



ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

January 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



Following

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CallMeLzo 5 pts

Hello;

I am a newbie to the forum, so go easy on me. I have an ETX-80 which has a loose Barlow floating around inside. It is preventing rotating the mirror to deflect light into the eyepiece. In the past, some jiggling of the Barlow and mirror knobs and rotating of the telescope would allow the mirror to flip, but no more. I am afraid that dis-assembly is the only option now.

I have searched this site for information on ETX-80 disassembly, but cannot seem to find this information. Can someone please provide a pointer?

Thanks,

Larry

Marietta, Georgia

5 DAYS AGO

mweasner 6 pts

I don't have an ETX-80 so can't speak to how close it comes to the ETX-70 disassembly,



but the article "ETX-70AT Repair Guide" on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page might help. If you do disassemble your telescope, feel free to document it (with photos) and submit an "ETX-80 Disassembly" article. I'll be happy to post. Thanks.

5 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

Can anyone confirm if there are 7 or 8 metal contacts in the HBX port of a ETX 125 ? My second hand etx 125 has 7 pins, but its an 8 pin socket, (from left to right on front panel of etx, i have 2 pins, gap, 5 pins) - suggestion pin 3 has fallen out. Autostar will drive ra and dec motors without this pin it seems, but i get odd jumps in DEC, and wonder if pin 3 should be there - and if yes does anyone know what pin 3 of HBX port is used for ?

I also have ext 90 for comparions and that has all 8 pins in its HBX. Hence confusion... am i missing a pin and what would it do if it was there ?

5 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

See the articles "AutoStar #497 HBX cable" and "Long AutoStar Cable" on the Helpful Information: AutoStar Info page.

5 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

mike - thanks again, your uk first edition "using the meade etx" book - page 157 suggests pin 6 is AUX data - guessing that autostar does not actually use this info line... so my missing pin not issue. thanks for help.

5 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

awooga - cleared grease from second hand ext 125 , but found missing pin on HBX which lead to no dec drive from handset. Have added second hbx socket (rj45 and threaded this into main body, via one of the two side screws) - this works and now the lack of drive to DEC is resolved... phew! Will see if i can document this proceduer with pics for site. thanks

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

awooga - cleared grease from second hand ext 125 , but found missing pin on HBX which lead to no dec drive from handset. Will attempt to add second hbx socket (rj45 and thread this into main body, via one of the two side screws, only need one, so this will route cable in which i will splice into main wires.... fingers crossed, pictures to follow.

7 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

awooga



Just bought second hand meade etx 125ec + autostar - superb optics, and the RA tracks, but the DEC does not react at all, and calibrate motors reports motor fault.

No warranty, but would like set of simple step by steps, to look into the dec side of driving, check that no silly issue (greece on clutch, etc) is there something like this on etx site - have searched,, but lots to snippets, no-one saying ok here is stage by stage dissassembly.. ?

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

When you lock the DEC axis, does the telescope tube stay in place or does the front want to fall downward?

If it falls, the Right Tube Adapter is broken. You may be able to repair it; see the article "ETX-90EC DEC fix (Right Tube Adapter repair)" on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page. If that's not the problem, be certain you have done a CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES (on both axes). Don't over-tighten the DEC axis lock or you can break it.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

Good morning america, from cold and sunny bonny scotland. Thanks for quick reply mike.

Scope arrive in post yesterday and would train, but then every 10 seconds would suddenly move in DEC, eventually trying to hit scope of the bottom part. So would have to switch off. Read site and manual - and resorted to a RESET, then tried CALIBRATE MOTOR - and now it moves left and right, but nothing up and down.

Right Tube adapter will hold the OTA level, but do have to tighen (not overly) - did not some black greece on the thread of the bit (?? knob) that screws in. With knob and axis plate off can see into arm and see worm-screw but dont know if view from outside will illuminate potential issue.

Will look at ETX-90EC Dec once more, is there a general purpose dissassembly of ETX , from beginners perspective, to look for faults to solve common issues - hard to find this is it exists, keep finding specialist tips on issues "once you are into system". Would be nice for a newby to see - if you have to start a repair - then follow this.... checking the right tube arm , OTA off, key pointers on simple maintenance if needed... etc etc . Looking at the RA clutch.... etc. Step by step

Have working EXT 90-PE (xmas pressy), and MEADE 8inch (in garage) - so this second hand ETX125 completes the set.... can probably live with OTA, RA in polar mode. Noted also that batteries dont work , but from your site looks like thats the mains power rely switch failure... so can live without that to.

thanks for great site - clear skies.

awooga

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Problem could be dirty encoders; see my comments about that in my response to "Jumpin_Joe" below. There are many disassembly articles on the Telescope Tech Tips page. Be certain to read the article "Disassembly Procedure" before beginning any disassembly.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



awooga

Will do - jupiter up, sun down, so set up scope for polar mode only (no dec drive) and locked onto jupiter - inserted my toucam - go focus, went to pc to start recording and DEC drive moved!!! Grrr - i had tried moving with lock disable - from dec stop - to - stop - so maybe this freed up something.

thanks again.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Intermittent power problems can be caused by several factors, including loose or broken wires, bad or broken traces on circuit boards, etc. Good luck tracking it down. And CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES can solve some problems.

