

Amateur Telescopes, Housings, Pitch Lap Materials, Prism Tests

by Albert G. Ingalls
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■ WHICH IS THE BEST TYPE of tube for a reflecting telescope? Old argument, never settled, because it depends too much on personal factors. (Which is the best type-blonde, brunette or red-head?)

Alfred Bryant, 516 Egleston Avenue, Kalamazoo, Michigan, settled one of these questions, the one about the telescopes, for himself by making one telescope for each type of tube (Figure 1). From left to right these are:

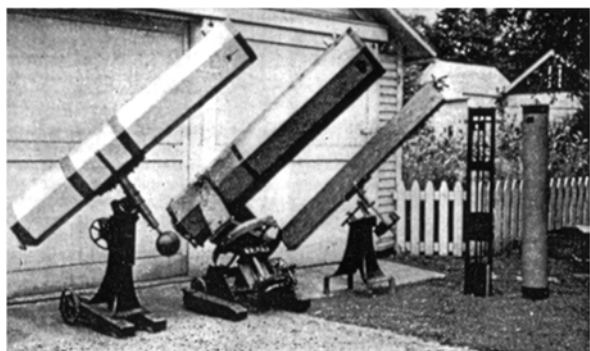


Figure 1: The Bryant family of telescope tubes—all different

Hexagonal tube (9 1/4" mirror, 78" f.l.).

Octagonal tube (12 1/2" mirror, 81" f.l.).

Square tube (6" mirror, 70" f.l.-solar telescope).

Skeleton tube (7 1/4" mirror, 58 f.l.). But Bryant throws out the skeleton tube for city use-extraneous light makes too much trouble.

Round tube (7 1/4" mirror, 58" f.l.).

Round tube was all right, Bryant says, but "it is hard for the beginner to direct his tube to find objects."

Hex and octagonal are all right but hard to make.

He votes for the unromantic square type. Easy to make. Easy to direct. Doesn't need internal ribs. Easy to adjust optical parts. "I admit," he says, "the square type doesn't look so handsome, but looks do not a telescope make."

The R. A. circle on the 12 1/2" consists of a 72" steel tape around a pulley, giving 3" spacing per hour, which is good for visibility.

Incidentally, Bryant must be industrious.