

Electronic Tool Tip #11 – Dual-View Loupe

As miniaturized components become more common, and as our exposure to those miniature devices – our need to work with them – becomes greater, we have an increased need to be able to clearly see and identify such components. In addition, as we get older, our ability to see such things unaided decreases. We already looked at one nice aid in Tool Tip #8 – the lighted helmet magnifier. Now we are going to take a look at another handy tool that makes identifying and working with tiny components easier.



The Carson DV-30 dual-view loupe is an ideal magnifier for working with these tiny SMT devices. It offers a 3X magnification level in its large fixed lens, but then it offers a 12X look at the target through an adjustable-focus side lens.

The DV-30 is designed so that it can be placed directly down over the target object, as it is open on its underside. In addition, the 12X lens is raised above the lower surface plane of the magnifier, allowing it to be placed over, for example, the edge of a circuit board or some other raised object and then focused on that target.

The magnifier is made of high-impact polycarbonate plastic with good optical properties. I find it to be a useful and reliable aid to my daily work with electronic components of all types. For example, this magnifier makes it much easier to identify the color bands on resistors and inductors, and to read the markings on ceramic capacitors. All things considered, it is an excellent addition to any electronics workbench.

This magnifier is available online from Amazon, at a price of \$9.99 (USD) plus shipping if you are not an Amazon Prime member. Of course, the government has to get its share, so tax will also be applied. Point your browser to <https://www.amazon.com/Carson-DualView-Magnifier-Focusing-DV-30/dp/B000VS2680> if you want to investigate this item for yourself.