

Re: collimating tools

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2007-12/msg01218.html>

- *From:* "Jan Owen" <janowen1@xxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Thu, 27 Dec 2007 09:32:42 -0700
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"brucegooglegroups" <brucegooglegroups@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message <news:84e3a9bd-ef65-4916-ac16-1b9cca9e9eac@xx>

On Dec 27, 2:03 am, jerry <j...@xxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Jan Owen wrote:

<http://www.catseyecollimation.com/>

Cool, gotta get me one of those.

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Jan Owen

To reach me directly, remove the Z, if one appears in my e-mail address...

Latitude: 33.6

Longitude: -112.3

<http://community.webshots.com/user/janowen21>

"brucegooglegroups" <brucegooglegro...@xxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote in message

<news:87eedca7-f678-4f58-af69-48ffbd2f0e7f@xx>

Suggestions for good collimating tools other than a collimating cap?
Clear Skies.
Bruce

Kind of pricey- costs more than my scope. Perhaps I should go for the tectron tools.

Re: collimating tools

Bruce

I have the Tecton set and I like them a lot... The Cat's Eye set is superb, too...

You could get by with a Cheshire eyepiece from Orion or others. I even have an old Telescopes collimating eyepiece, which is simply a black anodized plug that fits in the focuser, and has a hole precision drilled in the exact center (and to which I used a Dremel Tool to machine in a bullseye-like ring around that hole)... But these simpler tools have you adjusting the optical train through one pass through the optical train; the autocollimators are double-pass tools, so the accuracy is substantially better. The Cheshire and autocollimator go hand in hand, and, in fact, the autocollimator will be hard to use WITHOUT first getting close with the Cheshire...

Buying a complete kits, which also generally come with good instructions on how to USE the tools, mostly depends on how tight you want to take your collimation. With a Cheshire, you can get close enough to move from there directly to high power final collimation using a star like Polaris, just out of focus, then IN focus... The auto-collimator is handy, because it can get you VERY close to critical collimation... Close enough that you can probably get your scope better collimated on a night with just fair seeing than might be possible with the star test (because you may not be able to pump up the power enough to do a very critical star test on a fair to poor night)... The Cheshire and autocollimator don't care much about the evening's seeing... The sight tube is more than just handy; it allows you to get everything aligned to a high degree of accuracy, which ultimately will help make the steps that follow more straightforward when you're starting from the beginning with a new scope (or one you've disassembled and put back together), and aligning ALL the components...

Maybe a good preliminary step, before buying ANY collimation tools, would be for you to join the Yahoo Group *Collimate Your Telescope*
http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/Collimate_Your_Telescope/?yguid=94373086
The amount of data that's covered there is all you'll ever need to know about collimation, and probably even more...

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Jan Owen

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