



a division of Aplegen, Inc.

FAQ for ST-5 and ST-237

Will the ST-5C or ST-237 be a good match for my new Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope?

Yes! Both the ST-5C and ST-237/A will work very well with Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. The CCD in the ST-237A camera is about twice as large as the CCD in the ST-5C so it will give a field of view about twice as large. With either camera, however, we strongly recommend using a focal reducer on your F/10 SCT to bring the focal ratio down to F/6.3 or better or using it with Celestron's FasStar F/2 telescopes.

Using a focal reducer increases the field of view and reduces the exposure times. SBIG also offers a custom focal reducer that screws into the nosepiece of these cameras that will yield F/5.95 or F/3.75 depending on the extension tube selected.

Either the ST-5C or ST-237/A may also be used as autoguider for film photography or for guiding another CCD camera. The cameras come with a cable that connects directly to an LX200 CCD port or similar autoguider input plug on other telescopes.

Can I upgrade my ST-5C or ST-237 cameras?

The following upgrades are available for ST-5C and ST-237 users:

- ST-237 users can upgrade to the 16-bit A/D by upgrading to the ST-237A.
- ST-5C and ST-237/237A users can upgrade to the CFW-5 Color Filter Wheel.

What is the difference between the ST-237 and the ST-237A cameras?

The model ST-237 camera was upgraded to the model ST-237A by increasing the A/D resolution from 12 bits to 16 bits and increasing the image size to the full pixel array of the TI-237 (from 640 x 480 to 657 x 495).

Why does my software sometimes identify my old ST-237 as an ST-237A or vice versa?

There was a bug in the SBIGUDRV.DLL that caused this problem. Please download the latest CCDOPS software or Drivers for use with third party software packages like CCDSoft and MaximDI from the Software Downloads page of our web site.

Do I have to set any jumpers when I upgrade to the CFW-5?

No. Simply replace the old 2-position shutter wheel with the CFW-5, making sure the silver index marks on the CFW-5 are down (into the camera head). When the camera is first powered on and CCDOPS establishes a link to the camera it determines the type of filter wheel installed.

My ST-5C/ST-237 is frosting. What can I do?

- Remove the front cover and then remove the CCD Chamber cover.
- Take out the small white package of desiccant and gently cut the end off the packet, being careful to not let the desiccant beads inside spill out.
- Bake the desiccant beads (don't bake the white packet or else it will melt) at 400 F for 4 hours.
- Pour the beads back into the packet and seal it with a small piece of scotch tape. Use a small piece of tape so you don't block the pores in the white tyvek package.
- Replace the desiccant packet in the head and put the head back together.
- Let the camera head sit for 4 hours before cooling again to let the desiccant equilibrate.

What can I do about my CFW-5 not moving to the proper filter position?

This is normally caused by the tension of the motor against the filter wheel being too tight or too loose. Adjust the tension by removing the top cover and loosening the motor mount screws. Put slight pressure on the motor against the carousel and then tighten the screws. Exercise the CFW-5 through its five positions with CCDOPS to check for proper function.

© 2011 Aplegen, Inc. All rights reserved. The Aplegen wordmark and logo are trademarks of Aplegen, Inc. All other trademarks, service marks and tradenames appearing in this brochure are the property of their respective owners.

Santa Barbara Instrument Group, a division of Aplegen, Inc. | 147-A Castilian Drive, Goleta, CA 93117
 t 805.571.7244 | f 805.571.1147 | w www.sbig.com | e sbig@sbig.com