

Brief History of the Reflecting Telescope

Newton telescope



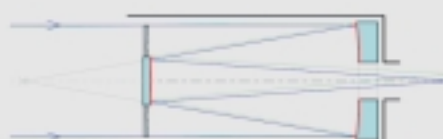
Cassegrain telescope



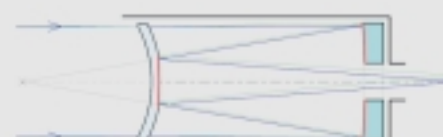
Gregory telescope



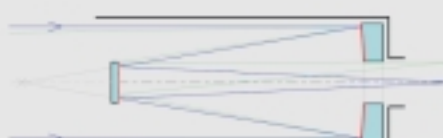
Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope



Maksutov telescope



Ritchey-Chrétien-Cassegrain telescope



Schwarzschild telescope



Jesuit Priest *Nicolaus Zucchius* introduced the first reflecting telescope as far back as 1616. It consisted of a concave mirror and a diverging lens. In the years that followed, *Cesare Caravaggi*, mathematician *Bonaventura Cavalieri*, *Marin Mersenne* and *James Gregory* designed various types of reflecting telescopes, of which only the Gregory telescope gained any importance.

James Gregory finished his telescope in 1663. A short time later in 1668, *Isaac Newton* and Frenchman *Guillaume Cassegrain* presented their telescopes to the public. Scientists all over Europe then discussed the benefits and drawbacks of these systems.

Construction of Gregory telescopes continued until the first half of the 19th century. To this very day, amateur astronomers still build their own telescopes based on the Newton system because of its simple design. Regarding large telescopes, variants and further developments of the Cassegrain telescope have now become commonplace.