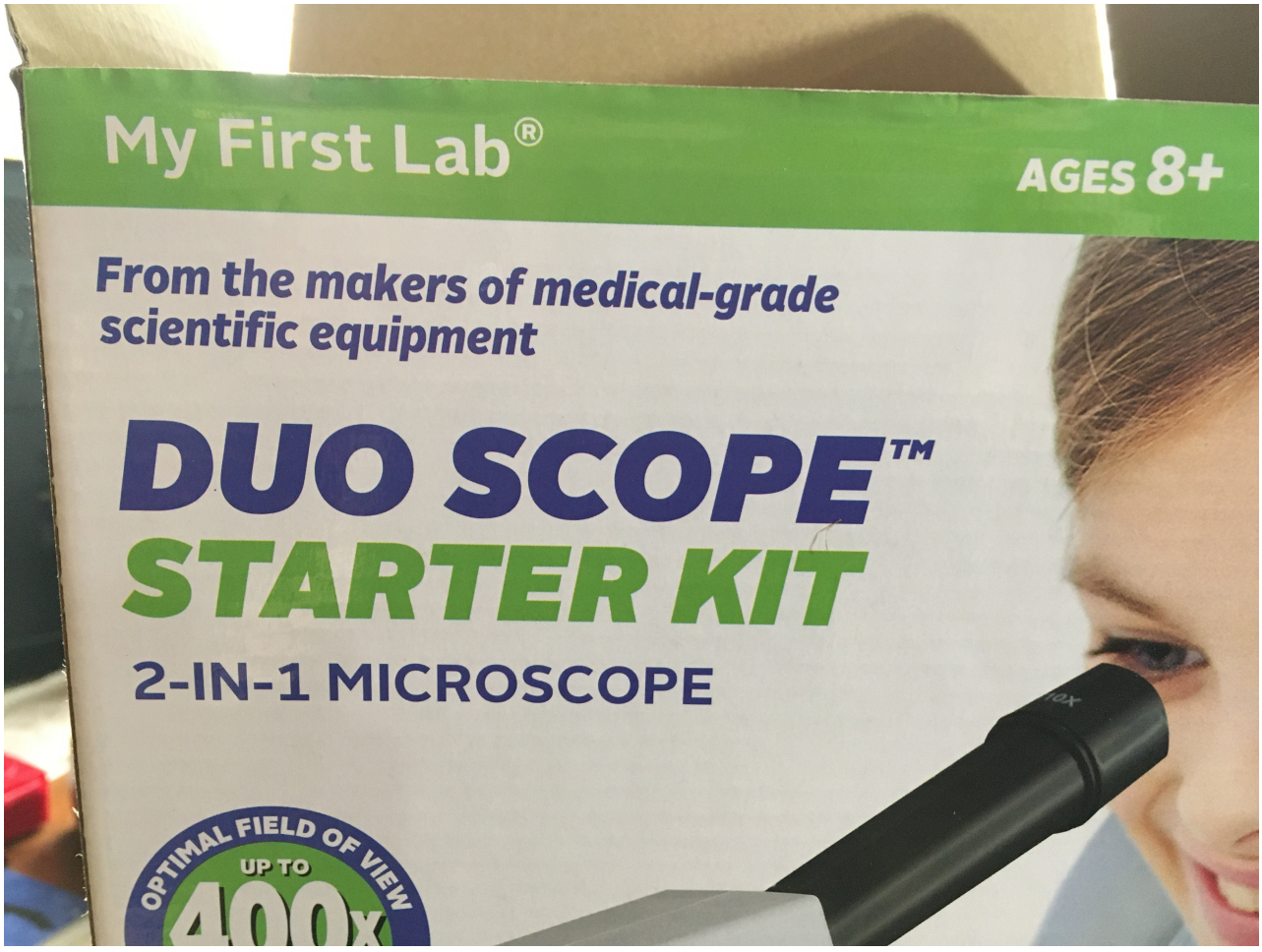
Review of the DUO SCOPE STARTER KIT

I am always interested in toy microscopes, because this is the way I started out over 70 years ago. I want to see what people who buy one of those plastic toys are getting into. When I saw this Duo Scope and read the specs, I wondered, could they really exaggerate that much? It cost me $50 to find out.

