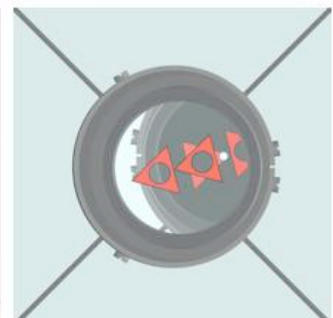
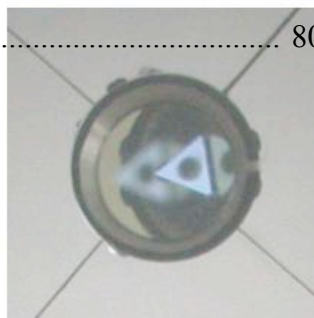
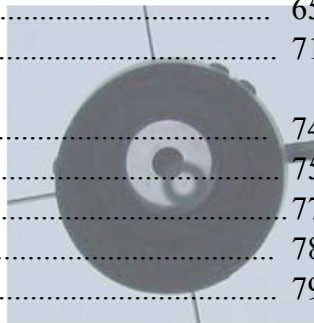
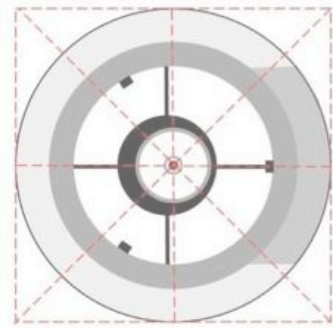
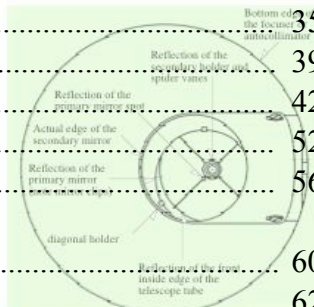


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**New Perspectives on  
Newtonian Collimation**

**Vic Menard**

Here's a sneak peek at Chapter 1:

# 1 ANALYSIS PARALYSIS

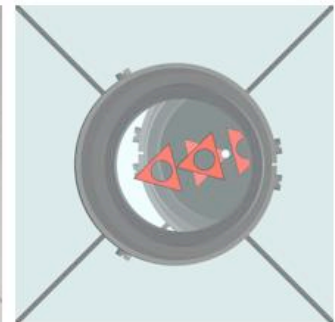
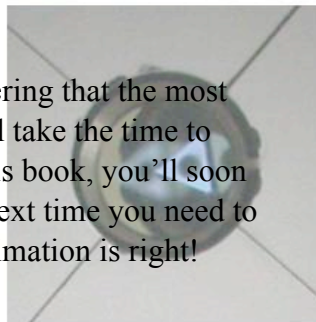
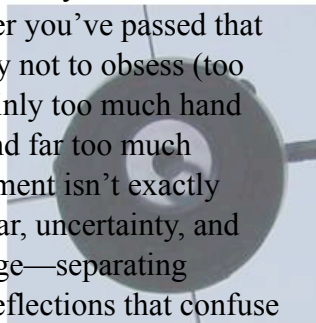
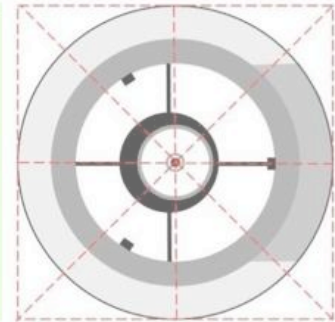
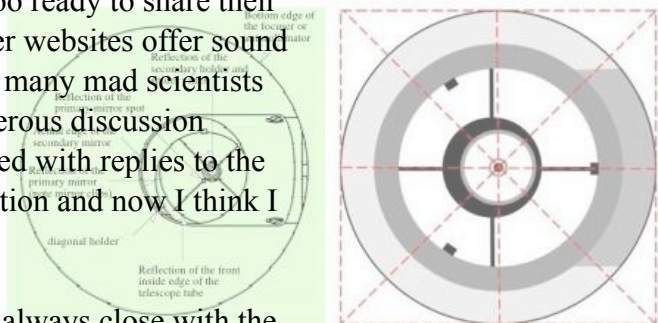
*“If you would be a real seeker after truth, it is necessary that at least once in your life you doubt, as far as possible, all things.”*

René Descartes

Since July 2003, I've used the above quote as a starting point for the online addendum of *New Perspectives on Newtonian Collimation*. The internet is full of instant authorities who are all too ready to share their collimation expertise. Although some of the better websites offer sound advice, the internet seems to be overrun with too many mad scientists and not enough hunchbacks! Still, there are numerous discussion groups dedicated to Newtonian enthusiasts, littered with replies to the recurring plea, “I tried to fix my 'scope's collimation and now I think I really messed it up. Help!”

When I'm asked to do a collimation workshop, I always close with the simple reminder to *fix the obvious stuff first!* After you've passed that level of expertise, I would add that you should try not to obsess (too much) over the *less obvious* stuff... There's certainly too much hand wringing going on over imperfect star images, and far too much frustration when the best readily attainable alignment isn't exactly *textbook*. Once you get past the internet FUD (fear, uncertainty, and doubt), you'll find that collimation is mostly triage—separating significant errors from the constantly changing reflections that confuse most beginners.

Over the years, again and again, I keep rediscovering that the most important collimation tool is *knowledge*. If you'll take the time to master a few of the *elegant* solutions found in this book, you'll soon own the tools of a collimation *expert*. Then the next time you need to fix your 'scope's alignment, you'll *know* the collimation is right!



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