

**University Optics 32 mm Konig II 1.25" eyepiece.**

**Review by Michael Morris**

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Let's face it; the problem with the ETX 90 is the 90! However good the optics are (and they are good) the small aperture means that for many observing targets, maximising image brightness is a key target. To this end, I concluded that what I needed was a long focal length eyepiece with as little glass as possible in the way absorbing and reflecting those precious photons. After much research on the web I concluded that the University Optics 32 mm Konig II eyepiece at \$114.95 + \$12.95 postage and packing would fit the bill. I duly rang up University Optics in the US where I received efficient and friendly service. About a week later, after paying an extra £14 in VAT and import duty to my local post office, I took receipt of my eyepiece.

My first impression was what a monster! It's huge. It stands 10 cm tall and 4.8 cm across. However, this isn't a problem as it only weighs around 180 grams.



Performance of this eyepiece is very good. The Perseus Double Cluster (NGC 869 and NGC 884) fits easily into the large 77 arc minute field of view. Stars are sharp, bright points of light right up to the edge of the field of view with no refocusing required when viewing objects at the edge of the field of view. No aberrations are seen and contrast is very good. Nebulous objects are enhanced by the bright contrasty image. Where this eyepiece really excels is when viewing rich star fields. The image is wide and bright with marvellous detail seen even at this relatively low

magnification (x 39). As with many eyepieces of this long focal length, the long eye relief leads to the need to place your eye at a particular distance from the top of the eyepiece to avoid the image going black. This took a little getting used to, but isn't a source significant annoyance.

Overall I consider the performance to be very good and I would thoroughly recommend this eyepiece to every ETX user.

However, despite the great optics, the eyepiece is missing two important extras; an eye guard and a bolt bottle. An eye guard is very desirable on this eyepiece because of the long eye relief. The only eye guard that would fit this leviathan was item AC382 from BC&F Astroengineering ([www.astro-engineering.com](http://www.astro-engineering.com)) at an alarming £24.99. In the UK if you order from their sister company Telescope House you will usually get an item much quicker. If you order from their website ([www.telescopehouse.co.uk](http://www.telescopehouse.co.uk)) you also get free postage and packing. The bolt bottle is also problematic. Because of its height I could find only one bolt bottle that would take it. This is a 2.5 inch diameter bottle from Scopetronix ([www.scopetronix.com](http://www.scopetronix.com)) – item number STEPB5.