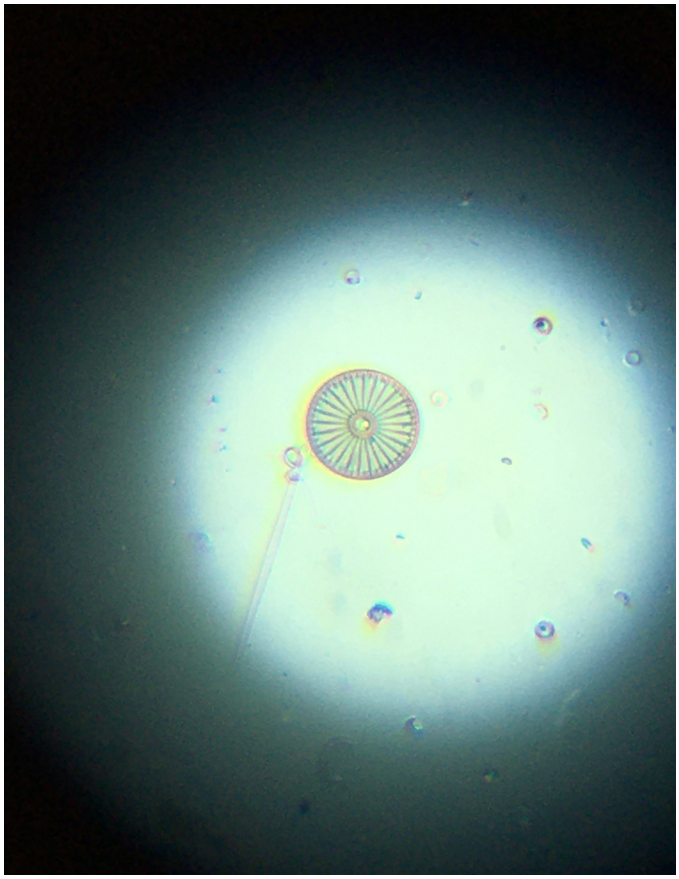


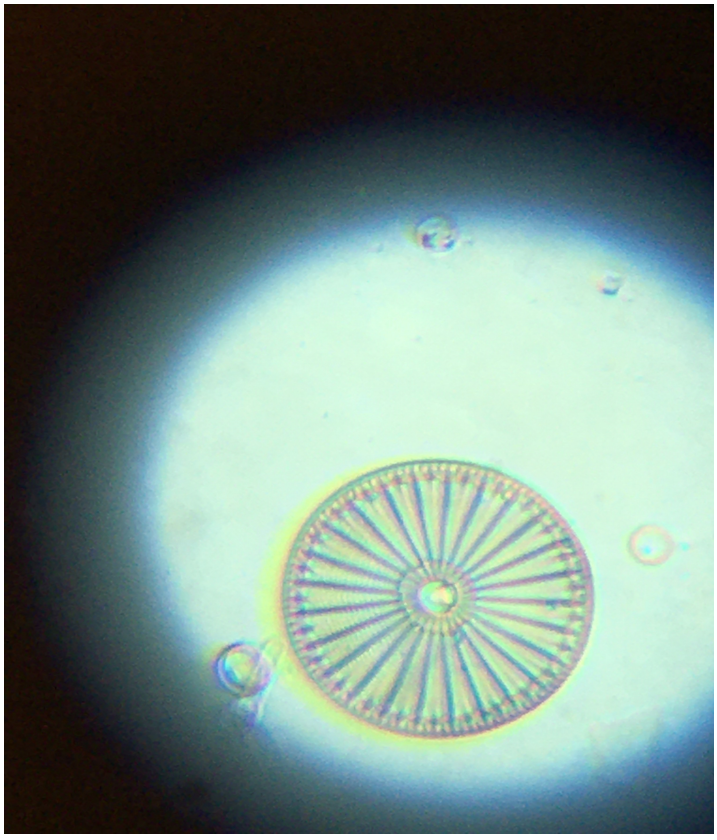
The Box, it contains a bunch of stuff, like yeast, brine shrimp eggs, plastic slides, three prepared slides, even a microtome and for a product like this, an extensive manual. Everything is plastic, thus not dangerous to kids. The microscope itself is of course plastic, very light and small. As far as the plastic goes, it is well made. The eyepiece is stored separate and you have to insert it. There is even a cap in place to keep the dust out of the tube when the eyepiece is not in.

