

# The con-trick of cheap Chinese Digital Microscopes

By Mol Smith



This is the type of microscope you'll see on Amazon, E-bay, Alibaba, and elsewhere. They come in various styles with some boasting larger viewing screens and/or higher levels of magnification.

They promise levels of 100x to 1000x magnification and appear affordable, some sporting 4 star reviews. I bought one to take a look, knowing from experience what I was likely to get.

This is the advert on Amazon for the one I purchased.

## Digital Microscope, 4.3 Inch Coin Microscope 1000X, 1080P Compound, Coin Magnifier with 8 Adjustable LED Light, PC View, Compatible with MacOS Windows-Black

[Visit the Ashfly Store](#)

4.2 ★★★★★ (287)

£26<sup>99</sup>

✓prime One-Day

FREE Returns ▼

**Voucher:** ☐ Apply 5% voucher [Terms](#)

Size Name: **4.3 Inch**

**4.3 Inch**

£26.99  
FREE Delivery  
Tomorrow

**7 Inch**

£49.99  
FREE Delivery  
Tomorrow by 1PM



Light source type LED

Model name 366-C

Material Plastic

Colour Black

Real angle of view 30 Degrees

Magnification maximum 1000 x

Brand Ashfly

Compatible devices Personal Computer

Objective lens description Achromatic

Power source Battery Powered

[See more](#)

[About this item](#)

This professional digital microscope system features a 4.3-inch IPS screen, ensuring consistent image quality from any viewing angle. Immerse yourself in vibrant colours and crisp imagery, whether you're a professional or an amateur enthusiast

Discover the marvels of the microscopic world! This 4.3-inch screen microscope boasts a magnification of up to 500 times, allowing you to effortlessly zoom in or out using the focusing wheel. From coins and PCB boards to insects, plants, and jewellery, every detail is at your fingertips. Choose the Ashfly Welding Microscope and embark on a journey to new visual heights

The Ashfly adult microscope is equipped with 8 high-quality LED lights, allowing brightness adjustment from 0% to 100% as needed, without any flicker or blue light. This lighting system creates a comfortable environment for observers, protecting their eyes from harmful light effects

Charge on the go, explore freely! The Ashfly microscope, powered by a rechargeable battery, offers up to 3 hours of continuous use on just a 2-hour charge. Lightweight and portable, it allows you to wander outdoors and discover the wonders of nature at your leisure

The Ashfly microscope is a wise leader in education! It is a versatile tool with significant educational value, capable of being used for circuit board inspection, skin examination, textile industry, biological observation (excluding cells), quality control testing, and fostering interaction between parents and children or teachers and students. It stands as a guiding light for smart education Christmas Gift for kids: The children's pocket microscope is a one-of-a-kind back-to-school gift that not only brings joy to kids but also ignites their scientific interest and creativity.

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This is what you get...



Now all this is very good, enabling video and image capture to a memory card or, in fact, to your computer.

The only problem is that it is NOT A MICROSCOPE, it's a **magnifier** which shows an object at 4x true magnification. I think most kids would get more out of a simple 5x magnifying glass.

Anyone genuinely wanting to buy something for their self, or a young child to look at things through a microscope, should steer well clear of these mis-advertised products. And if you were to buy something for a child to explore the tiny world as a first step, something like this (overleaf) would be best to start with.



Heavy-Duty Magnifying Glass with Light | 3x & 45x Magnification | Scratch-Proof Lens | Handheld | Lightweight | For Seniors with Macular Degeneration, Adults with Hobbies & Kids with Curiosity

[Visit the Desirez2Door Store](#)

4.4 ★★★★★ (2,281)

Amazon's Choice

50+ bought in past month

£9<sup>99</sup>

✓prime One-Day

FREE Returns ▼

May be available at a lower price from [other sellers](#), potentially without free Prime shipping.

Brand	Desirez2Door
Colour	Black
Batteries required?	No
Lens material	Polycarbonate
Product dimensions	11L x 7.5W centimetres

About this item

Buy new:

£9<sup>99</sup>

✓prime One-Day

FREE Returns ▼

FREE delivery **Tomorrow, 28 April.** [Details](#)

Or FREE delivery **Tomorrow by 13:00** on orders over £20 of Prime Same-day & Overnight item(s). Order within 7 hrs 9 mins. [Details](#)

📍 Deliver to Maurice - Wantage OX12 9

In stock

Quantity: 1 ▼

Add to Basket

Buy Now

Dispatches from Amazon  
Sold by U&Z Wholesalers LTD

I've not tested one, but it seems to have a glass lens. Two in fact. The tiny one says 45x, but I doubt it. I would guess, 10x maximum and the small lens is tiny—just under 1 inch.

It is most suitable, in my opinion, for a very young child. For an older one, not yet a teenager I would suggest a loupe.

**10x**



#### Hand lens with LED

We offer hand lenses that we feel are of particularly good value or quality, including those with built in LED lighting.

[Price £11](#)



**Product Information**

These can be purchased on Amazon, but be careful you select one with glass lenses and in metal, not plastic holders. The ones I show here, I have tested and I can recommend as being of very high quality. These are sold by Brunel Microscopes in the UK.

<http://www.brunelmicroscopes.co.uk/field-microscopes.html>



### Single, Double, and Triplet Loupes

Our current recommended hand lenses are similar to the lenses shown above.

[Prices from £10 to £18](#)



[\*\*Product Information\*\*](#)

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