

Re: First Views with an Older C90

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In its day, the C90 was a true breakthrough especially in terms of far more expensive maksutov type camera 'telephotos'. Its universality including astro use made it quite attractive. Imagine what the average small newt user in 1958 (Criterion or Edmund) would have given for a C90! In some ways the C5 continues this theme. Its not simply aperture fever, but telescope fever. An AP or TMB looms in your future perhaps. Plan now and dont look back except to remember the C90!

Mark

davyjo wrote:

- > *I posted a question a few days ago about focusing this scope.*
- > *Well...*
- > *I'm in trouble.*
- >
- > *I just got in from a nice clear evening with a new-to-me vintage*
- > *Celestron C90. My goal was to properly align it and view Saturn and*
- > *the moon.*
- > *I have a diagonal, and 18mm eyepiece, a 2.5X barlow, a equitorial*
- > *mount similar to an Orion EQ-1 that is c-clamped to a relatively*
- > *steady photographic tripod.*
- >
- > *I drove about 10 minutes inland, well away from any streetlights, I*
- > *live in midcoast Maine, into a small clearcut with just enough of a*
- > *knoll to give an unobstructed view to the northeast, and almost every*
- > *other direction, about a 1/4 mile into the woods. I set up the scope*
- > *and I found Polaris. Set the equitorial mount up reasonably well. Then*
- > *I swung the scope right to Saturn.*
- >
- > *I had never seen Saturn through a scope before. I got a nice clear*
- > *separation between the ball and the rings with the 18mm (55X). I was*
- > *absolutely blown away. Very cool indeed. I tried the Barlow and*
- > *managed to get a reasonable view at 137X but really not better than*
- > *the 18mm alone. The mount, while unsteady as clamped to the tripod,*
- > *works beautifully, just spin the adjuster and it tracks. I teach high*
- > *school mathematics for a living and had fun with the logic of the*
- > *system.*
- >

- > *The view of the moon was amazing as well. I managed to focus the*
- > *barlow and spent a long time just perusing the craters and the*
- > *mountains that were visible. Next time I'll bring some resources to*
- > *identify particular features.*
- >
- > *I have ordered a .965" to 1.25" diagonal and a couple of 1.25" plossl*
- > *eyepieces, as well as a set of Meade tripod legs to create a steady*
- > *platform for the mount...*
- >
- > *The Trouble???*
- >
- > *It is very easy to see, after about 1.5 hours, how much fun this can*
- > *be. I have a lot to learn and I think I can see more money to be*
- > *spent. I have promised myself not to buy another scope for at least a*
- > *year. I plan on getting everything out of this really quite nice scope*
- > *that I can. My wife's reaction when I came in about 10:45pm was, "I see*
- > *you've found another obsession!" Not yet, but I can see it getting to*
- > *that point.*
- >
- > *Just thought I would share my experience.*
- >
- > *I do have one question. What kind of filter do I need to better see*
- > *the moon? The edge of the light was beautiful but the rest of the moon*
- > *was washed out.*
- >
- > *Thanks for any help or encouragement.*
- >
- > *Dave*