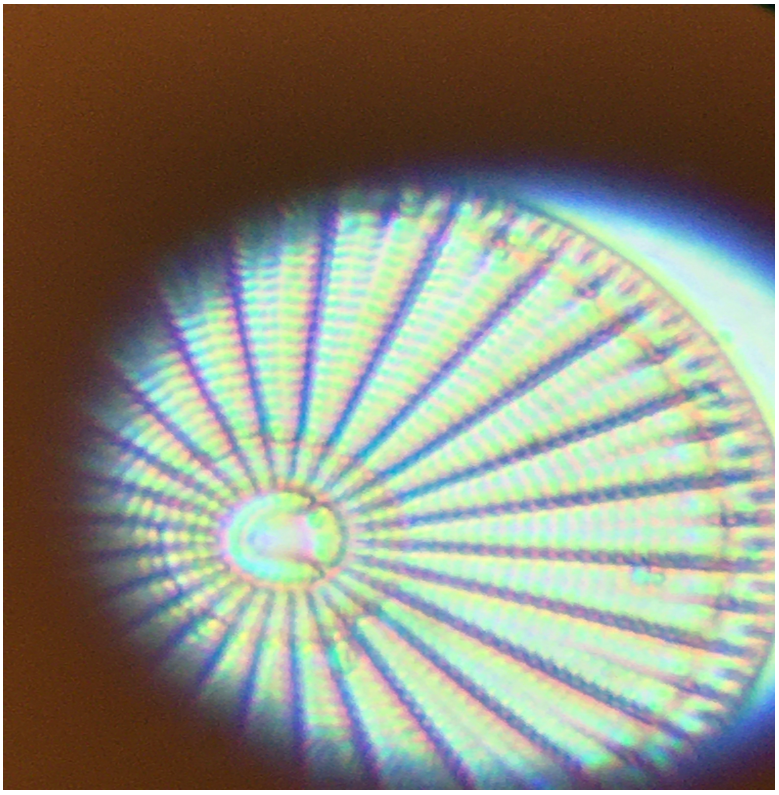
There is a small stage with clips to hold the slides. Under the stage is a disc to control the aperture or bring some filters into place. Illumination is provided by an under stage LED light or an above stage LED light. Power comes from three AAA batteries which are not supplied. I did like the feel of the focus knob. In fact nothing seemed junky, just small and light. Peering through the eyepiece reveals a small (1.5 inch) but easily visible field. The subjects are easy to find and focus. I was pleasantly surprised. Not comparable to a standard size microscope, but better than all the toys I ever tested. I did take some pictures with my iPhone, but my adapter did not fit too well so the pictures give some indication of its resolution but visually it is a better experience.

It does look like that this toy was designed by microscope experts, trying to put some features of a real microscope into a low priced toy. Depending where you buy it, it could cost you about $30 to $50. For this amount a used microscope will do much better, but for a start and with all the extras maybe it is not a bad deal.

Here the pictures of a well known diatom at 40x, 100x and 400x.







Comments to the author Bill Resch are welcomed, email
wresch AT charter DOT net

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