

The Orion EON 90 Triplet

My Evaluation

My evaluation of the Orion EON 90mm APO F/6 Refractor Telescope.

See article in the November Issue of Sky & Telescope Magazine, page 66. Alan Dyer evaluates the Astro-Tech AT90CFT. This is the Astro Tech version of this Telescope.

Alan states: I've often felt that if I had to give up all telescopes but one for visual and photo use, I'd choose a top class 90mm APO.."

I would state more like this... If I could only own one Telescope, it would be a 90mm APO Refractor.

The Astro Dealer, "Astronomics," referenced the Alan Dyer article by asking the question-" Could this be your Desert Island Scope?"

More to come...



The new Orion EON 90mm APO F/6 Refractor Telescope.. With a 0.8x Converter it gives a 432mm Focal Length F/4.8.

Sky Watcher GTi Equatorial Mount

This is the tripod I use to support the EON 90mm and Equatorial Mount when imaging/travelling .

REPLACES: The Takahashi Teegul Mount.

This mount has many features I will probably never use, such as the GOTO feature. This mount has an 11-pound Payload. The EON 90 is less than 10 pounds but pushes 11 pounds with accessories. I do not need the GOTO feature because the mount is designed for cameras and small Telescopes. These already have wide fields.

DOWNSIDE: The blue tooth connection seems easily broken. I purchased the Hand Control because I could not take a chance on losing of the mount's operation. TROUBLE SHOOT-make sure the "other APP" option is turned off. I did not know it was even turned on. Apparently this triggers a "low transmission" error. Not originally knowing this, I tried new batteries. Of course, this did not fix the problem. But turning off that App option did. in the meantime. I am very un-happy with having purchased the Hand Controller. It is expensive, clumsy and not intuitive.

NEGATIVE: The cap that covers the Alignment Scope Eyepiece is cheesy at best and keeps popping off. Everyone I know has the same complaint. Fortunately, I happened to have a left-over cap from a different application that press fits it perfectly.

PLUSES: The mount is compact, light and connects directly to any Tripod with a 3/8-inch 16 bolt. Why aren' t there more out there.



Bogan/Manfrotto 3046 Tripod

This is the tripod I use to support the EON 90mm.

This Tripod has been discontinued by Manfrotto for some time. But used models can be obtained on-line for a fraction of the price for an equivalent new model. Often less than \$100.

This is a tandem leg Tripod that resists racking. This Tripod is a heavy TANK and supports the 90mm quite well. The rigid center post is raised and lowered by a rack and pinion crank. I also like the simple single leg extension design.

A **DOWNSIDE** is its 34-inch length when collapsed. But it can be packed in a case and checked in if needed, for travel. But plane for traveling, I will likely take the lighter, but less robust carbon fiber Tripod.



Ranger Leofoto LS-362C Tripod

This is the tripod I use to support the EON 90mm and Equatorial Mount when imaging/travelling. It supports a huge 90 pounds. It is only used for imaging.

This is a traveling tripod. I attach a 3-inch-tall pedestal to create clearance when in use. Its short length means it travels well. When collapsed, its diameter is barely 2 inches. Past travelling Tripods were larger in diameter, but carried less. The Tripod is only used with Eq Mount & EON 90 while imaging. It is too low to the ground to use the scope for visual.



Manfrotto 394 RC4 / 410PL Adapter Plate

How do I use these...

LEVERED BRACKETS [A] are attached to the top of all 3 of my tripods.

The FLAT PLATES [B] are attached to the bottom of my Sky-Watcher GTi Equatorial Mount, my Pan Head camera mount and my DSLR pedestal/ball head mount.

This brackets standardize my equipment. They permits quick assembly or configuration changes of my equipment setups



Oberwerk-Red/Green Dot Finder

This is the Finder used with the EON 90mm when space is needed for travel. It is also used as a space saving spare for the 14.5-inch Dobsonian.

This is a variation of a popular Red Dot Finder. The "older/other" version places the battery housing/reticle brightness adjustment on top of the Finders base. Hard to access. I have owned several, with two eventually failing. The Oberwerk Finder places the battery housing/reticle adjustment on the side of the Finder. Easier to access. For now, I think this is the best Red Dot finder in its class. It fixes the problems of the old design. It has both red or green light with multiple reticle choices. The **DOWNSIDE** is the stiffness of the adjustment knob.

...this is the best Red Dot finder in its class.



Televue Starbeam Finder

This is the Finder used with the EON 90mm & the 14.5-inch f/3.5 Dobsonian.

My favorite Finder is the Televue Starbeam. I have 2 and they are both used for my 2 Telescopes. The flip up mirror allows for a more comfortable view finding.

The **DOWNSIDE** of the product is the price, size, weight and it lacks battery lacks commonality. Using the CR2032 battery would be a major improvement to the product. The **UPSIDE** is that is cheaper than a Chiropractor.

This is a bit of mystery product to me. It seems much larger than needed, the alignment system seems a bit crude. The price seems very high. For the longest time, it lacked a conventional or universal mounting bracket. No that you can get it with the brackets, the price is shockingly high. Yet is the only finder with the flip up mirror. And this is what sells this product. Televue must have rigid design copyright on this feature.

