



ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

March 2013



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mweasner

livefyre

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kdill 5 pts

For those with the PE version receiving the getting time error and there's reason to suspect the scope has been sitting for a long time you should replace the CR2023 battery in the LNT module... After replacing the battery the scopes sensors must be re-calibrated (see manual) and the 497 info needs entered again... Hope this helps someone... Ken

8 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



johnp44 5 pts

Hello all,

I am trying to find a replacement PCB for my ETX-125. The problem I am having is the scope will slew in the right to left direction but will not slew in the left to right direction. I have narrowed the problem to the actual motor control board, Part number 15-4506-00 Rev C. Would any of you kind folks know where I might find that part? Meade wasn't any help (well that isn't any surprise). Also, is there any trick to removing the input control panel (where you plug in the EC or AS controller)? I had a broken wire that I repaired but since the scope is down anyway, I would like to remove the assembly to re-solder and repair a trace that became damaged when I re-soldered the ground wire to the PCB. That was long before this new problem with the slewing occurred so I am sure it has no bearing on the only slewing in the one direction

problem.

Thanks in advance for any help or assistance.

John Pizzulo <johnp44@earthlink.net>

14 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@johnp44 There are several gear repair and gear replacement articles on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page. You can also try Telescope Warehouse (link on the Astronomy Links page) for a replacement. As to the control panel, I thought there was an article about that on the Telescope Tech Tips page but didn't see it right off.

14 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



johnp44 5 pts

👉 🔥 mweasner 👉 🔥 johnp44

Hi,

Thanks for the prompt reply, I did try Telescope Warehouse, Bill didn't have any lead on where I might find one. I haven't been able to identify which component is the problem but I suspect that the actual control IC is the problem because the speed cannot be varied in the L/R slew mode either. The switching FETs check OK. It isn't a gear problem, it is a problem with the motor not getting the correct (any) voltage when trying to slew to the clockwise direction.

Thanks again!

14 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Jds12342 5 pts

Sorry, should have read Autostar controller

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

👉 🔥 Jds12342 Have you tried inserting fresh batteries? You didn't say which model AutoStar you have. If NOT the #494, and if you have the #505 serial cable, you can try "AutoStar RESET from Software" on the Helpful Information: AutoStar Info page on the ETX Site. If that doesn't work, you can reload the ROM (assuming you have the #505 and a flavor of the #497 AutoStar). If your computer does not have a RS-232 serial port, you will need a USB-serial adapter. However, not all work reliably with the AutoStar; I

recommend Keyspan models. You can use the AutoStar Update application from Meade or StarPatch from StarGPS (www.stargps.ca) to do the update. If your AutoStar is the old #497, use ROM 4.3Eg.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Jds12342** 5 pts

@mweasner mike, I am new to this, bought a new ETX 125, the controller won't respond other than drive the motors. When I first set it up, it did go through the set up and alignment - but now nothing. It's driving me nuts, should I just send the unit back, it is only 1 month old. I don't link up to a computer yet, not sure how too. I really am a first timer here!!!

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

👉🔥 Jds12342 If trying new batteries didn't help, I'd suggest exchanging at least the AutoStar (it is probably a #497) with the telescope dealer where you purchased it. One point about the "new" telescope. The ETX-125 was discontinued a few years ago, so any "new" ones were probably on a shelf somewhere for a long time.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Jds12342** 5 pts

@mweasner thanks Mike, have you seen this message " getting time " on the autostar, and if so can it be cleared.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

👉🔥 Jds12342 Do you have the ETX-125 Premier Edition model (with LNT/Smartfinder)? If so, it sounds like the AutoStar is trying but failing to get the time from an atomic clock option (which you may or may not have). Try this: power on the telescope and immediately after the AutoStar starts booting up, hold down the MODE key. That may bypass the time check. If it does, do a RESET from the AutoStar to restore factory defaults.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Jds12342** 5 pts

@mweasner yes it is the model you say, tried holding down the mode button, no joy. As none if the buttons work, how can I reset it?

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

mweasner 6 pts

👉🔥 Jds12342 With software (as indicated earlier) but that doesn't always work. One other



thing you can try is to disconnect the AutoStar from the telescope and let it sit disconnected for 24 hours. Sometimes that can clear some problems. There are some Premier Edition / LNT troubleshooting tips on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips which you can try as well.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Jds12342** 5 pts

@mweasner thanks for all your help, much appreciated

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

👉🔥 Jds12342 Keep me posted.

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Jds12342** 5 pts

My autostrada controller doesn't work, switches on then says getting time - no buttons other than drive buttons work. How to resolve?

16 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**adam**

i thought i would get out my ole etx125-at to observe the comet tuesday. i have not had my scope out of its case in 5 years. i checked the meade site and this site and i feel like rip van winkle. i unpacked the scope and all seems well so i plan to observe. it seems the scope has been discontinued and i am not sure if the asu software and drivers continue to support that model or that model can only work with software versions of the past. is there a designated set of versions or can current meade updates be loaded once i upgrade the driver for windows 7 on my pc (i think i have a usb to controller connect cord but i have to find it it might be serial to controller given my scopes age??) and move ahead with upgrading the at software etc.? thanks

23 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@adam Your AutoStar may already have the best version for it: 4.3Eg. If not, you can update to that with ASU or StarPatch. As to USB-serial adapters, not all work reliably with the AutoStar. I recommend Keyspan adapters. StarPatch (www.stargps.ca) is more tolerant of other adapters.

