



ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

April 2012



I have been asked many times over the years to start an online user forum. I have been testing the [Livefyre](#) "comments system" since mid-March as a "reader comments" section on my [Cassiopeia Observatory](#) reports. Livefyre has many nice capabilities and it is currently free (for the features I use). We'll try this out and see how it goes. If you have any problems with the comments system please [Email Me](#).

Initially the forum will be unmoderated and all comments will appear immediately when a user posts them. I will change that only if it becomes necessary. You can reply to existing comments or start a new comment. Please limit entries to the same topics as you would for email to me. This first "Live Forum" will be for any discussions on those topics. If this initial Live Forum is successful, I may do live forums on individual topics, such as ETX, AutoStar, and Astrophotography, in the future. I have no intention to replace existing forums ([ETXAstro Yahoo Group](#), [Cloudy Nights](#), etc.), so feel free to use those as alternatives.

32 comments 9 people listening



mweasner



Following

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mark2401 5 pts

I have just bought a Meade 5000 Series HD-60 6.5mm LE Eyepiece in a moment of weakness. Of course, I have had nothing but cloud and rain for the last 10 days! Typical. I should have done some research firts but what is this piece bset used for on a ETX 125PE. Mark

5 DAYS AGO

[Like](#)

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mweasner 6 pts

There are some eyepiece articles on the Helpful Information: Buyer/New User Tips page. Also, see the Accessory Reviews: Eyepieces page.

5 DAYS AGO



[Like](#)

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tomatohead 5 pts

"My ETX 60 Azimuth Drive Doesn't Engage. "



The above was posted on your site today. I had the same issue with my 60 and found a small plastic "spring" had broken. The so called "spring" consisted of a small piece of plastic that kept pressure applied to the worm gear in turn meshes with the large toothed gear.

8 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

tomatohead Thanks.

8 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



tomatohead 5 pts

By the way, this is really GREAT!

Your site has been the "Gold Standard" for "ETX'ers" for years, but live chat a VERY GOOD addition!

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



tomatohead 5 pts

Correct Mike, I removed the 4 screws, and slid the OTA out the rear. The LTA came off easily as outlined in Tech Tips but the RTA won't budge. I tried tapping it out with a small amount of force and prying it out, again very gingerly but nothing, it won't move. I'm concerned about applying too much force because I don't know if I'm overlooking something.

i purchased the scope about 2 years ago

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@tomatohead Maybe Meade made an improvement. Hopefully someone with a newer model can comment.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



tomatohead 5 pts

Yes I know, but mine won't release from the bearing. The OTA and the LTA come off no problem. The RTA won't slide out as outlined in the post that you refer to.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@tomatohead If you mean where the RTA attaches to the OTA, it should just snap off after the two screws are removed. Perhaps a little more force is required.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



tomatohead 5 pts

Is anyone familiar with removing the right tub adapter on the etx 125?

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@tomatohead There's an article on the RTA on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page. That should help you.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Whiplash 5 pts

Hello and good day... My dad just bought a ds 114 ls meade telescope... He is struggling with figuring whats what, and I'm 1400 miles away, lol... I believe he has a #497 autostar controller and I am trying to : a. figure out how to update it. b. wondering how to connect to pc and control it with any astro-program... I have starry night, would that work? I seen a adapter that goes to the handcntrl from the RJ9 port, or using the HBX conn to conn to pc... I'm slightly eager, and more so, to see if I can hook up the scope and use it from here,1400 miles away... I know it's possible, just need direction into the answer. I have scoured the net and found you here, so hoping you can help or guide me... Thank you very much... Mark

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Whiplash If the AutoStar is indeed a #497 (has number keys on the keypad), it can be updated. A #505 serial cable (easily made) will be required, as will a RS-232 serial port. See the Helpful Information: AutoStar Info page for cable and updating info. If a computer is connected to the local telescope and that computer can be asked via the Internet, you can set up screen sharing to control the computer remotely.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Whiplash 5 pts

mweasner OK, so, #505 is just a RJ11 on one end and a RJ9 on the other? But regardless the adapter is needed... If he was to purchase the Meade AstroFinder package, all that would be included. Or at least by what I saw... As for the remotely, the image wouldn't be very good... I mentioned that because of the gentleman in NM I believe that has a network of Tele's you can acces for a fee... Was thinking of something along those lines... Dad's not very electronically minded, I am usually remotely repairing his pc... Also, he does not have the power adapt. but I found a replacement on Radio Shack that suffices apparently, via someone else that researched it. Thank you for your time.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Whiplash Well, the #505 is a properly wired connector that connects from the serial RJ jack on the AutoStar to the RS-233 serial port on a computer. NOTE: not all USB-serial adapters work reliably with the AutoStar; see the article "AutoStar and USB" on the AutoStar Info page. You can purchase the necessary cable or make it yourself. Remote imaging (vs remote control) is a more complicated solution, requiring an imager, remote telescope setup and control, and of course, a good network connection. It can be done, but the benefit from using a low-end telescope like the DS may not be worth that effort and cost.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Whiplash 5 pts

I see, so on a scale of 1-10, 1 being the neighbors window, and 10 being the rings of Neptune, how was his \$30 purchase from a flea market? Not sure how well, or far, 114mm can see... And again, thank you for your time, it's nice to be able to chat with someone, reather than beat my head against the monitor looking for answers.... :)

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Whiplash The DS will make a fine telescope, as long as it meets expectations. Don't expect Hubble Space Telescope quality, either visually or photographically. But the moon, many planets, stars, nebulae, and galaxies can be viewed, and with some patience and lots of practice, imaged. I did a lot with my Edmund Scientific \$30 3" reflector back in the 1960s (and still do).

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

I messed up when I created this forum. If you use www.weasner.com you see the comments below. If you use weasner.com (without the www) you see a different set of comments. (I had solved this problem on the Cassiopeia Observatory site comments pages but not on the ETX Site.) I'll try to resolve this problem when I archive this page and start a new page. Until then, please use the full URL with the leading www. Thanks.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



rlindberg 5 pts

Your site has been the most help. I've gotten lots of tips from here and it's even inspired me to come up with a few ideas of my own....Luv it!!!

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

rlindberg Glad the Site has been helpful.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



ClrskyRF 5 pts

Mike.. Absolutely Great site you have there. Congratulations.. Note: forum doesn't show on mobile view.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@ClrskyRF Mike here: Thx! And thanks for the report. Seems to work on the iPhone.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



AstroImages 5 pts

mweasner

ClrskyRF

Works on Android too though the last update is marked as 15th April.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

AstroImages

ClrskyRF

odd about the date

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



AstroImages 5 pts

mweasner

ClrskyRF

I'm sure it'll work its way through soon. Main thing is the forum works on mobile. A great idea.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@ClrskyRF Ah ha! The comments don't appear if using the Mobile View provided by Google. That's the link on the Nav Bar on the ETX Site home page. Comments will appear if using the normal view on your mobile device.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



GSORob 5 pts

Mike.. Thanks 4 a Great Site! Has been very informative over time.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

GSORob

Over 15 years! Lots of help from many many ETX owners! The thanks goes to them!

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



CyberELF 5 pts

ETXellent news!! This new tool will be much appreciated for all the community. Thanks a lot!! =>

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

CyberELF

Many thanks!

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

mranch 5 pts

CyberELF

I too, over the years, have found so much help on this site!! Awesome!! This forum and



only make it better..... If that's possible! Thanks Everyone!!

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Going live!

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

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