

# ASTROGEAR

Steve Ringwood (with a little help from *Astronomy Now's* own Steve Kelly) presents the latest must-have astronomical accessories.

## Filtered to professional levels

► **Details:** [baader-planetarium.co.uk](http://baader-planetarium.co.uk)  
 ► **Price (depending on fitting):** £684–£3,397

**A**vailable in a variety of size formats, these filters are designed with the SDSS photometric system in mind; this being the Sloan Digital Sky Survey standard, designed to include five filter bands ranging from 300nm to the 1,100nm sensitivity limit of CCD cameras. The SDSS system is now a widely adopted professional standard and allows correlation across different platforms.

This set from Baader adheres to SDSS specifications, features a



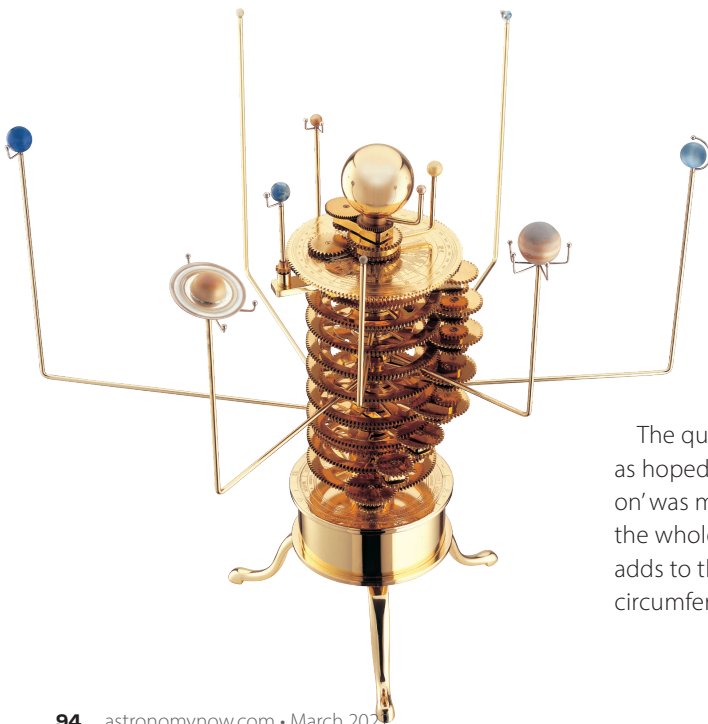
high degree of freedom from haloes and boasts long-life hard coatings. Each filter is treated as if it were a precious lens, having edge-blackened sealed perimeters. Filter thickness is identical throughout, ensuring that each filter is mutually parfocal.

The filters come in 1.25- and two-inch low-profile mounts, as well as unmounted 31mm, 36mm, 50.4mm discs plus 50 × 50mm, 65 × 65mm and 100 × 100mm squares.

## A clockwork Solar System

► **Details:** [buildthesolarsystem.com](http://buildthesolarsystem.com)

► **Price:** £299 (with code AST100; regular price £399)



**I** was like a boy in a toy shop when I saw this orrery from Box of Tricks. I wanted one, now! That said, when I looked at the 100-plus moving parts I was briefly a little apprehensive of the likelihood that I would end up with a fully functioning model after building it. I needn't have worried, for the instructions were incredibly well structured and laid out in easy to follow stages, and if you do mess up, it's very easy to retrace your steps. Just remember to keep an eye on all those tiny little bits that are just waiting to escape from the less observant or scrupulous builder.

From the moment I started building, I felt that satisfying sense of accomplishment that all budding and would-be engineering enthusiasts live for.

The quality of the brass parts is great. Everything fitted and worked exactly as hoped for, and the detail of the planets is also excellent. The final 'switch-on' was made even more satisfying by the whisper-quiet motor that brought the whole miniature Solar System to life. It's quite a weighty piece, which only adds to the value in my opinion, and at full sweep it commands a full 600mm circumference.

Steve Kelly