber than that used to cover the body and, although it has the appearance of a lens hood, it is actually part of the body, so does not extend. The lens is deeply recessed, however, and this offers some protection from potential damage and adverse weather, and it is likely to reduce glare to some extent. There is a full, 360-degree rotating tripod mount which is lockable in any position. However, the tripod foot does not have an anti-rotation pin port to lessen the potential for the scope twisting and ultimately working loose. Immediately adjacent to, and behind, the tripod mount is the rubber-covered and shallowly

60 mm objective lens should provide good light-gathering capacity

Lightweight polycarbonate body is wrapped in thin layer of rubber

Eyepiece is integral part of scope and not interchangable

Tripod mount rotates through 360 degrees and is fully lockable

Focusing wheel is broad and rubber milled
April's photo challenge
This month's subject is the ubiquitous Woodpigeon – the challenge is to make it interesting!

A good Sport
Steve Young puts Sigma's new zoom lens through its paces.

Complete guide to Iberian birds
This new account seeks to cover all of Iberia's birds – how well does it succeed?

From the same song sheet
A revised edition of a groundbreaking combination of sound recordings and bird guide.

A year in the life of Mai Po
Stunning photography captures the seasonal delights of this Hong Kong wetland hot-spot.

Moth-ers' day
A new guide to the moths of Britain and Ireland represents an attempt to cover all species recorded in the countries.

Did you know?
The colour contrast within an image is related to the 'resolution' of the optics, in which a higher resolution (fine detail) results in higher contrast. While larger objectives deliver higher levels of resolution, contrast can also be dependent on quality of optical coatings and the quality of the glass used in lenses and the prism system.

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Further info
- Price: £120
- Size: 27x330 mm
- Weight: 513 g
- Magnification: 12-36x
- Field of view: 52.28 m at 1,000 m
- Light transmission: not available
- Close focus: 10 m
- Gas-filled: no
- Waterproof: weatherproof only
- Guarantee: limited lifetime

Verdict
- Very light and compact model that is easy to hand-hold
- Image is bright with realistic colours
- Levels of contrast are a little on the low side