

Orion Telescope information and Checkout procedure

The Bitterroot Public Library has partnered with spectrUM Discovery Area in Missoula and the Friends of the Bitterroot Public Library to provide two telescopes for the public to check out from the library.

- Two Orion Starblast 4.5" Reflector telescopes on a Dobsonian mount are now available for check out
- BPL patrons must be 18 years of age and older to check out.
- The telescopes check out for one week at a time.
- They can be placed on hold for BPL patrons only.
- Patrons can carry each telescope out of the library easily and strap them into the seat of a car with a seatbelt.

The Orion StarBlast 4.5 Astro Reflector Telescope is a compact telescope that is simple to set up and use. The Orion is friendly for beginning amateur astronomers. Its 4.5" aperture parabolic primary mirror offers wide-field views of the night sky. Craters and mountains on the Moon are visible in detail. On clear evenings, the StarBlast 4.5 can also provide views of Jupiter and its many orbiting moons and Saturn with its rings. Each telescope comes with laminated information cards on its use and websites to access for enhanced viewing possibilities.

Nick Wethington, Making and Tinkering Programs Manager at spectrUM, applied for a grant from the OP and WE Edwards Foundation, (www.opweedwards.org) that funded the purchase of a telescope for four libraries in the state of Montana. Both telescopes were modified by Wethington for easier transportability.

BPL's main message for safe viewing, "never look directly into the sun!"