

Chapter 9

Telescope Sources

Contact Information for Principal Manufacturers/Suppliers

Presented here in alphabetical order is a listing of most of the primary sources for astronomical telescopes. Advertisements for many of these will be found in various issues of magazines such as *Sky & Telescope* and *Astronomy*. (The ads in such periodicals are also a good way to keep up with new sources that appear on the market after this book has gone to press.) A majority of the companies in this compilation do not actually manufacture the instruments listed but have them made to their specifications overseas (today, mainly from China, Taiwan and other optical facilities in the Orient).

Under the bolded company's name are its mailing address, Internet web site and/or e-mail address, phone number/s where available, and a concise listing of the telescopes offered at the time of writing. Readers should contact them directly for copies of their latest catalogs, specifications for specific models, current prices, shipping charges, delivery times, warranty and return policy. Note that in addition to the instruments listed themselves most of these companies also offer a line of mounting types and options, plus eyepieces and other related accessories. In most cases, their catalogs are available on-line as well as print copies by mail. A number of suppliers have either moved or changed hands since the first edition of this work. Also listed *un-bolded* are numerous companies from the past who are either out of business entirely or are no longer making telescopes. Many of their instruments are not only still in use by amateur astronomers today but are also offered from time-to-time on the used market. In many cases these telescopes are considered classics,

and as such are much sought-after by observers and collectors alike. No contact information is given for these firms other than where they were—or currently are—located.

Before individually listing some of the more prominent telescope suppliers, one valuable all-encompassing source is www.telescopes.com. Most of the major brands and the various models each offers will be found on this site—typically at significantly discounted prices.

APM—Telescopes

Saarbrücken, Germany

Web site: www.apm-telescopes.de, E-mail: apm_telescopes@web.de (underscore)

Models: 3-inch to 21-inch apochromatic refractors; 16-inch to 60-inch Cassegrain and Ritchey-Chretien reflectors; 5-inch to 24-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics.

Apogee, Inc.

P.O. Box 136, Union, IL 60180

Phones: 815-568-2880/877-923-1602

Web: www.apogeeinc.com, E-mail: apogeeinc@sbcglobal.net

Models: 80 mm and 90 mm RFT achromatic refractors; apochromatic refractors; plus many additional types and sizes from other manufacturers.

Aries Instruments Co.

58 Ushakova st.kv.39, Kherson, 325026 Ukraine

Phone: 380-55-227-9653

Models: 6-inch, 7-inch and 8-inch apochromatic refractors.

Astro-Physics, Inc.

11250 Forest Hill Rd., Rockford, IL 61115

Phone: 815-282-1513

Web site: www.astro-physics.com

Models: 130 mm, 140 mm, 160 mm and 175 mm “Starfire” apochromatic refractors.

Astro-Tech (Astronomy Technologies/Astronomics)

110 E. Main Street, Norman, OK 73069

Phone: 800-422-7876

Web site: www.astronomytechnologies.com, E-mail: info@astronomytechnologies.com

Models (all optical tube assemblies only): 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Newtonian reflectors; 72 mm achromatic refractors (available in six different tube colors); 90 mm, 106 mm, 111 mm and 130 mm apochromatic refractors; plus 8-inch and 10-inch Dobsonian reflectors; 6-inch to 16-inch Ritchey-Chretien reflectors.

Barska

855 Towne Center Dr., Pomona, CA 91767

Phone: 1-888-666-6769

Web site: <http://www.shopbarska.com/Products-Telescopes.html>

Models: 50 mm, 60 mm, 65 mm 70 mm and 80 mm achromatic refractors; 114 mm Newtonian reflector; plus brass telescopes.

Boller & Chivens Division/Perkin-Elmer Corporation
South Pasadena, CA

Models: 16-inch to 36-inch Cassegrain reflectors for advanced amateurs and professional observatories. Perkin-Elmer itself did the optics for the famed Hubble Space Telescope.

Boren-Simon PowerNewt Astrographs

Rishon LeZion, Israel

Web site: <http://www.powernewts.com>, E-mail: info@powernewts.com

Model: 8-inch astrograph/convertible Newtonian reflector.

Borg Telescopes/Hutech Corp.

