

Tele Vue's New Delos Eyepieces

U.S. price: \$345 estimated street price
Tele Vue dealers worldwide
www.televue.com



S&T: DENNIS DI CICCIO

Tele Vue has a new line of eyepieces. But unlike the company's most recent product introductions, this one doesn't push the optical envelope — at least not when you look at it on paper. Looking *through* the eyepieces, however, is a different matter.

With a family resemblance to the groundbreaking Ethos line, the physically smaller Delos eyepieces are made in 6- and 10-mm focal lengths (more are planned). Their 72° apparent fields rank behind those of the 100° Ethos and 82° Nagler designs, but are larger than the highly regarded 68° Panoptics.

The Delos models have a touch more than 20 mm of eye relief, making them comfortable for the majority of those who wear eyeglass. And they are compatible with Tele Vue's Dioptx astigmatism correctors. The eyepieces have sliding eye guards that are infinitely adjustable (no click stops) and lock in place with a collet when you twist the

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WHAT WE LIKE:

Essentially perfect optics
"Immersive" observing experience

WHAT WE DON'T LIKE:

Trying to nail down why the observing experience is so pleasurable

textured grips in opposite directions. I really like this feature, since it keeps the eye guard fixed when I'm swapping eyepieces in and out of scopes.

Delos is the Greek island that mythology holds as the birthplace of Apollo (god of light) and his twin sister, Artemis (goddess of the Moon). Furthermore, the name pays homage to Tele Vue's Paul Dellechiaie, who did the optical design for the Delos and Ethos lines.

The Delos eyepieces I tried were on loan from Tele Vue. Made to test different styles of barrel engraving, they were otherwise identical

to production models. I spent several nights viewing the Moon, Saturn, stars, and nebulae with a variety of telescopes, including a 6-inch f/12 Maksutov, a 12-inch f/5 Newtonian, and a Tele Vue NP-101 (4-inch f/5.4) apo refractor.

The Delos eyepieces are "easy" to look through despite the need to position your eye carefully in the exit pupil. They have flat fields, delivering absolute pinpoint stars from edge to edge with no hit of color aberration. The view, especially during the daytime, is very pure with no noticeable color tint. And there wasn't a hint of ghosts or reflections, even with the brightest stars. To be fair, I wasn't expecting less, given the high standards Tele Vue has obviously set for itself with its recent eyepiece designs.

What caught me a bit off guard, however, was something that's best described as the observing experience. It was distinctly pleasurable. Realizing that such perceptions

are highly personal, I initially attributed it to the wide, yet defined, apparent field (I could see the entire circular field stop without moving my eye — something I find comforting). But after comparing views through many eyepieces, including one that, on paper, should have had a similar "feel" to the 10-mm Delos (a Tele Vue 9-mm Nagler type 6), I decided it was something else.

The Delos's very large eye lens is 1.4 inches (35 mm) wide, making it appear far out in my peripheral vision when I'm observing. As such, I have the sensation of looking out of a circular window rather than into an eyepiece. I have other eyepieces with large eye lenses, but the "window" effect seems more pronounced with the Delos. I'm curious to hear if others agree.

Regardless, Tele Vue has once again proven that we should never become complacent with the idea that the "last word" in eyepiece design has been written.