

# FIRST LIGHT

## SKY SAYS...

Now add these:

1. SkyPortal Wi-Fi Link for iOS & Android
2. PowerTank Lithium 12V battery
3. StarSense AutoAlign accessory

► then asks for alignment options; we chose two star. Bearing in mind that we had no polarscope and had only roughly aligned by sight, the two star alignment gave good results. It placed our chosen targets inside the inner 50 per cent of the view through a 26mm eyepiece and our Equinox 80ED.

We swapped this scope for a SkyMax 180 Pro Maksutov-Cassegrain. It has a longer focal length, so required higher magnification (103x compared with 19x). We performed the same tests but this time we added in two extra calibration stars. When we performed Go-To to our targets they were impressively close to the centre of the view. The mount's belt drive system makes tracking and Go-To smooth, and allows you to disengage the locking clamps without losing alignment.

## Extra innovations

For added polar refinement we used the All-Star Polar Alignment routine in the handset. In conjunction with the well-designed adjustments on the mount, we were able to achieve more accurate polar alignment. This allowed for both longer periods of visual observing and enabled us to capture several minutes of imaging data with our Equinox 80ED without resorting to using an autoguider.

Another innovation is that Celestron has engineered the mount with internal hard stops and software limits, and these are useful if you wish to set it up as a remotely operated system. The hard stops prevent the mount from clashing with the tripod and potentially damaging the system, which is useful if you are operating the mount remotely and can't physically get to it to prevent this from happening.

We really enjoyed using the new CGX mount. It is well designed and engineered, easy to operate and gives great tracking for both visual and imaging purposes and can be highly recommended. **S**



▲ The Pleiades cluster in Taurus, imaged with an Equinox 80ED; this is a stack of 15 four-minute exposures at ISO 500

## RUGGED ENGINEERING

The overall engineering and design of the mount head exudes quality; much thought has gone into making it user friendly. This extends to sturdy carry handles, a dual-style saddle for mounting telescopes with Vixen- or Losmandy-style bars and the cabling being contained inside the mount.



## VERDICT

ASSEMBLY	★★★★★
BUILD & DESIGN	★★★★★
EASE OF USE	★★★★★
GO-TO ACCURACY	★★★★★
STABILITY	★★★★★
OVERALL	★★★★★