

Re: Help with elliptical secondary source?

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2004-11/3724.html>

From: matt (*mariusrf_at_bellsouth.net*)

Date: 11/23/04

Date: Tue, 23 Nov 2004 15:08:07 -0500

Nate Perkins wrote in message

<8664d343.0411231148.6d587839@posting.google.com>...

>Tim Auton <tim.auton@uton.groupSexWithoutTheY> wrote in message
news:<fuo4q05fvu2brlrq737jh3d95ccoeiv6r2@4ax.com>...

>> n_perkins2003@yahoo.com (Nate Perkins) wrote:

>>

>> >I'm looking at sources to buy an elliptical secondary (around 2.14")

>> >for my first Dob project. I see a lot of variation in prices ...

>> >reading some Google archives gives me the impression that the

>> >secondary quality doesn't matter overmuch. Is this the right

>> >impression? I'm interested in thoughts and recommendations.

>>

>> What's your primary? If it's a 1/30th wave Zambuto then find something

>> as awesome as possible and pay the premium, if it's a home-made 1/4

>> wave then a top-grade secondary might not be the best use of your

>> cash.

>

>It's certainly not a Zambuto! It's Chinese (blush).

>

>I'll take your advice and go with a lower cost secondary.

>

>Thanks, Nate

Do not take that advice please. If you can , meaning if you have the time and will , please learn a little about testing telescopes and mirrors.

There's plenty of free info on the internet , and testing devices can be had or built easily and for very little money and not much effort . Then measure your primary and decide if it's crap , great or in between . There are lots of people out there who are holding some piece of paper from an optician that states their mirrors have a Strehl of 1.001 or whatever and have a very elitist attitude . These people are deluding themselves that they have a lambda/1million telescope , when they really are at best having a 1/4 or 1/8 instrument . Do yourself a favor and learn to test yourself, since you want to build a dob, and not have to rely on assumptions or other people's representations , especially people who have a vested interest and consequently a large bias . Also regarding big name secondaries do yourself a favor and search the saa history, there have been numerous negative

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experiences with various brands. Learn which were these and how to measure those types of problems.

After that, shop around and buy , but be ready to measure and send back if it doesn't comply with the official bragging (loosely called specs by vendors) .

best regards,
matt tudor