



# Three Years After the IYA: An Update on the Galileoscope Project

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# What Is the Galileoscope?

A high-quality, low-cost telescope kit developed by a team of astronomers, optical engineers, and science educators for the 2009 International Year of Astronomy (IYA).

A 50-mm (2-inch) diameter, 25- to 50-power achromatic refractor designed to be put together by students. Assembly takes minutes and requires no tools, tape, or glue.



In contrast to other inexpensive telescope kits, the Galileoscope can be used effectively both in the classroom to investigate how lenses make images and outside under the stars as a tool for cosmic exploration.



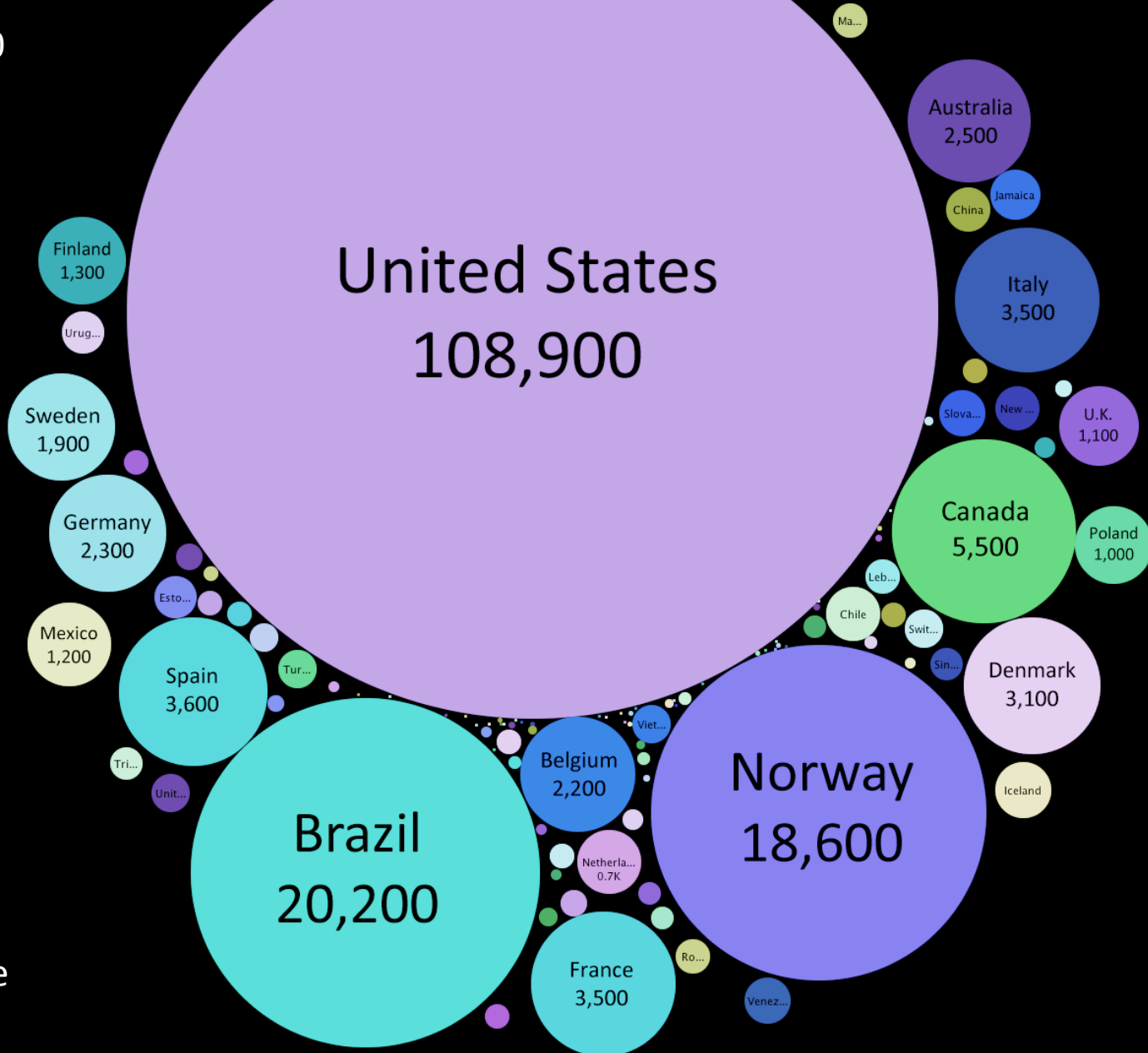
Even from brightly lit cities, with the Galileoscope anyone can see the celestial wonders that Galileo first glimpsed 400 years ago and that still delight stargazers today: lunar craters and mountains, four moons circling Jupiter, the phases of Venus, Saturn's rings, the Pleiades star cluster, sunspots (with a safe solar filter covering the aperture, of course), and more.

# Sales to Date

Approximately 190,000 Galileoscope kits have been delivered to recipients in 106 countries.

About one-third of the units were sold via 30,000 small orders from individuals, and about two-thirds were sold via 500 large orders from institutions.

More than 20,000 kits were donated to schools, some in the U.S. and some in poorer countries, chiefly in Africa and the Middle East.