23505 Crenshaw Blvd., #212Torrance, CA 90505

Phone: 310-325-5511

Web site: www.astrrohutech.com

Models: 3-inch and 4-inch achromatic refractors; 71 mm, 3.1-inch, 3.5-inch and 5.5-inch apochromatic refractors.

Brandon Optical

(See VERNONscope)

Brashear (John) Optical Co.

Pittsburgh, PA

Models: achromatic refractors to 30-inch; Newtonian and Cassegrain reflectors to 72-inch aperture for professional observatories, plus many college observatory and amateur-class instruments (primarily refractors) 4-inch to 12-inch in aperture. Later became J.W. Fecker (see below). The company was eventually taken over by Contraves-Goerz and operates today as Brashear LP, manufacturing custom-made, ultra-large-aperture telescopes (325-inch-class!) for astronomical research and military applications.

Bushnell Performance Optics/Bausch & Lomb

Overland Park, KS

Models: 4.5-inch "Voyager" RFT reflector; 3-inch, 4.5-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors; 90mm Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptric. Also marketed a series of small-aperture, low-end achromatic refractors which, unfortunately, used many plastic parts in the tube assemblies and mountings. B&L took over Criterion Manufacturing (see below), and for a number of years sold its "Dynamax" 6-inch and 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptrics under their name, adding a 4-inch model to the line as well. Bushnell itself is now effectively out of the telescope market, concentrating instead on sports optics (see previous chapter on Binocular Sources).

Cave Optical Co.

Long Beach, CA

Models: famed line of "Astrola" 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch RFT reflectors; 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch, 16-inch and 18-inch Newtonian reflectors; 8-inch,

10-inch, 12.5-inch and 16-inch Cassegrain reflectors; 4-inch and 6-inch achromatic refractors.

Celestron International

2835 Columbia St., Torrance, CA 90503

Phone: 310-328-9560

Web site: www.celestron.com

Models: 5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch, 9.25-inch, 11-inch and 14-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 4-inch and 5-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 60 mm, 70 mm, 3.1-inch, 4-inch and 6-inch achromatic refractors; 4-inch apochromatic refractor; 4.5-inch, 5.1-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors; 4.5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch, 11-inch, 14-inch and 17.5-inch Dobsonian reflectors; “FirstScope” beginner’s 3-inch Newtonian reflector on tabletop mounting. In its early years, Celestron originally made 10-inch, 16-inch and 22-inch Schmidt-Cassegrains, many of which are still in use today. The original 8-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain (or “C8”) rapidly became the largest selling and most popular telescope in the world after the ubiquitous 60mm (2.4-inch) imported refractors.

Ceravolo Optical Systems

93 Hines Rd., Unit 1 Katana, Ontario, Canada K2K 2M5

Phone: 613-592-2373

Web site: <http://www.ceravolo.com>, E-mail: contact@ceravolo.com

Model: 300 mm aperture Corrected-Dall-Kirkham astrograph. Formerly offered a superb 8.5-inch Schmidt-Newtonian reflector.

Cheshire Instruments

Atlanta, GA

Models: custom-made achromatic refractors from 5-inches to 12-inches aperture in classic-style brass tubes.

Chicago Optical

Morton Grove, IL

Models: 4-inch and 6-inch RFT reflectors.

Clark (Alvan) & Sons

Cambridgeport, MA

Models: achromatic refractors to 36-inch (Lick Observatory) and 40-inch (Yerkes Observatory) aperture, plus numerous 4-inch to 12-inch aperture refractors for college observatories and amateur astronomers. Clark instruments are considered classics and are much sought-after collector’s items in the smaller sizes today.

Coast Instrument, Inc.

Long Beach., CA

Models: 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch and 12.5-inch Newtonian reflectors; 10-inch Cassegrain.

Coronado (Division of Meade Instruments)

6001 Oak Canyon, Irvine, CA 92618

Phones: 949-451-1450/800-919-4047

Web site: www.meade.com

Models: dedicated solar telescopes—40 mm to 140 mm aperture refractors with internal Hydrogen-Alpha or Calcium-K narrow bandpass filters. Table-top altazimuth mounts.

