



## ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

June 2013



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**Philip John** 5 pts

OK Mike, I will try to do a process of elimination. I think maybe I will "dumb" the LX90 down by disconnecting the LNT and using the same alignment procedure as the ETX and then take it from there. I did previously try using daylight saving could not see any difference in the results. What does the daylight saving actually do, i.e. does it shift the clock or does it use the setting within its calculation of position for the selected object?

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**mweasner** 6 pts



**Philip John** The Daylight Saving setting is intended for use in those mis-guided locations around the world that advance or retreat their clocks twice a year. If your location is currently honoring some sort of "Summer Time", then you would turn "Daylight Saving" ON. If your location does not change times twice a year, then you should set it to OFF. What the change does is to correct the display of your local time on the AutoStar and the offset from Universal Time that is used to determine where objects are currently located in your sky.

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**Philip John** 5 pts

Mike, I tried using the reply button and kept getting locked out, apologies for any confusing messages. Yes have done full reset, reloaded software, trained drives. Not sure if I did calibration though, as I also have LX90 and calibrate on that is polar alignment, which means using Sigma Octantis here and I can't find it from my observing position due to light pollution. Back to the ETX90, if I use UTC2 time the error is about 15deg as you correctly deduce. If I use UTC1 time the error is less but the pointing to DSOs is poor. I have the same alignment issues with the LX90 which has LNT, but in that case I see that the LNT finds true north and here we have a deviation of 25deg west! I don't think Autostar corrects it to true North, but I'm not sure. So in fact I'm having alignment problems with both scopes, maybe for the same reason or maybe the ETX is time related and the LX90 north related. Do you know if the Autostar corrects the user entered local time based on location coordinates?

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**mweasner** 6 pts**Philip John**

The AutoStar SHOULD correct time. With the LNT, be certain you have done a CALIBRATE SENSOR to correct for any Magnetic Variation anomalies. (But I'm not certain how well that will work from your location.) If the initial pointing error and any error in pointing to moving objects (Moon, planets) always seems to be 15 degrees off, try changing the Daylight Saving setting. You can also adjust your site Time Zone value.

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**Philip John** 5 pts

I live near to Cape Town South Africa coordinates 34°02'50"S , 18°50'01"E, which is geographically in UTC1. However South Africa uses UTC2 standard time. Does anyone know if Autostar makes a correction for this from the site coordinates and the local time (UTC2) entered? I get large errors on initial alignment and wonder if the time issue is contributing to this?

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**mweasner** 6 pts**Philip John**

Can you define "large errors on initial alignment"? Is pointing to the first alignment off by 15 degrees (which equates to one hour) or is larger or smaller? Also, have you done a CALIBRATE MOTOR and TRAIN DRIVES? Once the alignment is successfully completed, how are the GOTOs to stars and DSOs? (Planets and the moon may not be as good.)

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