



## ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

February 2013



After having been asked many times over the years to start an online user forum, a new "Live Forum" was added to the ETX Site beginning in April 2012. The Live Forum is 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. I have no intention to replace existing forums ([ETX Astro Yahoo Group](#), [Cloudy Nights](#), etc.), so feel free to use those as alternatives. The Forum page will be archived at the end of each month and will be available on the [Forum Archive](#).

24 comments 5 people listening



**mweasner**

livefyre

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**bobster2543** 5 pts

thanks, i took the base off to have a look, in side it seems that the pressure is applied to the 3 pronged washer at the under side when the lock nut is tightened , this is what gives the friction onto the gear so that the motor can turn the base. I think i have fixed it for now! but i think it will work its way lose again if i loosen the lock nut to adjust it for setups, a bit frustrating

2 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@bobster2543 Keep us posted.

2 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**bobster2543** 5 pts



Hi my meade etx70 az base is not locking it just keeps spinning freely , the motor is turning but there is no friction on the gear inside to turn the base , is there a fix for this , the movement of the scope up and down is perfect.

thanks bob

2 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



**bobster2543**

Have you checked the setscrew on the side of the horizontal axis locking lever? It could be loose. You can also reposition the lever to get more "grip"; loosen the setscrew, move the lever, re-tighten the setscrew. Remember, do not over-tighten either axis lock.

2 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Sam**

Hi there, a newbie here - I just bought a used ETX90, and first time experimenting with it. I was trying to focus it and presses the in button for too long I guess. Not the focuser is making a tut-tut-tut kind of sound and does not move. Have I broken it? What can I do?

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

Do you know what electronic focuser you have? You may wish to remove it and manually use the focus the knob. I doubt that you have broken the focus mechanism itself. It sounds like the electronic focuser has rotated the focus shaft fully in one direction.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Sam**



**mweasner**

It says MEADE on it, and the wire coming out of it is hooked into the AUX port of the COMPUTER CONTROL. There is a hole in the back that seems like something that I should be able to open with a HEX WRENCH

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

The hole is where the bolt is that holds the electronic focuser housing to the back of the ETX. If you remove the bolt and housing, BE CERTAIN the telescope is pointed upwards before removing it. That is done to keep the focus rod inside the telescope tube from slipping inward where you can't reach it the rod. Don't know if you received the focus knob along with the used telescope. But you can find replacement knobs that can work at many hardware stores.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Sam**



**mweasner** I do have a silver colored knob that looks like the focus knob in the manual diagram/photo. So If I remove the electronic focus housing and put this knob, what should I do?

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Sam**

**mweasner** Sorry, went too fast on post button. What I meant to ask was - what should I do next to get the thing working as it should (with the electronic focuser)

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

Glad you have the knob. With the electronic focuser removed and the knob securely attached to the focus rod, you will be able to verify that the focus mechanism is functional. I suggest getting used to the ETX before re-connecting the electronic focuser.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Sam**

**mweasner** I understand. Thanks so much for taking time to answer my questions. I kind of panicked for a moment. I will try to do as you have suggested. I will report back my findings once I finish the task.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Sam**

**mweasner** Just wanted to let you know - I did as you suggested and removed the electronic focuser with the manual focus knob. Thanks for also suggesting that I use the knob to focus till I get the hang of it. It does make sense now. Thanks a lot for helping me!

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

Enjoy!

10 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**RGDI** 5 pts

Hiya, right thanks for the reply, I will check the HOME position again plus date/time etc and give it another try. Thanks for the advice

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**RGDI** 5 pts



Hiya, I have used both 1 star alignment, 2 star and custom alignment, with all these there is a quite a large error. I am restricted by my field of view due to my location. I suspected that the Autostar only approximates the location of moving objects, so I now understand that using both "goto" and spiral search will be the normal operation and it finding a alignment star 1st time will not be the norm. I suspect that I will get used to it.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts**RGD1**

Are you saying that the first alignment star is the one that is way off? If so, that suggestions that the HOME position is incorrect, or at least, not accurate enough. Or that there is some error in your location or date/time/Daylight Saving settings.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**RGD1** 5 pts

Reference your advice, I did has you suggested and it has improved the success rate of finding objects etc, but it still takes a it of "slewing" to find a particular star or object, is this normal with this equipment?

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts**RGD1**

Lets check some things. Are you doing the Easy Two Star alignment? Once alignment is successful, how far out is a star when you GOTO it? (Don't use a planet or the moon for this test. The AutoStar only approximates moving object locations and at times, the error can be rather large.)

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**RGD1** 5 pts

Hiya, thanks for the prompt reply, I will follow your advice and get back to you, but not now just off to bed!!! Thanks

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**RGD1** 5 pts

Hiya I have just recently purchased a ETX80 with autostar 497, I am having great difficulty getting it to line up to a lead star, all times and location has been entered correctly, I live in southern France near Perpignan, lat and long entered for my specific location, but it will not line up with the chosen star. also after a certain amount of time the motor starts to make unusual noises, I am using rechargeable batteries, any suggestions would be appreciated. I am not a novice although I have mainly used eq mounts not alt/az mounts.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@RGD1 Have you done a CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES? If not, do them in that order. If that

doesn't solve the problem, knowing how far off the initial alignment star is can help troubleshooting.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**BobbyReid** 5 pts

just bought a meade etx 70 on ebay it says the az clamp is not working properly is this a major problem?. the goto and drives are fine

17 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts



**BobbyReid**

If the Right Tube Adapter is broken, you will have to replace it if you want to use the telescope GOTO and tracking functions.

17 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

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