



ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

October 2012



I have been asked many times over the years to start an online user forum. I have been using the [Livefyre](#) "comments system" since mid-March 2012 as a "reader comments" section on my [Cassiopeia Observatory](#) reports. In April 2012, a new "Live Forum" was added to the ETX Site. Livefyre has many nice capabilities and it is currently free (for the features I use). If you have any problems with the comments system please [Email Me](#).

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. This first "Live Forum" will be for any discussions on those topics. I have no intention to replace existing forums ([ETXAstro 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](#).

19 comments 4 people listening



mweasner



Following

Post to

[Post comment](#)

Sort: Newest | [Oldest](#)



Electricblue

Hi. I have an ETX 125 PE and it seems to be working ok but there is something rattling loose around in the base when I move/tip the telescope. I suppose you could say 'if it's working ok then don't worry' but i'm concerned whatever is rattling around might get stuck in the gears at some point, or maybe my telescope isn't actually working as it should and what's rattling about is actually quite important. Anyway, I've had a quick look on the site for a 'how to' safely(?) get inside the base to take a look but can't see anything...is there a section to help me out? Many thanks, Andrew (UK)

6 DAYS AGO

[Like](#)

[Reply](#)



mweasner 6 pts

Remove the three small rubber feet from the bottom base plate. Then unscrew the screws that are now uncovered. Carefully lift the base off. And yes, you should be concerned about something rattling around

inside. It could cause a short circuit on the circuit board, it could jam the rotation or gears, it could even cut a wire. The debris could be a screw, or a broken piece of one of the hard stops, or anything else.

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Electricblue

mweasner

Many thanks for the quick response Mike. I have carefully removed the bottom base plate and it seems there is nothing loose in that part of the base apart from 2 small washers (only 2 so i'm presuming/hoping these have just come away, from the holes where the tripod thumb screws go in, as I removed the base?). Whatever is rattling about seems to be in the part of the base containing the horizontal locking mechanism which, by the looks of things, you can't get into(?). When I tip the telescope I can here whatever it is sliding from one side to the other within there. Any more advice would be much appreciated. Thanks again, Andrew.

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner

6 pts

Well, that's a slightly safer place, with only jamming or distorting of the locking mechanism being the major concern. However, getting there will require a LOT more disassembly (and I don't recall any specific instructions on the ETX Site for that). You would have to remove the retaining central shaft bolt and separate the base top table from the base bottom. Since there are wires running through the base into the forks, you have to disconnect them or be careful to not break or disconnect them. Major surgery.

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Electricblue

mweasner

Many thanks Mike. I think i'll risk leaving it as it is. It seems to be working ok so rather than risking total destruction i'll make do with the rattle. With regards re-assembly, do you think the 2 loose washers are from the where the tripod screws are screwed in? Andrew

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner

6 pts

Hard to say where the washers came from. Of course, where there are loose washers, there could also be loose nuts.

6 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



Electricblue

Many thanks for the info Mike, and for the excellent site that i'll definitely be using now i've got the ETX up and running. Andrew.

6 MINUTES AGO

Like

Reply

mweasner

6 pts

Thanks! Enjoy the ETX!



2 MINUTES AGO

Like

Reply



mrbuddha420 5 pts

What is the easiest way get my focus knob unstuck on my ETX 70

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

mrbuddha420

Do you mean you want to remove the knob or is the focus shaft not turning when you try to focus?

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



kenc3dan 5 pts

Thanks to the help I've received here I've been able to get my broken down old Meade ETX 90 up and running. I currently am looking at getting a new eyepiece for planetary imaging and an adapter for my Canon T2i DSLR. It's my understanding that the eyepiece, T-adapter, and 1.25" camera adapter stick out of the back of the scope. Is this correct? Also, considering my location in a far corner of Connecticut what do you think of a 10mm or 9.7mm eyepiece for winter viewing. I managed to see Europa with my 300mm zoom lens the other night so I guess our skies can be fairly stable, even if they are light polluted along the horizon. Thanks for any help!

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@kenc3dan See my replies to recent emails on the "Astrophotography Tips" page on the Helpful Information: Astrophotography page.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



kenc3dan 5 pts

mweasner

kenc3dan

That's great, thanks! I have removable lenses so I'll get the Opt camera adapter and mount my camera to the eyepiece port. I'll still need the T-mount apparently, right? Gotta look around the site for info on the right eyepiece for Galilean goodness. You rock!

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

@kenc3dan Thanks. You will need a T-Ring appropriate for your camera.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



kenc3dan 5 pts

mweasner

kenc3dan

Here's what I'm looking at - A125T OPT adapter for the DSLR, Series 5000 HD-60 Eyepiece and a Meade #64 T-Adapter. That sound about right?

Figured I'd splurge on the eyepiece - is that a waste with such a basic scope (ETX-90 with fancy UTHC coating)?

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



kenc3dan 5 pts

mweasner UTHC that is

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

kenc3dan First, as I noted in those replies on the Astrophotography Tips page, I don't recommend mounting cameras at the rear port (unless you want to deal with the issues I mentioned). So, that would rule out the #64 adapter. A 1.25" camera adapter, such as the OPT Camera Adapter I mentioned, is a better choice than the #64. As to high quality eyepieces with the ETX, the ETX has high quality optical quality, so using high quality eyepieces work well.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



kenc3dan 5 pts

mweasner Didn't know the #64 was rear-mount only, thanks! I'll skip it and just get the OPT adapter and eyepiece.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



mweasner 6 pts

Olydewey Have you tried it in the daytime? Aim at a distant object (building, tree, etc). You should see light and be able to focus. Also, without the eyepiece inserted, could you see the flip mirror when looking into the eyepiece hole?

27 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply

Feedback Archive

Check the [Feedback Archive](#) for previous editions of the Feedback pages.

Go to the [ETX Home Page](#).

Copyright © 2012 Michael L. Weasner / etx@me.com

Submittals Copyright © 2012 by the Submitter

URL = <http://www.weasner.com/etx/feedback/current/forum.html>