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Levenhuk New Skyline PLUS and PRO Dobsonian Telescopes

When looking at images from the Hubble Space Telescope, we rarely think about how observational astronomy developed before the digital era. To gather enough light from distant objects, William Herschel and Lord Rosse were forced to build giant, difficult-to-control reflectors. The modern line of Dobsonian telescopes with an aperture from 8 to 16 inches offers a curious paradox: It is a mass-produced amateur device that, today, has a light-gathering power comparable to the unique instruments of the past. This allows you to observe space directly with your own eyes. Details in Saturn's rings, such as the Cassini Division and the Encke Gap, or the faint moons of Uranus cease to be textbook abstractions and instead become objects of personal experience.

The New Skyline Dobsonian telescope series features classic Newtonian reflectors on a Dobsonian mount. The main advantage of the series is a parabolic primary mirror in all models, even the entry-level model, which guarantees a sharp image without spherical aberrations.

The mounts are made of birch plywood with a laminated coating. The lamination protects the wood from dew and moisture, preserving its appearance for years. Assembly is done with thumbscrews — no tools are required. Unlike analogs, such as Sky-Watcher, which use self-tapping screws, this series uses screw connections that are designed for repeated assembly and disassembly without the appearance of backlash.

The balancing system allows adjusting the clamping force. The telescope optical tube glides smoothly during pointing, but it locks securely and will not tilt forward when changing to a heavy eyepiece. The collimation of the primary mirror is also done manually: Large thumbscrews allow you to adjust the optics in just a couple of minutes right at the observation site.

Two Types of Tube Designs



- **Classic (Solid tube).**
Solid metal tube. Provides maximum protection for the mirrors from dust, dew, the observer's thermal currents, and stray light. This is the best choice for stationary observations or if there is ample transport space.

- **Retractable.**
Truss-tube design. The tube can be disassembled, reducing its length by almost a third. This allows transporting even huge 12–16 inch instruments in a passenger car. The rigidity of the structure ensures that collimation is maintained between sessions. A light shroud is included in the kit.



Why a Dobsonian is the Best Choice for Beginners

This design offers the most honest price-to-performance ratio. In astronomy, the amount of detail seen directly depends on the primary mirror diameter, and the Dobsonian scheme allows you to invest the entire budget specifically into the optics rather than complex mechanics or electronics. Telescope control is intuitive: The tube moves up and down, left and right, requiring no knowledge of celestial coordinates or polar alignment from the beginner. The massive wooden mount sits low to the ground, effectively dampening vibrations much better than tripods of a similar price. The image remains stable, and the observer can spend their time exploring space, not fighting the equipment.

Summary Table: Classic Series (PLUS/PRO)

For stationary observations and country houses



	PLUS 6"	PLUS 8"	PRO 10"	PRO 12"	PRO 16"
SKU	86283	86284	86285	86286	86287
Aperture	152 mm	203 mm	254 mm	304 mm	406 mm
Aperture ratio	f/8	f/6	f/5	f/5	f/4.5
Focuser	2" rack & pinion	2" rack & pinion	2" rack & pinion	2" rack & pinion, dual-speed	2" rack & pinion, dual-speed
Cooling fan	—	—	—	✓	✓
Weight (Tube/Mount)	6 / 9.9 kg	8.3 / 10.3 kg	14.6 / 11.6 kg	24 / 15 kg	36 / 29 kg
Features	High-contrast planetary observer	Amateur gold standard	Entry ticket to deep-sky objects	Detailed nebula structure	Extreme limiting magnitude

Summary Table: Retractable Series (truss tube design)

For trips to dark skies. Light shroud included



	PRO 10"	PRO 12"	PRO 16"
SKU	86288	86289	86290
Aperture	254 mm	304 mm	406 mm
Aperture ratio	f/5	f/5	f/4.5
Focuser	2" rack & pinion, dual-speed		
Cooling fan	✓		
Weight (Tube/Mount)	17.5 / 13 kg	20.5 / 16.5 kg	32.1 / 31 kg
Features	Compact	Powerful aperture in a sedan trunk	Maximum transportable aperture

Detailed Model Reviews

Levenhuk New Skyline PLUS 6"

SKU 86283

A classic long-focal-length Newtonian (f/8). Thanks to a smaller secondary mirror (central obstruction is only 23% by diameter), it provides an image with very high contrast, approaching the quality of refractors. The thin secondary mirror spider vanes create classic diffraction spikes on bright stars but do not reduce the details of the planets. Not demanding on eyepiece quality. Lightweight: The 6 kg tube can be carried outside with just one hand.