(reply working now)

8 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Jumpin_Joe 5 pts

Hi, I have 10yr old ETX-105 that doesnt track well. It could be the gears, but I can command it to move; so I suspect encoder failure. Sadly, Meade no longer repairs this model (boooo, I was willing to pay them). Any ideas on where to take it?

Thank You

Joe

jgirard56@comcast.net

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Jumpin_Joe

Certainly Dr. Clay Sherrod's Supercharge Tune-up Service can help. But have you done all you can? By "doesn't track well" do you mean that it tracks but that objects viewed with the 26mm eyepiece don't stay in the eyepiece over a period of a few minutes? If that's the cause, be certain you have done a CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES recently.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Jumpin_Joe 5 pts

mweasner

Thanks. I mean that autostar gets nowhere near where it's supposed to. like 10 or 20 degrees off. So, not an eyepiece prob. This happened all of a sudden. Thanks for the lead on Sherrod.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Jumpin_Joe

10-20 degrees sounds like it could be a time problem. Did you change the Daylight Saving setting for your location? Also, does the problem occur with both Auto and Easy Align options?

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Jumpin_Joe 5 pts

mweasner

Thanks. it is a different error every time. sometimes 10, sometime 40 degrees. i check the time every time i boot up.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Jumpin_Joe

If the CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES (on both axes) didn't fix the problem, it could be dirty encoders. Sometimes that can be cured by unlocking the axis locks and slowly moving the telescope by hand up and down and back and forth from hard stop to hard stop several times.

15 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



robmcc 5 pts

Hi: I am a rank newbie to astronomy as an early warning. I just purchased a used ETX125PE for a number of reasons, all of which I think are still valid. When it arrived the tongue on the smartfinder lens (mounts off to the side) had broken off. Can't find the tongue. Called Meade and they say scope is discontinued and they have no parts for it. Even though when I talked to them last week (before buying) they said they still supported that model and had parts for it sigh. I guess all the posts about lousy service are true. However I paid \$500 and it came with a boatload of accessories and this website is a great resource, so I am not bummed out yet.

Anyway I have a few questions. Does the lens need the tongue to work or can I just do the mod shown in your tech tips and bolt it on? Is there anyplace else that might have parts? Is there any other way to fix it? Will the LNT work without the lens (I assume yes). I found a new smartfinder for \$75 but if the LNT works anyway would it make more sense just to bolt on a different finder (Rigel, Telrad)? That seems cheaper.

If I am posting in the wrong place, apologies and point me in the right direction.

PS: This is a great site and as I am pretty handy (have my own workshop) I am pretty confident with all the resources here I can make get this telescope into shape.

THanks

23 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@robrmcc If you can attach the lens in the proper position, it will still work. But it is not required to use the LNT function. In fact, the LNT is also not required to use the telescope and AutoStar. You might find a replacement lens from Telescope Warehouse (link on the Astronomy Links page). Mounting a different finderscope will work fine. Glad you like the Site. Thanks.

23 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Stuart

I have now lost patience with Meade. <http://www.meade4m.com/index.php?/topic/3558-etx125-pe-two-new-broken-from-the-start/>

Two ETX125-PE, both broken on first use with different, lock/drive faults. I now have to decide whether to pay even MORE money and go for an LT-6 or just cut my losses with Meade and find another manufacturer.

Maybe I have been unlucky, but the number of posts about drivetrain issues makes me think this is endemic in the ETX with its cheaper plastic gears and 'value engineered' locks.

Stu

29 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Sorry to hear about the difficulties. Keep in mind that you see a larger percentage of "problem reports" due to human nature. People tend to complain or request assistance more often than they write to say how well their products work. That's true of almost anything. That's not to say that the problems are not real; they are, if you are experiencing them. Keep us posted.

29 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Stuart

mweasner

Thanks Mike. After I posted I took a look at your experiences with the LS - I am sure those problems are fixed now, and the LT doesn't have the complexity of the LS anyway...

I am waiting for a call from the shop before I decide because other than your early experience there really isn't much info about the LT out on the Internet.

Stuart

29 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

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