

# FIRST light

## OPTICS

The 8-inch, f/10 optics are treated with Celestron's StarBright XLT coatings to improve light transmission and are Fastar compatible. Stars were sharp across 85 per cent of the view through the 40mm eyepiece and close double stars could be split using high magnification.

### SKY SAYS...

Now add these:

1. Celestron SkyPortal app
2. Celestron Skyris 132C colour camera
3. X-Cel LX 2x Barlow lens



► quarter Moon showed off a wealth of craters and filled half of the 40mm eyepiece, showing that this accessory has a 1° field of view. Next we toured some favourite summer deep-sky objects, with globular cluster M13, the Swan Nebula, galaxies M81 and M82, and open cluster M39 nicely filling the view with the 40mm eyepiece. Slewing to all these targets not with a hand controller but with the planetarium interface of the SkyPortal app was simple and intuitive.

This is an altaz setup, so astrophotography is generally limited to the Moon and brighter planets; only short exposures of deep-sky objects at high ISO values are practical. Celestron has said that an optional wedge will soon be available for long-exposure imaging.

Though the mount can be a little noisy when slewing, once tracking it is very quiet. That aside, this is a great telescope that makes astronomy even more accessible – especially to those in tune with the latest technology. **S**

## VERDICT

BUILD & DESIGN	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
FEATURES	★★★★★
GO-TO/TRACKING ACCURACY	★★★★☆
OPTICS	★★★★☆
OVERALL	★★★★★