



er, rather than  
iderscope,  
g faint objects

all kinds of detail in  
along the Moon's day/  
itor, emphasising crater  
ountain peaks. The lunar  
aised the nice views  
t contrast, provided by  
ademark XLT StarBright  
oating (a thin layer of  
sited on the lens that  
flection and absorption  
ansmitting more of it to  
). Again, some chromatic  
is present on the limb of  
, as with Jupiter, it didn't  
e with the view.  
the planets - how did  
with more stellar fare?  
's wide field of view  
össl neatly captured the  
e Pleiades star cluster  
nsforming the seven or  
members seen with the  
o a dazzling multitude  
iso went double star

hunting to put the scope's optics  
to the test. It neatly resolved the  
yellow and blue pairing of Almach  
(Gamma Andromedae), with a clear  
10 arcseconds between them. More  
challenging was the triple star Iota  
Cassiopeia. The two brighter stars of  
the system are just 2.5 arcseconds  
apart, but the Omni 102 had no trouble  
in splitting them.

With no doubt, the Celestron Omni  
XLT AZ 102 is a brilliant beginner's  
telescope. More advanced observers  
may wish to go for the equatorial  
mount version, or versions with larger  
apertures (there are 127mm and  
150mm alternatives). Nevertheless,  
the supplied alt-azimuth mount is  
sturdy, straightforward and enjoyable  
to use while observing. All you need  
to do is grab a few extra eyepieces to  
supplement the 25mm Plössl supplied  
with the scope, and the night sky will  
become your playground. ●

The simple alt-  
azimuth mount is  
easy to set up and  
provides fair stability  
during observations