Coulter Optical Company, Inc.
Idyllwild, CA

Models: the world's first commercial Dobsonian reflector was Coulter's 13.1-inch "Odyssey-I," followed by 8-inch, 10.1-inch, 17.5-inch and 27-inch instruments. After Coulter went out of business, some of the Odyssey models were reintroduced for a short while by Murnaghan Instruments (see below), but the Dobsonian line itself was then discontinued. (Murnaghan still offers 6-inch and 8-inch Odyssey Dobsonian kits.)

Criterion Manufacturing Co. (later Criterion Scientific Instruments)
Hartford, CT

Models: classic "Dynascope" series of 4-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors. The superb RV-6, 6-inch became one of the best-selling telescopes of all time and is still widely sought-after by observers and collectors today. Criterion also later manufactured 6-inch and 8-inch "Dynamax" Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptrics. The company was eventually taken over by Bushnell/Bausch & Lomb (see above).

D&G Optical Co.

2075 Creek Rd., Manheim, PA 17545

Phone: 717-665-2076

Web site: www.dgoptical.com

Models: 5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch achromatic refractors (optical tube assemblies), plus larger sizes custom-made to order; 30-inch Cassegrain reflector.

DFM Engineering, Inc.

1035 Delaware Ave., Unit D, Longmont, CO 80501

Phone: 303-678-8143

Web site: www.dfmengineering.com, E-mail: sales@dfmengineering.com

Models: computer controlled custom-made, observatory-class Cassegrain reflectors 16-inch to 50-inch in aperture

DGM Optics

P.O. Box 120, Westminster, MA 01473

Phone: 978-874-2985

Web site: www.erols.com/dgmoptics

Models: 4-inch to 8-inch aperture off-axis Newtonian reflectors.

Discovery Telescopes

28752 Marquerite Parkway, Unit 12, Mission Viejo, CA 92692

Phone: 877-523-4400

Web site: www.discoverytelescope.com/

Models: 12.5-inch, 15-inch, 17.5-inch, 20-inch and 24-inch Dobsonian reflectors and additional instruments—nearly all from other manufacturers.

Dobbins Instrument Co.

Lyndhurst, OH

Models: 4.5-inch, 5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch achromatic refractors; 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Newtonian reflectors.

Ealing Optics Division/The Ealing Corp.

Cambridge, MA

Models: 12-inch to 30-inch Cassegrain reflectors.

Eastman Optical

Manhattan Beach, CA

Model: 4-inch Newtonian-Cassegrain reflector; 102 mm, 127 mm and 152 mm achromatic refractors; 80 mm, 102 mm, 127 mm and 152 mm apochromatic refractors; 152 mm Maksutov-Newtonian reflector.

(Edmund) Scientifics Direct (formerly Edmund Scientifics)

532 Main St., Tonawanda, NY 14150

Phone: 800-728-6999

Web site: www.scientificsonline.com

Model: 4.25-inch Astroscan-Plus RFT reflector (see Edmund Scientific below).

Edmund Scientific Co.

Barrington, NJ

Models: creator of the 4.25-inch famed “Astroscan” RFT, which was eventually sold to Edmund Scientifics (an independent company—see above). Edmund also offered early 3-inch, 4.25-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch basic Newtonian reflectors. Its subsequently introduced upgraded line of 3-inch, 4.25-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonians, plus 60mm and 3-inch achromatic refractors, was eventually discontinued when the decision was made to concentrate on industrial and military rather than hobbyist optics.

Essential Optics

Big Bear City, CA

Models: 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch, 14-inch and 18-inch Newtonian reflectors.

Explore Scientific/Bresser

621 Madison Street, Springdale, AZ 72762

Phone: 888-599-7597 or 866-252-3811

Web site: <http://explorescientific.com>

Models: 102 mm, 127 mm and 157 mm achromatic refractors; 80 mm and 102 mm apochromatic refractors; “David Levy Comet Hunter” 6-inch Maksutov-Newtonian.

Fecker (J.W.), Inc.

Pittsburgh, PA

Models: 4-inch “Celestar” Newtonian reflector; 6-inch “Celestar” Maksutov-Cassegrain reflector. Also made many large observatory-class Newtonian and

Cassegrain reflectors from 24-inches to 72-inches aperture. Successor to the John Brashear Optical Company (see above).

