

Rother Valley Optics ED72

Over the last few weeks I've had the opportunity to try a new Rother Valley Optics Horizon 72ED.

My initial impression of this small refractor is that it is manufactured to an extremely high standard.

The scope is a 72mm diameter F6 doublet with a focal length of 432mm. The front element is made from superior quality FPL53 glass which provides nearly perfect colour correction and is suitable for both observing and, with the supplied field flattener, great for wide field imaging.

The supplied flattener is 1x (not a focal reducer) and provides perfectly shaped stars across and into the edges of an imaging field. Note that the imaging sensor should be set at the correct distance from the flattener. The flattener mounting and spacing, as supplied, are ideal for attaching most DSLRs without any additional spacing.

The scope is supplied with fixed tube rings and a Synta dovetail mounting plate. Another (shorter) plate is also supplied which is fixed to the top of these tube rings allowing for the attachment of the supplied matching guide scope. The guide scope is held rigidly by tube rings and adjusted by three thumbscrews on each ring so that it points at precisely the same target as the main scope. Thoughtfully, the guide scope is supplied with an eyepiece and illuminated reticule making alignment a straightforward process.

In use, the focuser feels solid and the 10:1 fine focus knob allows precise focus to be achieved easily.

Changing the eyepiece holder for the field flattener requires a small Allen key to loosen three lock screws and a small screwdriver to loosen three retaining screws. This allows the holder to be screwed off and replaced with the flattener. This is a simple process and printed instructions were supplied.

Individual laboratory test reports are provided with each scope which show excellent results. Each scope is protected by a lockable rugged aluminium fitted case.



RVO Horizon 72ED with guide scope



RVO Horizon 72ED front element



Focuser extended and with flattener fitted

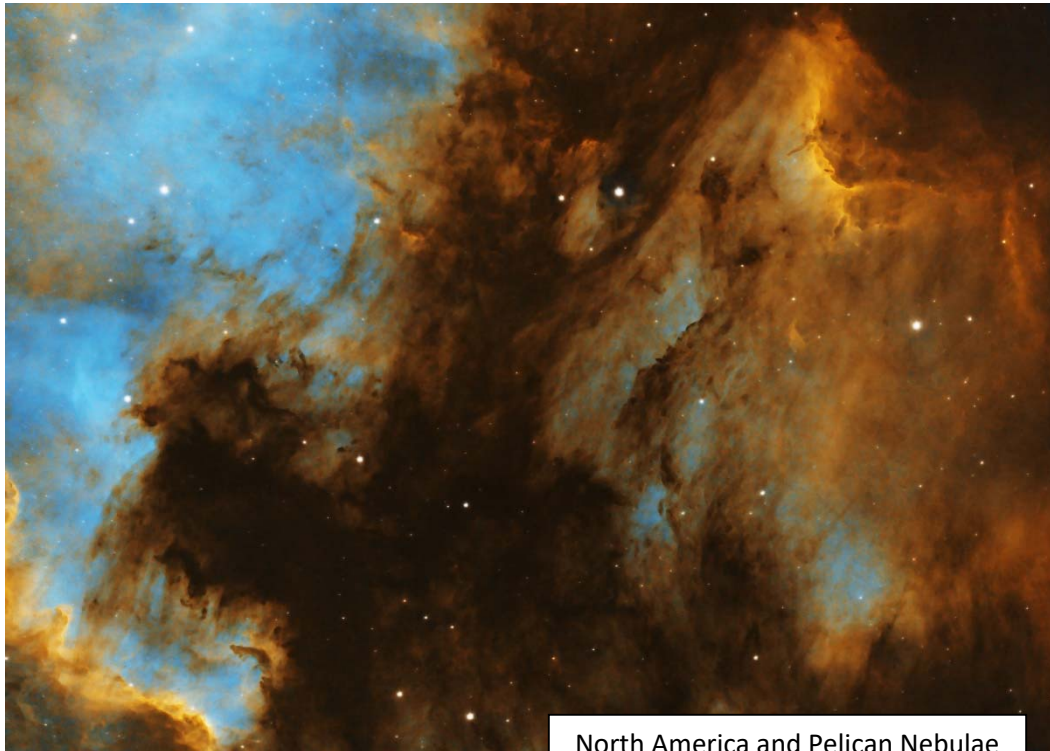


Dedicated flattener for Horizon



RVO Horizon Guide Scope

I attached my camera and filter wheel then mounted the scope and guide scope on my SkyWatcher EQ8 as I interested to see imaging results that could be achieved with this small scope. I was pleasantly surprised. The first image of the North America and Pelican Nebulae is shown here. This was 12 x 5-minute subs each through Ha, OIII and SII filters.



North America and Pelican Nebulae

I next photographed the Soul Nebula and was again pleased with the results. This image consists of 15 x 5-minute subs each through HA, OIII and SII filters.



Soul Nebula

The image below is cluster NGC1528 and the stars across the image are consistently good. This image was 16 x 60 seconds each through red, green and blue filters. The supplied field flattener performs very well.



This small scope is supplied as part of a comprehensive package and with most necessary accessories. Just add a camera, guide camera and mount to have a very capable and inexpensive wide field set up for good visual and excellent imaging capabilities.

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