



## ETX SITE LIVE FORUM

September 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](#).

26 comments 8 people listening



**mweasner**



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**Olydewey** 5 pts

Thanks RLinbeg. I tried the flip suggestion but that didn't work, dang. I'll call around a bit today but am interested in other ideas if folks have 'em. Thanks again.

9 HOURS AGO

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**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?

9 HOURS AGO

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**Dewey**

Say, I just bought a used Meade ETX. It looks in great shape but I took it outside tonight and I can't see a thing .... it's black even as I turn the focus knob all the way. I fear there must be something internally wrong. Is it serious? Terminal? Expensive to fix?

19 HOURS AGO

Like

Reply



**rlindberg** 5 pts

The first thing I would look at is to make sure the flip mirror is in the right position. With the lens covers off the scope and no eye piece you should see the flip mirror reflecting light up through the eye piece holder...if not...."flip" the mirror (small silver knobs on the bottom side of the eyepiece holder) to the opposite setting and see if you can see light through the scope.

17 HOURS AGO

Like

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**DaliborGrubacevic** 5 pts

Hi! I have a problem with declination knob.

Last night tried to take a photo of a moon with my Nikon D5100 and erecting prism hooked on prime and all of the sudden my declination knob broke!

Please if you have any information of how to fix this knob I'd be grateful! Tnx

9 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**DaliborGrubacevic** 5 pts

Oh it's Meade etx-70 at!

9 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@DaliborGrubacevic See the article "ETX-70 Repair Guide" on the Helpful Information: Telescope Tech Tips page. By the way, the problem likely occurred from over tightening the axis lock due to the extra weight of the camera hanging off the back of the ETX. You can reduce the stress on the lock by adding a counterweight system (see the Helpful Information: Astrophotography page) or using the top eyepiece hole for imaging.

9 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**phepner** 5 pts

Hi All

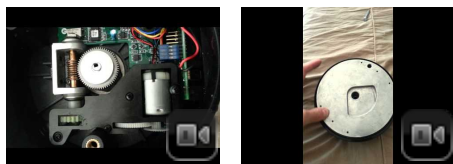
My ETX-90EC base with forks removed ... controlled by standard hand controller in polar mode. Its pretty noisy and want to make sure that's normal. Please look(listen at this short video .. and longer description under video on Youtube) ->

<http://youtu.be/VNbJXCc5bj0>

Also the RA axis with the clutch disengaged (and removed all together) seems to have a good bit of resistance. Also want to see if this is normal. Again short video ->

<http://youtu.be/JXtdyMx9KHk>

Thanks, Paul



12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@phepner I'll check out your files when I have good Internet access. Hopefully someone else can answer in the interim.

12 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**phepner** 5 pts

mweasner

phepner

thanks mike. the first video i was more concerned about the sidereal tracking speed sound at the end of the video. Motor sounds rhythmic like its pulses and not constant .. but i guess at the final gear in the drive train its smooth.

the second video i basically solved. I had to go get a 32mm socket to break the big RA/AZ nut loose and that axis became smooth too. That nut was on way too tight.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@phepner Good. Enjoy.

11 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**carlweil** 5 pts

I have a 1997 ext ra 90 with a round plate on bottom of the base not a battery door.

How do i get in to the base ? I have taken all screws out and it is tight

I took off the top 2 knobs and no effect. I need to get in to change batteries and replace arms.

thank you [carl@wildernessmedicine.com](mailto:carl@wildernessmedicine.com)

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

@carlweil There are three short screws that hold the base plate on to the bottom of the base. Once the screws are removed you can slide the plate away from the base. I use a small screwdriver inserted into a now empty screw hole to help lift the late away.

13 DAYS AGO

Like

Reply



**Matt**

Thanks again for your kindness and help. Especially on Labor day weekend. ;-)

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**Matt**

Ahhhh. too bad. I would have loved to share some pics. Love your observatory and gear. how do you spell A-W-E-S-O-M-E! ;-)

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

Thanks! And glad to help.

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**Matt**

F"YI, I too am very impressed with the D7000 and have been taking terrific shots of the galactic center and the milky way. I have recently been giving workshops on nightsky photography for our local photography meetup group. A few pics are becoming popular with interior derorators or personal collectors. Drop by my facebook page sometime at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/mpollock.1036> and send me a friends request. Several of our amateur astronomers and photographers/astrophotographers would be delighted to hear from you. We have a delightful observatory at RPI with a number of physics majors involved.

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

D7000 is an amazing camera. Glad I upgraded from D70. (I'm not on FB; just too many security and privacy problems.)

1 MONTH AGO

Like

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**Matt**

So happy I was able to get in touch with you. I would hate to purchase items which don't work properly and am so green at this that I would not know the difference between if it was me or the items I purchased. I will look into your links. THANKS!

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

Welcome to a wider universe! Lots of valuable tips on the Helpful Information: Astrophotography page on my ETX Site.

1 MONTH AGO

Like

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**Matt**

Wonderful. There are so many and its hard to determine which are made and function well and which don't. One other item.... Where did you get your AC adapter for the D7000. We intend to mount the camera on a 18" at the RPI observatory. I think I will need external power as we will be stacking a lot of shots since the equatorial mount is a bit jittery.

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

I got the AC Adapter and the AC Adapter adapter (yes, two pieces required for the D7000) from OPT ([www.optcorp.com](http://www.optcorp.com)).

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**Matt**

Not sure if its ETX but I am about to start using a D7000 on a friends telescope. was wondering what T adapter and ring you are using and recommend.

1 MONTH AGO

Like

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**mweasner** 6 pts

I use the OPT Camera Adapter with my D7000. You can read about it on the Accessory Reviews: Astrophotography page. I use a Celestron T-Ring with the adapter. For more on how I do astrophotography, see the article "How I Do Astrophotography" on the Helpful Information: Astrophotography page.

1 MONTH AGO

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**Matt**

Greetings!

Is anyone there?

1 MONTH AGO

Like

Reply



**mweasner** 6 pts

Yep. Did you have an ETX question?

1 MONTH AGO

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

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