

## Re: Best way to photograph/image Mars

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On Apr 25, 10:26 pm, David Nakamoto <[david.nakam...@xxxxxxxxxxx](mailto:david.nakam...@xxxxxxxxxxx)> wrote:

I have to agree with Chris. To get good images of planets, you need lots of magnification, which means you need to track, although all you need there is an equatorial mount, good polar alignment, and a good enough motor on the RA axis.

So unless the original poster can get this for his travel gear, forget about imaging Mars. This is especially true because we're entering a roughly one decade period where Mars is going to be VERY small even at opposition.

I've imaged Mars, Jupiter and Saturn with webcams (Vesta Pro, QuickCam Pro 4000), and found tracking to be the hardest part.

The image scale means that even breathing on the camera will make the image jump if your mount isn't very solid. I really can't see it working with an altazimuth mount.

My first attempt at planetary imaging (Mars, 2003) was with a 5" Synta refractor on an EQ-3 mount. This was sufficiently character building that I ordered a G-11 the next day. It works well, though it too needs careful polar alignment to keep the target from drifting across the frame.

The camera is the least of your worries: if you can't acquire and track Mars, it doesn't matter what you image it with.

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ICBM: 49 16.05 N 122 56.92 W - Hospital/Shafte