Subject: Ping Mr. Vinyl
Posted by colinhester on Fri, 05 Oct 2007 23:28:37 GMT
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Thought you'd like this article, if you haven't already seen it. I've been looking for an 8"SC for myself (and the kids). I thnk my HOA would have a fit over the dome (although it really doesn't address this specifically)
http://www.nytimes.com/2007/10/04/garden/04observatories.html

Subject: Astronomy
Posted by Wayne Parham on Sat, 06 Oct 2007 04:56:31 GMT
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That's excellent, Colin.Melissa has been wanting to get a telescope. The thing that concerns me the most is ambient light. We live in an area that is pretty well lit at night, and that makes it hard to see. A private observatory would work a lot better in a rural area out in the country, away from city lights.

Subject: Re: Astronomy
Posted by colinhester on Sat, 06 Oct 2007 16:54:22 GMT
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Light polution is a pretty big issue as urban areas grow. Naked-eye observing is almost impossible from our yard. If I can see a magnitute 2 star, I feel pretty lucky. The new CCD/software packages seems to address this problem. Unlike the old days, telescopes can now be completely interfaced with home computes to the extent that one can sit at the kitchen table and observe with complete control and comfort. I used to like freezing my ass off just to look at the perfect sky, but now I'm way too old.I would love to have private observatory. Two issues would concern me: convenience and security. I have a hard enough time just walking downstairs and listening to my system. Also, theft and vandalism would always be a real possibility.....C

Subject: Re: Astronomy
Posted by Wayne Parham on Mon, 08 Oct 2007 06:44:40 GMT
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You're right about security. What do you think about having a glass window on the ceiling to look through? I suppose it might be too reflective and/or lossy but it would be one way of keeping the

telescope indoors. I like the idea of having a remote controlled shutter to open and close the window too.

Subject: Re: Astronomy
Posted by colinhester on Thu, 11 Oct 2007 00:51:55 GMT
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You're right about the glass being too lossy/reflective. I guess one could have optical glass (very flat) coated with an anti-reflective coating, which is done on higher-end scopes, but that would one 'spensive piece of glass. I imagine having an observatory on the hosue, mentioned in the original artice, would be less than ideal as well. I think the thermal currents from the roof would kill any high power observing.What kind of scope is Melissa looking at?.....C

Subject: Re: Astronomy
Posted by Wayne Parham on Thu, 11 Oct 2007 03:58:45 GMT
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Nothing specific yet, she just wants one.

Subject: Wow, very cool.
Posted by Mr Vinyl on Fri, 12 Oct 2007 14:39:29 GMT
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That would be nice. Sorry I didn't respond right away to your post. I only stop by infrequently. Thanks for posting it. Just tell the HOA your looking for God and you have a religious right. They probably won't bother you

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