Throughout the IYA kits were sold direct to individual and institutional customers via our website, priced in bulk at \$12.50 (later \$15.00) plus shipping, and individually at \$15 (later \$20) plus shipping.



Total sales to date have exceeded \$4.5 million.

# The Untold Story of a Difficult Birth

Our team worked hard to develop, produce, and distribute Galileoscopes so that people everywhere can experience the thrill of observing the cosmos through a telescope that they will be proud to own and that offers superior optics and mechanics, as well as demonstrable educational value, at the lowest possible cost.

It wasn't easy, and it almost didn't happen.

- The global economy crashed during the peak of IYA planning.
- This doomed our original plan to finance the design and manufacture of the Galileoscope with donations and/or loans.
- We had to spend personal funds to produce tooling for molds.

- We had to collect advance order revenue to pay for the initial manufacturing run.
- Days before unveiling the Galileoscope website, we became embroiled in a trademark dispute that delayed the launch.
- The lengthy period between receipt of the first orders and delivery of the first telescopes from our factory in China created a customer-service nightmare that our volunteer staff were ill-equipped to handle.



*Nevertheless, we did it!*

Three years after the IYA, the Galileoscope is still available; we have about 7,000 of them in inventory.

Sales of individual kits are now made through a growing network of retailers who typically charge from \$50 to \$60 per kit plus shipping.

We continue to sell Galileoscopes in bulk (by the case, 6 kits per case) direct to EPO professionals via our website:

**<http://galileoscope.org>**

The bulk price is \$150 per case (\$25 per kit) plus shipping. This approach facilitates the continued use of the kits in formal and informal educational venues, where budgets are often tight.

The prices are higher today because of increased costs and the requirement from retailers that they get a markup (i.e., profit margin).





You are here: [Home](#)

## The Galileoscope

No Other Telescope Shows So Much for So Little!



The Galileoscope is a high-quality, low-cost telescope kit developed by a team of leading astronomers, optical engineers, and science educators. No matter where you live, with this easy-to-assemble, 50-mm (2-inch) diameter, 25- to 50-power achromatic refractor, you can see the celestial wonders that Galileo Galilei first glimpsed 400 years ago and that still delight stargazers today. These include lunar craters and mountains, four moons circling Jupiter, the phases of Venus, Saturn's rings, and countless stars invisible to the unaided eye.

For more information about the Galileoscope and the educational and observational resources available to support it, see the links at upper right under "Learn More!"

### Three Ways to Order

1. To order 1 or more Galileoscope kits at the retail price, along with tripods and other optional accessories, please visit one of our retail partners:

- [Amazon.com](#)

### Shopping Cart

No products in the cart.

### Learn More!

[Why the Galileoscope?](#)  
[Frequently Asked Questions](#)  
[Specifications](#)  
[Assembly Instructions](#)  
[Observing & Activity Guides](#)  
[Support for Educators](#)  
[Telescopes4Teachers](#)  
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Go to <http://t.co/C4VWDAYx> to help fund the Telescopes4Teachers program!

21 days ago

Telescopes4Teachers is now on #Fundageek. Put #Galileoscopes into classrooms!

22 days ago

@carolinacistern The Galileoscope is available worldwide. Start at <http://t.co/EKo4VET3> and follow the links to our dealers.

31 days ago

Follow [@galileoscope](#) on Twitter

# Education & Activity Guides

Teaching materials developed for the Galileoscope are available for free. On our website, we have two educational guides adapted from the Hands-On Optics program, courtesy of our partners at the National Optical Astronomy Observatory (NOAO). One is on optics and how refracting telescopes work, and the other is on observing celestial objects with the Galileoscope.



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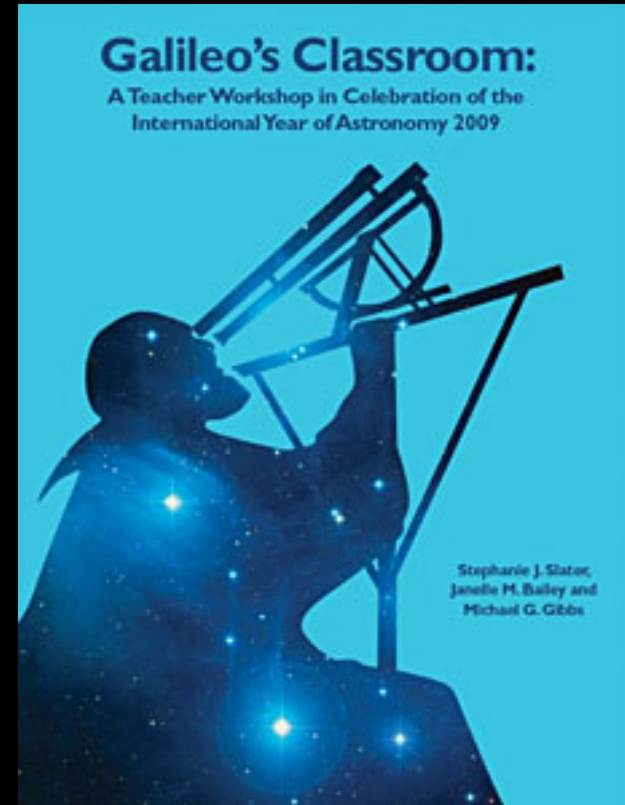


