

Re: Orion 80mm ED should i buy?

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>*How do you mount the Pronto, Jon (I assume the 80WA came with a GEM as mine did -- bought from Eagle a few years back and a great bargain)?*

I have it mounted on a Bogen 3040 tripod with a 3047 three-axis head, I flip the top axis over on its side and this becomes a single sided balanced fork mount, I call it the "side saddle mount." Works quite nicely, I also use it with my C-5 with good results. With the Pronto I go over 200X, though I have some practice making it work. If you want to see a photo of this, do search the astromart forums for "side saddle."

The other trick is to take the EQ-1 head and set the polar axis to 90 degrees, this turns the mount into balanced alt-az mount with fine adjustment capabilities. Works quite nicely, I never bother to use the EQ-1 mount in the EQ mode any more.

But the big problem with the EQ-1 mount is not the mount but rather the tripod.

You can simply unscrew the mount from the tripod, it uses the same 3/8-16 thread that Bogen Tripod does, and mount the EQ-1 head directly to the Bogen tripod. This stiffens things up quite nicely, to the point where I have mounted by BO 102 mm F6 refactor on it with good luck. Currently I am using the EQ-1 head with a Bogen 3051 tripod.

In keeping with my character (cheap as nails) I found my Celestron ST-80 EQ in the local paper for \$70 complete with a Celestron Shorty Barlow. It was clean, barely out of the box... I find those bogen tripods at garage sales for \$35 or so.

I think you might be surprised how nicely your AT-1010 would work mounted to the EQ-1 head set to 90 degrees and mounted to your Bogen.

jon