

Re: Flat Black – where, what ??

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2007–04/msg00780.html>

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 - *Date:* Wed, 25 Apr 2007 22:55:38 –0700 (PDT)
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Bill Greer wrote:

In many if not most places (in a telescope) glossy black can be substituted for flat black with superior overall results

Pete wrote:

now that is a novel principle – care to explain?

I'm not Bill, but I'm guessing it's because glossy black reflects little light (because it's black), and what it does reflect, goes in a very particular direction, which most of the time is not toward the eyepiece. Whereas with flat black, which reflects diffusely, light hitting any place in the tube has some chance of making it into the eyepiece.

It's like if you look at a streetlight in a mirror. Most of the mirror is not reflecting any light into your eye; it's only the small part of the mirror where you see the streetlight's image that is directing any of that light toward you. Whereas if a cement sidewalk is the thing that's reflecting the light, any individual part of the sidewalk is less bright than the one part of the mirror, but all parts of the sidewalk reflect **some** light toward you.

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