Fitz (Henry)
New York, NY

Models: 4-inch to 13-inch achromatic refractors by one of America's earliest telescope makers (mid-1800s).

Galileo Telescopes/Galileo Visions—Discipline Marketing, Inc.
Miami, FL

Models: 50 mm, 60 mm, 72 mm and 80 mm achromatic refractors; 80 mm, 90 mm, 102 mm and 120 mm Newtonian reflectors. Were frequently seen marketed on the QVC and HSN television networks in the past.

Garth Optical
Springfield, MA

Models: 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors.

Goto Optical Manufacturing Co.

Tokyo, Japan

Web site: <http://www.goto.co.jp/english/index.html>

Models: 4-inch and 5-inch apochromatic refractors; 5-inch and 8.4-inch Newtonian reflectors; 7.9-inch coude reflector; 17.7-inch Cassegrain reflector. (Goto is a noted planetarium manufacturer.)

Grubb Parsons

Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Models: 18-inch and larger Newtonian and Cassegrain reflectors for professional (and some private) observatories. This historic company had produced many world-class instruments, including the 100-inch Isaac Newton and 170-inch William Herschel telescopes.

Hardin Optical

Bandon, OR

Models: 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Helios Telescopes/Optical Vision Ltd.

Suffolk, UK

Web site: www.opticalvision.co.uk

Models: apochromatic refractors, Newtonian reflectors, Maksutov-Newtonians and Maksutov-Cassegrains of various apertures.

Infinity Scopes

P.O. Box 69207, Oro Valley, AZ 85737

Phone: 520-248-0932

Web site: www.infinityscopes.com

Models: Light-weight, highly-portable 8-inch fork-mounted Newtonian reflectors.

Intes Micro Company, Ltd.

Moscow, Russia

Models: 5-inch, 6-inch, 7-inch and 8-inch Maksutov-Newtonian catadioptrics; 6-inch to 16-inch aperture Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics. (Not related to Intes Telescopes.)

Intes Telescopes

Moscow, Russia

Models: 6-inch, 7-inch and 9-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 6-inch and 7-inch Maksutov-Newtonian catadioptrics.

iOptron

6F Gill Street

Woburn, MA 01801

Phone: 866-399-4587

Web site: www.ioptron.com, E-mail: support@ioptron.com

Models: 90 mm achromatic refractor and 108 mm apochromatic refractor; 114 mm reflector; 90 mm and 150 mm Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics. (All models optical tube assemblies only. 50 mm, 70 mm and 80 mm achromatic refractors; 71 mm, 81 mm, 102 mm and 108 mm apochromatic refractors; 150 mm Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptric; 114 mm Newtonian reflector. (All models with mountings.) Also 60 mm white light and standard solar telescopes (refractors).

Jaegers (A.)

Lynbrook, NY

Models: Well-known in past for their achromatic objectives up to 6-inches in aperture for those wishing to assemble their own refractors.

Jim's Mobile, Inc. (JMI)

8550 West 14th Ave., Lakewood, CO 80215

Phones: 303-233-5359/800-247-0304

Web site: www.jimsmobile.com, E-mail: info@jmitlescopes.com

Models: 6-inch, 12.5-inch and 18-inch "Next Generation Telescope" Newtonian reflectors; 6-inch RFT tabletop reflector; 25-inch, 30-inch and 40-inch altazimuth-mounted folded Newtonian reflectors (the 40-inch being trailer mounted!). (See also Chap. 8 for their 6-inch to 16-inch binocular telescopes.)

Konus

Pescantina, Italy

Web site: www.konus.com

Models: 3.1-inch, 3.5-inch, 4-inch, 4.7-inch and 6-inch achromatic refractors; 4.5-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors.

LiteBox Telescopes

1452 Kamole St., Honolulu, HI 96821

Phone: 808-542-6858

Web site: www.liteboxtelescopes.com, E-mail: barry@liteboxtelescopes.com

Models: 10-inch to 18-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

LOMO America

3031 Commercial Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062

Phones: 888-446-7842

Web site: www.lomoamerica.com, E-mail: info@lomoamerica.com

Models: 2.8-inch to 8-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 4-inch to 8-inch Maksutov-Newtonian catadioptrics; plus ultra-large observatory instruments (up to 240-inches in aperture!)—all made in Russia.