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# ***Galileo's Classroom***


*Galileo's Classroom: Activities & Materials for Teaching Astronomy* is a coherent set of educational materials that provide both content knowledge for classroom teachers and classroom-ready materials suitable for use with the Galileoscope in a variety of formal and informal settings. The activities have been selected from among thousands of available astronomy-related activities, based upon their utility in modeling Galileo's findings and on our current understanding of exemplary classroom practices. Free PDF:



<http://www.uwyo.edu/caper/galileos-classroom/index.html>




# TEACHING WITH TELESCOPIES



- Home
- Introduction
- One Week Program +
- Getting Started
- Assembling the Galileoscope
- Going Further +
- Giving a Workshop
- FAQ
- Troubleshooting
- Observing Guide

## Welcome



Teaching With Telescopes is designed to help teachers bring small telescopes into the classroom. We focus on the Galileoscope, a low cost, high optical quality telescope designed to let students recreate Galileo's historic observations. The Galileoscope was designed for the International Year of Astronomy by a team of leading astronomers, optical engineers, and science educators.

On this site you will find information about the Galileoscope, extensive assembly directions, an observing guide, and classroom activities using the Galileoscope. Teachers can take an online course on using the Galileoscope and participate in the discussion forum.

<http://TeachingWithTelescopes.org> from NOAO is designed to help teachers bring small telescopes into the classroom. They can take an online course on using the Galileoscope and participate in the discussion forum.

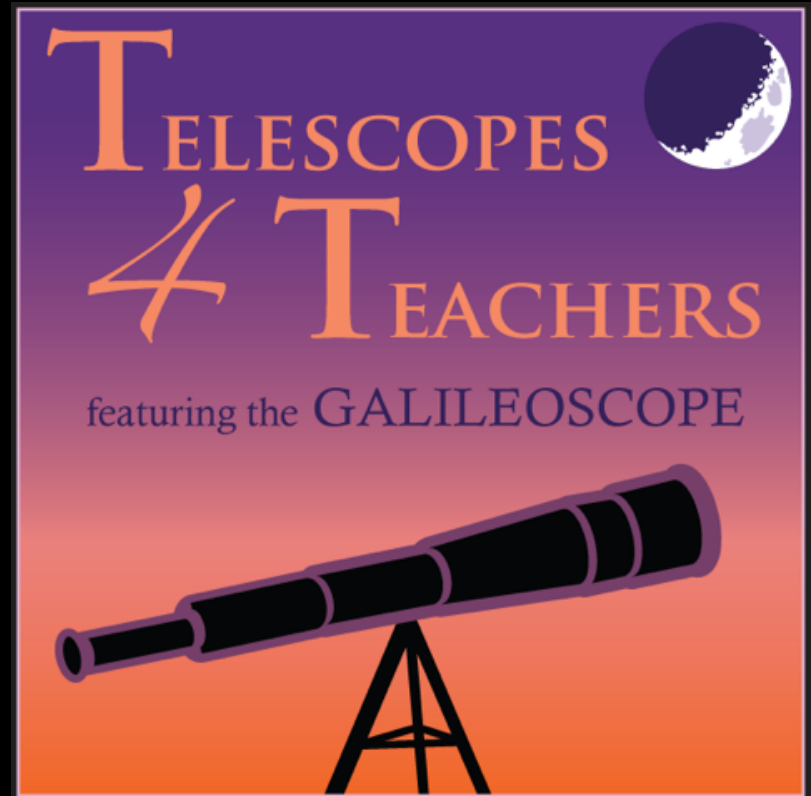
# Telescopes4Teachers

New partnership with Astrosphere New Media Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to improving science literacy:

<http://telescopes4teachers.org>

Supporters can make tax-deductible donations (U.S. only) of Galileoscopes to teachers and schools of their choosing.

This is in response to numerous requests from teachers for donated telescopes, and to equally numerous requests from customers for a way to donate telescopes to their local schools.





# How Telescopes4Teachers Works

***U.S. teachers:*** To receive free Galileoscopes, you need to find a donor or donors willing to contribute \$50 (1 kit) or \$200 (1 case of 6 kits) and to specify your school as the recipient.

***Outside the U.S.:*** You can contribute any amount (not tax-deductible) toward the purchase of Galileoscopes to be shipped to underserved schools throughout the world.

In partnership with the Galileo Teacher Training Program (GTTP) and the CosmoQuest citizen-science project, Astrosphere will identify teachers in financially struggling regions and provide them not only a case of Galileoscopes for their class, but also the training they need to teach astronomy effectively.



## Whither Galileoscope?

To guarantee the long-term availability of the Galileoscope, we need to find a telescope or science-kit manufacturer willing and able to take over the project and fund another production run.

We have met with numerous companies and organizations but have yet to find any takers. If you have ideas or suggestions, we're eager to hear them! In the meantime, we have enough inventory to fill orders at the current rate for another year or so.

### *Contact Info:*

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