



## ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

August 2013



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mweasner

livefyre

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**SkiPatroller** 5 pts

I'm looking at an ETX 125 EC with a focusing problem. Basically, as far as I can see the focus knob doesn't do anything I can't bring anything into focus).. I was considering buying it (really cheap) and then repairing the focusing mechanism . I have read the Tech Tips on repair of the focus shaft, and am not sure I want to tackle it. Any comments or suggestions.

FWIW I have a 12" Dobs, and a Nexstar 5i at present. I have had a Nexstar 8GPS, an ETX90 (non computer) and a B&L 4" Criterium as well as several other Newtonians. I'm pretty handy mechanically but I really don't know that much about the focus mechanism in an ETX 125.

Thanks for any input.

JBS

10 HOURS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts moderator**SkiPatroller**

If you don't want to disassemble the OTA to reattach the focus rod so that the primary mirror can be moved to achieve a focus, assuming that IS the problem, you could attach a focus mechanism at the rear port. Depending on where the primary mirror is located, you may (or may not) be able to reach a focus. If the mirror is loose, then the in-focus position may still shift when the telescope is moved.

3 HOURS AGO

Like

Reply

**GJScotti** 5 pts

Thanks! I'll give it a try.

1 DAY AGO

Like

Reply

**GJScotti** 5 pts

I'm wondering if anyone out there that has an ETX 80 could give me the length of the eyepiece holder tube. The one that comes out the side not the back. Mine was lost, not available from Meade and am going to have one made, but need the tube length. Thanks, hope someone can measure theirs and let me know.

3 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@GJScotti You might also want to post your inquiry on the ETXASTRO Yahoo Group as this Live Forum will go offline on 31 August.

3 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

Reminder: The final ETX Site update will be on 31 August 2013. This Live Forum will go offline with that update. See the Announcements: Site page (<http://www.weasner.com/etx/site/site.html>) for more information. Many thanks to everyone who has supported this ETX Site for since 1996.

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**jim stewart** 5 pts

plz help any1!!I hav the meade lx90+just upgraded 2 polar mode,i set my wedge as I normally would with my old lx10(but finder up on lx90),I spent bout haf hr usin stellarium 2 get it as close 2 the pole as possible,put ota str8 up(levelled)+my dec read my lat.(gr8!)so I put it in polar home(90)turned on handset,decided 2 pik 1 star alignment as I heard it was really accurate(oh,by the way my wedge also read my lat-51)until I picked 1 star,it moved 2 the side+told me 2 use my mount 2 centre polaris,after doin this,it went 2 the other star(which was off by miles!)got it in eyepiece,presed enter+said align succesfull,goto was out by miles+my lat was now 58 degrees!!!wat am I doin wrong?do I set it2 ncp but use easy align,i did that night b4+everything worked gr8,any help would b greatly appreciated,i put my wedge bak2 51+sort it out l8r this evening,plzz help!!

4 DAYS AGO

Like Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts**jim stewart**

First, don't use external software to polar align. Second, did you set the AutoStar to POLAR MODE? Third, it sounds like you adjusted the latitude on the wedge to center the alignment star, which changed your latitude setting; don't do that. Just use the AutoStar. Also, how many "miles" off was the alignment star? (Degrees would be more helpful.)

4 DAYS AGO

Like Reply

**jim stewart** 5 pts**mweasner****jim stewart**

hello my friend,i didn't use any external software,just a map of the sky so I can see where 2 roughly point scope 2 align it with ncp,its in polar mode,it locks the handset buttons on 1 star align+it tells u I hav2 use the wedge alt+dec adjusters til polaris is centred-8degrees off!!.

the night b4 I set it up polar mode but polar aligned polaris instead of ncp,everything worked wonderfull,goto was spoton,i don't know wether 2 set wedge 2 polaris or ncp,but as I say the handset locks+tells u 2 use wedge adjustments,but I end up at 58 degrees,but my latitude is 51 degrees!!don't know y its hapenin,wasted 5+haf hrs.

thanx for any help my friend

4 DAYS AGO

Like Reply

**jim stewart** 5 pts**mweasner**

sorry,the night b4 wen everything worked perfect,i alined it usin polar,easy align+i already set it 2 polaris instead of ncp+used polar mode,easy align+everything was spot on-goto was perfect,i heard 1 star was more accurate for photography but I don't know wats goin on with it.it seems 2 just b the 1 star align that's messed up.

thanx again-clear skies

4 DAYS AGO

Like Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@jim stewart Does seem odd that Easy worked but One Star didn't. With my permanently mounted LX200-ACF on a wedge I do an occasional drift align. When I then do a One Star align, I just press Enter when prompted to center Polaris as the wedge is already aligned on the NCP. What model of the AutoStar and what version of its software do you have?