Lunt Solar Systems

2520N. Coyote Drive—Suite 111, Tucson, AZ 85745

Phone: 520-344-7348

Web site: www.luntsolarsystems.com

Models (optical tube assemblies only): 60 mm solar telescopes (Hydrogen-Alpha and Calcium-K filtered).

Mag One Instruments

W3012 County E, Chilton, WI 53014

Phone: 920-849-9151

Web site: www.mag1instruments.com

Models: 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch and 14.5-inch “PortaBall” Newtonian reflectors (ball-mounted similar to the Edmund Scientifics Astroscan).

Meade Instruments Corp.

27 Hubble, Irvine, CA 92618

Phones: 800-626-3233

Web site: www.meade.com

Models: 60 mm, 70 mm, 80 mm, 90 mm, 5-inch and 6-inch achromatic refractors; 4-inch, 5-inch, 6-inch and 7-inch apochromatic refractors; 6-inch Newtonian reflector; 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch Schmidt-Newtonian reflectors; 90 mm, 105 mm, 125 mm and 7-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 8-inch, 10-inch, 12-inch, 14-inch and 16-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 8-inch, 10-inch, 12-inch, 14-inch, 16-inch and 20-inch “Advanced Coma Free” Schmidt-Cassegrain configuration (similar to Ritchey-Chrétien design); “LightBride” 10-inch, 12-inch, 14-inch and 16-inch, Dobsonian reflectors.

Murnaghan Instruments

1781 Primrose Lane, West Palm Beach, FL 33414

Phone: 561-795-2201

Web site: <http://www.e-scopes.cc/>

Models: market Coulter Optical’s “Odyssey” 6-inch and 8-inch Dobsonian reflector kits.

Novosibirsk Instruments/TAL Instruments

Novosibirsk, Russia

Web site: <http://www.telescopes.ru/>

Models: 2.5-inch to 6-inch Newtonian reflectors, 4-inch and 5-inch refractors; 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch modified Maksutov-Cassegrains.

Obsession Telescopes

P.O. Box 804, Lake Mills, WI 53551

Phone: 920-699-5571

Web site: www.obsessiontelescopes.com

Models: 12.5-inch, 15-inch, 18-inch, 20-inch, 22-inch and 25-inch Dobsonian reflectors. (Also formerly offered 30-inch and 32-inch aperture Dobsonians.)

Officina Stellare

Milan, Italy

Web site: www.officinastellare.com

E-mail: info@officianastellare.com

Models: 14-inch, 16-inch, 20-inch and 24-inch Ritchey-Chretien astrographic reflectors; modified 12-inch Dall-Kirkham reflector; 10-inch modified Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptric; plus numerous other special-design astrographs of various apertures for astroimaging applications.

Olivon Manufacturing Group

Canada—Web site: www.olivonmanufacturing.com, E-mail: olivonoptics@gmail.com

Europe—Web site: www.olivon-europe.com, E-mail: sales@olivon-europe.com

Models: 50 mm, 60 mm (five different focal lengths) and 70 mm (three different focal lengths) achromatic refractors; 76 mm (two different focal lengths), 114 mm (three different focal lengths) and 130 mm reflectors.

Optical Craftsmen (The)

Chatsworth, CA

Models: 3-inch to 16-inch Newtonian, Cassegrain and Newtonian-Cassegrain reflectors. Their 8-inch “Discoverer” Newtonian was one of the finest amateur instruments in its aperture class ever made.

Optical Guidance Systems

2450 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, PA 19006

Phone: 215-947-5571

Web site: www.opticalguidancesystems.com

E-mail: ogsmail@opticalguidanceststems.com

Models: 10-inch to 32-inch Cassegrain reflectors; 10-inch to 40-inch Ritchey-Chretien reflectors.

Optical Techniques, Inc.

Newtown, PA

Models: 4-inch and 6-inch “Quantum” Maksutov-Cassegrains, manufactured by former Questar employees who started their own company.

