

Re: LX200 12" GPS alignment problem

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On Mon, 3 Jan 2005 09:24:28 +0000 (UTC), "Carl Wrightson"
<carl.wrightson@btinternet.com> wrote:

*>I don't suppose anyone out there has come across this issue have they? I
>follow the instructions implicitly and once the alignment is complete (any
>option - 1 star, 2 stars, etc) and I choose go-to for an object such as one
>of the obvious planets so I know I've got the object correct (!) it points
>somewhere close (same area of the sky...just about) but not in the same
>field of view through the scope. The GPS location is set correctly and if I
>use manual alignment with known stars it is still wrong. Sometimes (not
>always), even the tracking/slew rate seems to be incorrect, and as I'm all
>geared up for astrophotography that kind of spells failure from the start.*

I don't know about the GPS model, but the classic LX200 has never done a very good job of hitting planets. You definitely can't use them for any kind of accurate alignment. How does your scope do at hitting stars after you align it?

*>Anybody got any ideas???? Any at all????!! :-) Through my LPI I can get a
>decent image of Jupiter say, but it jumps a lot which I guess will make
>stacking the images pretty near impossible, or is there something with image
>processing software I can use to avoid this. I want to by the new Deep Space
>Imager but with longer exposures these problems will make my purchase
>worthless!*

Well, you are at high magnification on a tiny chip, so you see every little tracking error. The best solution is to put your scope on a wedge and use it equatorially, so only one axis is tracking. This will also eliminate field rotation, which makes stacking difficult (it is hard to detect a small amount of field rotation in planetary images, unlike in images with star fields). If you continue to operate in altaz mode, make sure you have the PEC trained on both axes to minimize the amount of jumping around. You can have a lot of shifting between frames and still get good stacking results.

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