23 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**adam**

👉🔥 mweasner 👉🔥 adam

thanks mike... could not find the adapter listed at starpatch.... but the keyspan seems to be around... found a ref at homedepot too.. will check installed version on autostar to see where i am... thought i had a serial-usb cable..... will need to see about that and then decide about upgrading. too bad they disco'ed the 125... the optics and useability seem great to me... hope the comet is a big view

22 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@adam The 6" LT and LS models essentially replaced the ETX-125.

22 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**William Moysiuk** 5 pts

I have a ETX- LS bought just now and the auto align does not work at all - telescope is dead. The controller beeps once and the backlight is on but no display and the scope does not move. It has the Autostar III control. I thought to upgrade the firmware using the Autostar update program but it locks up with a runtime error upon startup in Windows 7.

24 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@William Moysiuk I stopped supporting the LS models several years ago. Hope some one else can help.

24 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@William Moysiuk See the article "Discussion Groups and Mailing Lists" on the Helpful Information: Buyer/New User Tips page.

23 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Graytalon** 5 pts

Greetings all,

I recently purchased a used ETX 90. I believe it's an AT, but can't confirm that. It came with no lens cap or eye piece cover. I have a little trash on the main lens, but I was able to see Jupiter last night and count 4 bands, so it's not that bad. I just need to find out what maintenance if any that I need to attempt? I have read enough to not even want to touch the main lens, but the motors have been sitting idle for at least 18 months or longer. My current experience with telescopes is from 20 years ago and probably wouldn't apply. Any help or suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

GT

27 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

mweasner 6 pts



@Graytalon You can clean the corrector lens IF ABSOLUTELY necessary. See the article "Cleaning Optics" on the Helpful Information: Buyer/New User Tips page. As other maintenance, loosen the axis locks and slowly move the telescope by hand up and down and left to right, hard stop to hard stop. Also slowly rotate the focus knob full travel in both directions. These steps will loosen and distribute lubricants that might have stiffened from lack of use.

27 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Graytalon** 5 pts

mweasner



Graytalon

@mweasner Will do. It still has batteries in it and when I turned on the autostar the date was in 2011. I should have paid attention, but hind sight is 20/20. I am planning to swap those out and calibrate it. Thanks for the quick response!

GT

27 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

Graytalon

Check the battery compartment for leakage. I'd suggest doing a RESET, CALIBRATE MOTOR, and then TRAIN DRIVES (both axes).

27 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Rhorton** 5 pts

stops seem to be @ 720dg, but "soft" (did not want to hammer too hard!), also seems to have a little catch, rotating CCW off stop, app 45dg. Have spent last 2 evenings reading tech tips & find no breakdown/teardown for the 125 to visually check.

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@Rhorton There could be an obstruction preventing easy rotation. Use caution as it could be a wire. It could also some piece of debris. There are several disassembly articles on the Telescope Tech Tips page that should help.

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Rhorton** 5 pts

Having a problem verifying working stops on a newly aquired etx125, can you advise?

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@Rhorton When rotating horizontally, the telescope should go almost but not quite twice around. If a hard stop is broken, use caution as you can wrap a cord and possibly break a connection. There are some hard stop articles on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page.

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Rhorton** 5 pts

→ 🔥 mweasner → 🔥 Rhorton stops seem to be @ 720dg, but "soft" (did not want to hammer too hard!), also seems to have a little catch, rotating CCW off stop, app 45dg. Have spent last 2 evenings reading tech tips & find no breakdown\teardown for the 125 to visually check. Most posts are several years old, & found indirect info regarding visual verification or repair, It appears no teardown is recommended. Have I possibly missed newer info?

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@Rhorton The design of the base interior hasn't changed significantly over the years. So older articles can still be a good guide.

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**Rhorton** 5 pts

→ 🔥 mweasner → 🔥 Rhorton Yes, us Grandpa's understand the potential value of "age", I'll go back & check "tips" again, did not think I overlooked anything, but possible.

Thanks for being the host that you are, own & use everything but the 105, & have used this site for many years, Thank You!

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts

@Rhorton Glad you like the Site. Thanks. If you want to document what you do to check/repair your ETX, I'll be happy to post it to help others.

28 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

**bobster2543** 6 pts

Hi what size eyepiece should i be using with my Meade 70etx 350 focal length for viewing the moon and planet's. is there a guide anywhere that helps in this topic

29 DAYS AGO



Unlike

Reply

**mweasner** 6 pts



bobster2543

There are several eyepiece articles on the Helpful Information: Buyer/New User Tips page. Also, keep in mind the theoretical maximum magnification for your telescope. If you are unsure how to calculate magnification and the maximum, see the ETX FAQ page. You might also want to read my ETX-70AT Experiences on the Buyer/New User Tips page, as well as those of others on the Helpful Information: User Observations page.

29 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

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