- **Focuser:** 2" rack & pinion with a 1.25" adapter
- **Finderscope:** Red Dot



What you can see: An ideal instrument for the Moon and planets. Shadows in lunar craters are pitch-black, and surface detail is stunning. Saturn displays its rings and the Cassini Division. Jupiter shows the GRS (Great Red Spot) as well as shadows from moon transits. For deep space, all Messier catalog objects are accessible; bright globular clusters (like M13) begin to resolve into stars at the edges.

Levenhuk New Skyline PLUS 8"

SKU 86284

The most versatile model. An aperture ratio of f/6 is an excellent balance between planetary contrast and light-gathering power for nebulae. Gathers 78% more light than the 6-inch model. This is a telescope that you only need to buy once for a lifetime.

- **Focuser:** 2" rack & pinion with a 1.25" adapter
- **Finderscope:** Red Dot

What you can see: A serious instrument for deep-sky objects. Globular clusters (M13, M92) are confidently resolved into stars to the core. Galaxies M81 and M82 show their shape. The Ring Nebula (M57) looks like a distinct "doughnut" with a dark center. On Mars, during oppositions, polar caps and continents are confidently visible.



Levenhuk New Skyline PRO 10"

SKU 86285

Transition to the professional league. The 254 mm aperture and f/5 aperture ratio gather 56% more light than the 8-inch model — a colossal difference for observing faint objects. The red dot finder is replaced with a full-fledged optical 8x40 finderscope: It works like a small monocular, showing reference stars invisible to the naked eye. This is critical for navigation via "star hopping" when searching for faint galaxies.

- **Focuser:** 2" rack & pinion with a 1.25" adapter
- **Finderscope:** optical 8x40



What you can see: Galaxies cease to be just fuzzy patches. The Whirlpool Galaxy (M51) shows spiral arms under good skies. The Orion Nebula displays a complex fibrous structure ("wings"). In globular clusters, thousands of stars are resolved right to the core. Planetary nebulae, such as the Dumbbell, show an apple-core shape.



Levenhuk New Skyline PRO 12"

SKU 86286

Heavy artillery. The 304 mm aperture gathers 44% more light than the 10-inch. The telescope is equipped with a dual-speed rack & pinion focuser, which is essential for perfectly precise focusing at high magnifications (the microfocuser allows for very smooth adjustment). Requires a stationary setup or a cart to roll it out of the garage.

- **Focuser:** 2" rack & pinion, dual-speed, with a 1.25" adapter
- **Finderscope:** optical 8x40

What you can see: Visual astronomy in all its glory. In the Veil Nebula (NGC 6960), the finest gas filaments are visible. Many galaxies in the Virgo Cluster show structural details. Colors in the Orion Nebula become noticeable to the eye (a greenish tint). Jupiter's moons are seen as tiny disks, not points. The optical resolution of 0.46 arcseconds allows splitting tight double stars.



Levenhuk New Skyline PRO 16"

SKU 86287

The flagship with a 406mm aperture. The massive light flux allows using high magnifications without a significant loss of image brightness. The f/4.5 aperture ratio requires high-quality eyepieces, but in return provides an image of photographic brightness.

- **Focuser:** 2" rack & pinion, dual-speed, with a 1.25" adapter
- **Finderscope:** optical 8x40

What you can see: Objects that were on the edge of visibility in 8–10 inch telescopes shine brightly and in detail here. Dust lanes in the Andromeda Galaxy are clearly visible. The Omega Centauri globular cluster looks like a three-dimensional sphere of stars. Under perfect atmospheric conditions, complex turbulence in Jupiter's cloud belts is visible, and the Encke Gap in Saturn's rings becomes accessible for observation.



Levenhuk New Skyline Retractable Dobsonian Telescopes Series – PRO 10", PRO 12", and PRO 16" (truss-tube design)

Optically, these models are identical to the classic versions, but they are mechanically adapted for mobility



- **PRO 10" Retractable.** Unlike the solid version, a dual-speed focuser is installed here, making this model more attractive to demanding observers. When folded, it easily fits on the back seat of a car.



- **PRO 12" Retractable.** The most popular model among experienced amateur astronomers. This is the maximum aperture that one person can comfortably assemble, disassemble, and transport in a standard sedan. The weight of the heaviest part is 20.5 kg.



- **PRO 16" Retractable.** A monster that you can take with you. The solid 16" tube requires a van, but this disassembled version fits into a crossover or station wagon. The tube weight is reduced to 32 kg (versus 36 kg for the classic), but the main advantage is the dimensions.

What you can see in Retractable: Exactly the same as in the classic versions of the corresponding diameters. The truss-tube design is rigid and does not cut off the aperture. The included light shroud completely protects against stray light, maintaining image contrast on par with a solid tube.