Orion Optics UK

Cheshire, UK

Web site: www.orionoptics.co.uk

Models: 4.5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Newtonian reflectors; 5.5-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptric. (Not related to Orion Telescopes & Binoculars, next.)

Orion Telescopes & Binoculars

10555S. De Anza Blvd., Cupertino, CA 95014

Phones: 408-255-8770/800-447-1001

Web site: www.OrionTelescopes.com

Models: 80 mm RFT achromatic refractor; 60 mm, 70 mm, 90 mm and 4.7-inch achromatic refractors; 80 mm, 100 mm and 109 mm apochromatic refractors; 90 mm, 102 mm, 127 mm and 7.1-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 9.25-inch Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptric; 4.5-inch, 5-inch, 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch Newtonian reflectors; 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Dobsonian reflectors; 4.5-inch and 6-inch “StarBlast” RFT Dobsonian reflectors; 7.5-inch Maksutov-Newtonian reflector; 8-inch Newtonian astrograph reflector (tube assembly only). Beginner’s 3-inch altazimuth reflector, and 100 mm reflector and 80 mm refractor (both tabletop mounted).

Pacific Telescope Co./Synta Optical Technology Corp. (Suzhou, China)

Richmond, BC, Canada

Phone: 604-241-7027

Web site: www.skywatchertelescope.com

Models: 3.1-inch, 3.5-inch, 4-inch, 4.7-inch and 6-inch achromatic refractors; 80 mm, 100 mm and 120 mm apochromatic refractors; 4.5-inch, 5.1-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors; 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Parallax Instruments

P.O. Box 327, Youngsville, NC 27596

Phone: 919-570-3140

Web site: www.parallaxinstruments.com, E-mail: tscopes@sover.net

Models: 10-inch to 16-inch Newtonian, Cassegrain, and Dall-Kirkham reflectors (optical tube assemblies and complete instruments).

Parks Optical

750 Easy St., Simi Valley, CA 93065

Phone: 805-522-6722/800-420-0255

Web site: www.parksoptical.com, E-Mail: parksoptical@parksoptical.com

Models: 60 mm and 80 mm achromatic refractors; 6-inch, 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch and 16-inch Newtonian reflectors; 6-inch to 16-inch Newtonian-Cassegrain reflectors.

Pentax Corp.

Englewood, CO

Models: 65 mm, 85 mm and 100 mm achromatic refractors; 65 mm, 75 mm, 85 mm and 100 mm apochromatic refractors. Pentax still markets a line of binoculars (see Chap. 8) and digital cameras.

Photon Instrument, Ltd.

122 E. Main St., Mesa, AZ 85201

Phones: 480-835-1767/800-574-2589

Web site: www.photoninstrument.com, E-mail: telescopes@photoninstrument.com

Models: 127 mm and 152 mm apochromatic refractors. Photon is also one of the premier companies for telescope repair and restoration (amateur and professional class).

PlaneWave Instruments

1819 Kona Drive, Rancho Domingues, CA 90220

Phone: 310-639-1662

Web site: www.PlaneWave.com, E-mail: astronomer@planewave.com

Models: 12.5-inch, 17-inch, 20-inch and 24-inch “Corrected” Dall-Kirkham reflector tube assemblies, plus mounts by other manufacturers. Also custom-made observatory-class fully-mounted larger instruments.

Questar Corp.

6204 Ingham Rd., New Hope, PA 18938

Phone: 215-862-5277

Web site: www.questarcorporation.com, E-mail: questar@questarcorporation.com

Models: 3.5-inch and 7-inch “Questar” Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics. Also 12-inch aperture custom-made Maksutov-Cassegrain observatory model upon special order. The 3.5-inch Questar was the world’s first commercial catadioptric telescope and early models are much sought after by collectors today.

RC Optical Systems

1650 South Plaza Way, Suite 101, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Phone: 928-526-5380

Web site: www.rcopticalsystems.com

Models: 10-inch to 34-inch Ritchey-Chretien reflectors.

RVR/Asko

Rochester, NY

Models: 12.2-inch, 15.7-inch and 17.7-inch Newtonian reflectors.

