

## Problem

1. At best, the design of the LNT module on the ETX 125 PE model is flimsy. The module is supported by only one bracket at the rear end; the front, with the see through lens, is prone to flexure and misalignment in the event of the slightest accidental knock or even anything less than very gentle handling.
2. For the past eighteen months I have been using an ETX125 **EC** hard case to transport my ETX125 **PE** scope. It fits perfectly into the foam mould inside the case except for the LNT module; the front end with the SmartFinder lens protrudes above the height of the rest of the scope when lying recumbent in the bottom half of the case. I partially solved this by cutting a hole in the foam corresponding to the position of the lens protuberance on the inside top. Unfortunately, the thickness of the foam at that point is not quite enough to accommodate the lens portion of the module without pressing against the hard shell of the case. Hence I had to limit the depth of the hole I cut – leaving half an inch of foam between the hard shell and the top edge of the lens. Consequently, repeated opening and closing the case has meant that I have often had to re-align the SmartFinder with the main tube (as per the instructions on pages 13/14 of the Manual).



## Solution

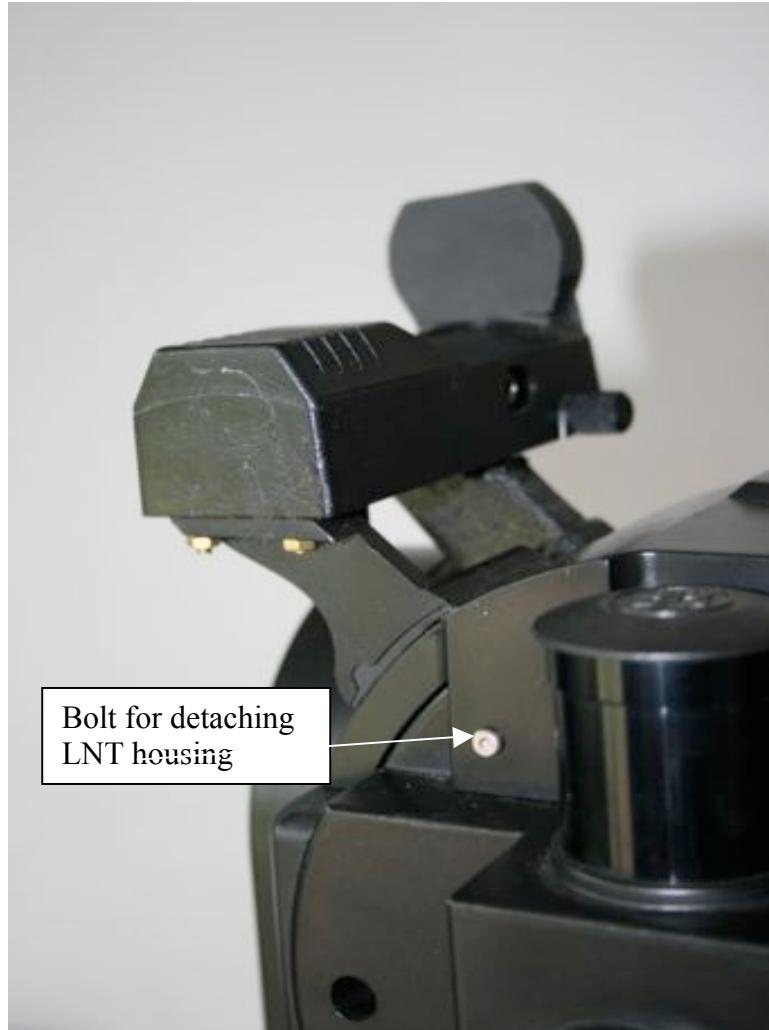
Underside rear view of LNT with stabilizing bracket made from balsa wood. The cost was less than \$1 – which included a lick of black matt paint and a few drops of Superglue.



Underside – front view. Note that the new bracket has to be glued onto i) the underside of the PCB board of the SmartFinder so as not to foul the screws for adjusting the vertical / horizontal alignment and ii) the LNT housing to which the rear bracket is affixed - and not the main tube.



Side view



Rear view

For readers who don't have the skills/bottle to DIY, JMI sell a metal bracket and a longer bolt attaching the housing to the main tube for \$29 – not including shipping.

### **Results**

An LNT module that is sufficiently robust to withstand 'normal' handling, compress the foam in the case and still maintain alignment.