

Re: Looking for Digital Camera Recommendations

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From: matt (*mariusrf_at_bellsouth.net*)

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Benign Vanilla wrote in message <2of2soFa66mvU1@uni-berlin.de>...

>

> "matt" <mariusrf@bellsouth.net> wrote in message

> news:zHaTc.2001\$ rj.1561@bignews1.bellsouth.net...

> <snip>

>> you **might** be able to use the lensless camera the way I did with my

> CP4500

>> . I removed the lens when I decided to use the camera only for astro .

> That

>> way it's like a regular astro CCD , works at prime focus . There are

> several

>> catches here. One is that the little motors that move the zoom, focus
and

>> iris need to remain attached , or else the camera software will signal

> some

>> error and halt (not allow you to take any pics) . The camera also needs

to

>> have manual modes , so that you can set the exposure time manually .

>

> How'd you attached it to the scope? This would be an awesome use of the CCD

> in this cam.

>

> BV,

>

>

I bought for a few dollars a Scopetronix T adapter for the CP4500 and am using it at prime focus .

The camera is as made by Nikon, except all glass is removed from inside . It could only be used now in manual mode and only with a scope . The iris is removed too . I only left the front clear window and the IR filter plus the plastic slides for the zoom and focus . These were needed because they have some limit sensors and are read by the camera at startup and generate a fault condition if missing . It was relatively easy surgery .

Next step is to make a cooled enclosure for the CCD swivel head (which is now almost empty, the CCD circuitry is small, the rest was flash and

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viewfinder) , adapt an external 6" color LCd for focusing (using the live video output) , and do some real thorough tests .

Image scale is perfect for my C11 at 0.24arcsec/pixel prime focus at the nominal F/10 , with a field of view of 10.5 x 7.5 arcmin , then 0.36arcsec/pixel and FOV of 11.5 x 16.3 arcmin with the x0.6 reducer.

I'm curious to see how good or