Sky-Liner Instruments

Tucson, AZ

Models: 6-inch to 14-inch Newtonian reflectors; custom-made reflectors to 24-inches.

Skyscope

Brooklyn, NY

Model: marvelous little 3.5-inch. reflector with 60× eyepiece that got many stargazers of the past generation started in astronomy at an affordable price.

Sky Valley Scopes

Snohomish, WA

Models: 12-inch to 18-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Sky-Watcher U.S.A.

Web site: www.skywatcherusa.com

Models: "Sky-Watcher" 80 mm, 120 mm and 150 mm apochromatic refractors; 8-inch, 10-inch and 12-inch Dobsonian reflectors. Marketed by Celestron.

Spacek Instrument Co.

Pottstown, PA

Models: 3-inch, 4-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch Newtonian reflectors; 12-inch Cassegrain reflector; 6-inch refractor; 10-inch Newtonian-Maksutov camera.

S&S Optika

Englewood, CO

Model: excellent affordable 6-inch Newtonian reflector.

Stargazer Steve

Sudbury, ON, Canada

Web site: <http://stargazer.isys.ca>

E-mail: stargazer@isys.ca

Models: 4.25-inch and 6-inch altazimuth Newtonian reflector kits; 4.25-inch, 6-inch and 10-inch Dobsonian reflector kits.

Star Liner

Tucson, AZ

Models: 6-inch, 8-inch and 16-inch Newtonian reflectors; 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch and 14.25-inch Cassegrain reflectors.

StarMaster Telescopes

2160 Birch Rd., Arcadia, KS 66711

Phone: 620-638-4743

Web site: www.starmastertelescopes.com, E-mail: starmaster@ckt.net

Models: 11-inch, 12.5-inch, 14.5-inch, 16-inch, 18-inch, 20-inch, 22-inch, 24-inch, 28-inch and 30-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Starsplitter Telescopes

Thousand Oaks, CA

Models: 8-inch, 10-inch, 12.5-inch, 15-inch, 18-inch, 20-inch, 24-inch, 28-inch and 30-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Stellarvue

11820 Kemper Rd., Auburn, CA 95603

Phone: 530-823-7796

Web site: www.stellarvue.com, E-mail: mail@stellarvue.com

Models: 3.1-inch and 4-inch achromatic refractors; 4-inch semi-apochromatic refractor; 4-inch, 5.1-inch and 6.4-inch apochromatic refractors.

Swift Instruments, Inc./Swift Optical

Boston, MA

Models: 2.4-inch and 3-inch achromatic refractors.

Takahashi America

1925A Richmond Ave., Houston, TX 77098

Phone: 713-529-3551

Web site: www.TakahashiAmerica.com

Models: 2.4-inch, 3-inch, 3.5-inch, 4-inch, 4.2-inch, 5-inch, 6-inch and 8-inch apochromatic refractors; 5.2-inch, 6.3-inch and 7.9-inch Newtonian reflectors; 8.3-inch Newtonian-Cassegrain reflector; 7.1-inch, 8.3-inch, 9.8-inch and 11.8-inch Dall-Kirkham reflectors; 10-inch Ritchey-Chretien reflector. Also 6.3-inch, 8.3-inch and 9.8-inch modified Newtonian short-focus reflectors with hyperbolic primary mirror and four-element corrector/field flattener lens for both wide-field astrographic and visual use.

Tasco/Bushnell Performance Optics

9200 Cody St., Overland Park, KS 66214

Phone: 800-423-3537

Web site: www.tasco.com

Models: 60 mm and 70 mm achromatic refractors; 114 mm Newtonian reflector. Tasco was long the largest and best-known of numerous companies (including Jason/Empire, Sears, and Mayflower) importing and marketing small achromatic refractors from the Orient. It has since been taken over by Bushnell (see above).

Tectron Telescopes

Chiefland, FL

Models: 20-inch and 25-inch Dobsonian reflectors.

Telescope Engineering Co.

15730 West 6th Ave., Golden, CO 80401

Phone: 303-273-9322

Web site: www.telescopengineering.com, E-mail: tec@telescopeengineering.com

Models: 6-inch, 8-inch and 10-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain catadioptrics; 7-inch and 8-inch Maksutov-Newtonian catadioptrics; 140–200 mm apochromatic refractors.