4 DAYS AGO

Like Reply

**jim stewart** 5 pts



👉 mweasner 👉 jim

its the 497+i updated it last wk wen I bought my orion g3 color ccd,it does seem 2 crash(freeze)sometimes,after updating it,i think its now a 497e,im tryin everythin as my pics wont combine+im presuming its cause of trackin,even tho it stays in eyepiece for an hr or so it still slowly moves around so cant get them 2 stack,so all iv been able 2 do is take 1 16second pic,or 1 20 sec pic-if I try+guide durin exp.no matter how small the guide the trail shows up,so im tryin 2 get as good a polar aligned scope as possible so I can stack my pics,sorry the actual 1 star that was off,i don't know how many degrees,that was wat my wedge ended up as after tryin the 1 star align,il try it again,but this time If I notice its goin 2 do the same then il go bak2 the "old fashioned way"

so if I align it with ncp+use polar-easy align(havnt tried that combo yet),I might end up with it workin perfect again,i did this but centred on polaris instead of ncp(only cause meade says 2 polar align on polaris)which I thought was odd but its 1st goto+all the software.nothing worse,spendin an hr settin everythin up,turnin the handset on+its froze+it stays frozen alnight+most of the nxt,hav2 just press as much as I can 2gether without feeling that urge 2 smash it 2 bits,so I hav2 spend nother 40mins takin everythin apart+puttin it indoors again-lx90,80mm guidescope,laptop,extensio,2 aluminium cases(1 for ccd etc+other scope acc.)cables,dew shield,tripod+wedge.but since I updated it,the start is different,it now says press 0 2 align or mode for tour.updatin it aint simple either,i think I just put new comets,iss+that was bout the memory full,it wouldn't let me upload everythin for memory reasons,but il try the ncp align+then polar-easy+c wat my drift is,its been that long,which way do I move the wedge wen pointin at star due south at 0 degrees,usin a reticle,wat way do I move wedge if star moves up?

sorry 2 b a pain mike,i hav so many questions,i don't want 2 overload ur good self,gr8 work ur doin,many thanks+praises

clear skies

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

👉 jim stewart 👉 jim

There is a bug in the AutoStar II software when using Easy Align in Polar Mode. Didn't think it was in the #497 software but it can't hurt to try the fix. Set the AutoStar to Alt/Az (you can leave the telescope polar mounted on the wedge). Do an Easy Align and just press Enter to accept the stars are centered. Change the AutoStar back to Polar and do a real One Star alignment. The faked Alt/Az alignment clears out bad data in the AutoStar. Use only One Star align when in polar mode, otherwise there is a chance (at least with the AutoStar II) to corrupt the data again. And thanks. Running the ETX for the past 17 years has been fun and rewarding.

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**jim stewart** 5 pts

👉 mweasner 👉 jim stewart 👉 jim



thanx very much mike,il try that this evening-weather permittin+il keep u posted.

I was goin 2 buy 1 12 yr ago+hav been usin ur site for answers 2 same questions that other people hav had,but glad 2 finally speak 2 the "legend".thanx again sir,keep up the gr8 work,take care+clear skies

jim

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**drummdavid** 5 pts

Hi

I hope someone can help

I have an ETX60 with a 494 handset. I haven't used it for a while.

When I use it now the software always crashes and I get "prog. trap 2" on the handset while one of the motors whirs away by itself.

Any ideas how to fix this?

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



**drummdavid**

This could mean that the software in the AutoStar #494 is corrupted. You might be able to clear it by installing fresh batteries and doing a RESET from the menu (if you can get to it). If that works, remember to do a CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES. You can also check the cable connections but that's not likely the culprit. If the Proc Trap 2 error continues you will likely have to replace the AutoStar since there is no user installable update to correct software corruption. I recommend getting an AutoStar #497, which is user update-able.

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**drummdavid** 5 pts

@mweasner many thanks

4 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Costa1** 5 pts

In the ETX Series - Specifications page I can see: Batteries (User-Supplied) 6 AA Cell Batteries (9 V) but below it is the follow: Power Optional #546 AC Adapter (this means 12 V!) Can anyone explain to me please? Can I connect the etx to my 12V battery car?

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts



**Costa1**

You can use an external 12 VDC power source using the proper cable. So, yes, you can use a



car via the cigarette lighter. For more on power sources, see the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Costa1** 5 pts



mweasner

Thanks for your quik response! I saw in Telescope Tech Tips page the follow:

<http://www.weasner.com/etx/techtips/2008/etx80ps.html>

I still not understand. This means that is the same for te ETX 9V or 12V? wich of them is better? why ETX do not use 8 batteries? (8X1.5=12V) Thanks again!

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



Costa1

If using internal batteries, the telescope will work. If using an external power source, 12 VDC with 1000ma to 1500ma is best for ETX models, depending on the model. Also, be certain to use the correct polarity with the external power source cable (see the ETX FAQ page).

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Costa1** 5 pts



mweasner

I have a ETX 80AT how is better?

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



Costa1

The ETX-80 can live with a 12VDC 1000ma external power source. 1500ma is also OK. Remember to do a CALIBRATE MOTOR whenever changing the power source.

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**DennisStGermain** 5 pts

cannot connect skyfi using windows 8 .....anyone out there having the same problem ???

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



DennisStGermain

Sorry, I only used Mac OS X (and iOS) for my SkyFi testing. Have you contacted Southern Stars? But I suspect some Windows 8 Wi-Fi misconfiguration (or security setting) is preventing it from connecting to the SkyFi.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**DennisStGermain** 5 pts

mweasner

Hello,.....I emailed and posted on Facebook to Southern Stars.....no response.....I got a sneaky feeling this is going to be a big problem for them.....windows 8 does not support ad hoc....it does "connect" to the sky fi but will not make the final connection to Stellarium, for example.  
Windows 8 also will NOT connect to my Bluetooth that I use to control my scopes.....I use apple and android with no problem at all.....unbelievable.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

DennisStGermain

Yep, does sound like a (typical) Microsoft Windows problem then.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

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