Tele Vue Optics, Inc.

32 Elkay Dr., Chester, NY 10918

Phone: 845-469-4551

Web site: www.TeleVue.com

Models: 60 mm, 76 mm, 85 mm, 101 mm and 127 mm state-of-the-art apochromatic refractors. (Tele Vue also manufactures the famed “Nagler” series of highly-corrected, ultra-wide-angle eyepieces designed by company founder and optical genius Al Nagler.)

3-B Optical Co.

Mars, PA

Models: 6-inch to 12-inch Dall-Kirkham reflector optics kits. Their ads in *Sky & Telescope* magazine caused quite a sensation with their bolded header “3-

MILES FROM MARS!” (implying that the Red Planet could be seen that close up with their optics, but actually referring to their address!).

Tinsley Laboratories, Inc.

Berkeley, CA

Models: 3-inch and 4-inch achromatic refractors; 5-inch Maksutov-Cassegrain; 12-inch Cassegrain reflector. Also supplier of large observatory-class telescopes.

TMB Optics

Cleveland, OH 44144 (Orders being taken by Astronomics—see above.)

Web site: www.tmboptical.com, E-mail: tmboptical@aol.com

Models: 80 mm, 92 mm and 130 mm apochromatic refractors.

Unertl (John) Optical

Pittsburgh, PA

Models: 60–90 mm short-focus achromatic refractors (essentially spotting scopes); custom-made reflectors of various sizes and types, including an 8-inch aperture modified Cassegrain with stationary eyepiece.

Unitron, Inc.

Bohemia, NY

Models: 2.4-inch, 3-inch and 4-inch achromatic refractors. Unitron refractors produced from the early 1950s to the early 1970s are considered classics, and are much sought-after today on the used market by observers and collectors alike. At one time Unitron offered as many as 26 models, ranging from 1.6-inch to 6-inch aperture!

Vega Instrument Co.

Palo Alto, CA

Model: 6-inch Maksutov-Newtonian prized by collectors.

VERNONscope/Brandon Optical

Ithaca, NY

Models: 94 mm and 130 mm apochromatic refractors. Brandon made an excellent 3-inch achromatic refractor in the past and was famous for their “Brandon” eyepieces, which are still manufactured by VERNONscope today.

Vixen North America/Tele Vue Optics

32 Elkay Dr., Chester, NY 10918

Phone: 845-469-8660

Web site: www.VixenAmerica.com

Models: 60 mm, 80 mm, 90 mm, 102 mm, 4.7-inch and 5.1-inch achromatic refractors; 80 mm, 102 mm, 4.5-inch and 5.1-inch apochromatic refractors; 8-inch Cassegrain reflector; 7.9-inch Newtonian reflector; 8-inch hybrid Schmidt-Cassegrain catadioptric with meniscus corrector.

William Optics USA

Taipei, Taiwan

Web site: <http://www.williamoptics.com>/E-mail: wo@william-optics.com

Models: 80–158 mm apochromatic refractors.

Yashica Co. Ltd.

Tokyo, Japan

Models: Achromatic refractors to 4-inch aperture; Newtonian reflectors to 10-inches.

Zeiss (Carl) Jena

Jena, Germany

Zeiss withdrew from the amateur telescope market in 1994 and discontinued making instruments smaller than 16-inches in aperture to concentrate on their world-class large observatory models. Four superb Zeiss apochromatic refractors of 4-inch (100 mm), 5-inch (130 mm) and 6-inch (150 mm) aperture and a 7-inch (180 mm) Maksutov-Cassegrain were marketed briefly through their U.S. distributor, Seiler Instrument & Manufacturing Company in St. Louis, MO. Many of these fine instruments are actively in use today by observers who wanted to have the finest optics money could buy. (Zeiss is a noted planetarium manufacturer.)

Zhumell

9394 West Dodge Road, Suite 300, Omaha, NE 68114

Phone: 800-303-5873

Web site: www.zhumell.com

Models: 60 mm and 70 mm achromatic refractors; 114 mm reflector; 8-inch, 10-inch and 1-inch Dobsonian reflectors.