Fluorite Apochromat

FS-60Q

INSTRUCTION MANUAL

TAKAHASHI

Thank you very much for your purchase of a Takahashi Fluorite Refractor FS-60Q. Your first view through your telescope will show you an amazingly high contrast image of stars over the full field of view, where stars are seen as fine points of light. You are now ready to enjoy your observation visually and photographically with your telescope.

In order to use your instrument in its highest possible capabilities, please read this instruction manual very carefully and familarize yourself with all the functions that your telescope offers. All the instruments are strictly inspected before shipment. If there is anything wrong with your telescope, please contact your authorized Takahashi distributors.

⚠ WARNING

NEVER TRY TO OBSERVE THE SUN THROUGH ANY TELESCOPE WITHOUT PROPER FILETER. IT WILL CAUSE PERMANENT BLINDNESS. KEEP CHILDREN AWAY FROM ANY TELESCOPE DURING DAYTIME. EVEN A SMALL FINDER SCOPE CAN DELIVER SUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF LIGHT TO MAKE EYE BLIND.



⚠ CAUTION

- The objective has been collimated by highly trained factory technicians. If you feel this is necessary, please contact your factory authorized distributor.
- Keep the dew shield cap in place when your telescope is not in use. This will prevent dust from collecting on the objective.
- Should it become necessary to clean the outer surface of the objective, first remove all dust and grime particles with a hand power blower. Before you attempt to clean the surface, please contact your distributor for instructions. Then, gently wipe the surface with sterile 100% cotton moisted with lens cleaner.
- Never attempt to remove the objective from the lens cell. Doing so voids the guarantee. Contact your distributor and return it to them. They will make any necessary adjustments and return it to you.

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SPECIFICATIONS

Effective Aperture	60mm
Focal Length	600mm
Focal Ratio	1: 10.0
Resoving Power	1.93"
Limiting Magnitude	10.7
Light Gathering Power	73X
Diameter of Main Tube	80mm
Total Length of Main Tube	550mm
Weight of Main Tube Assembly	abt. 1.6kg (3.5 lbs)
Finder Scope	6X30 8°

Tube Assembly Layout

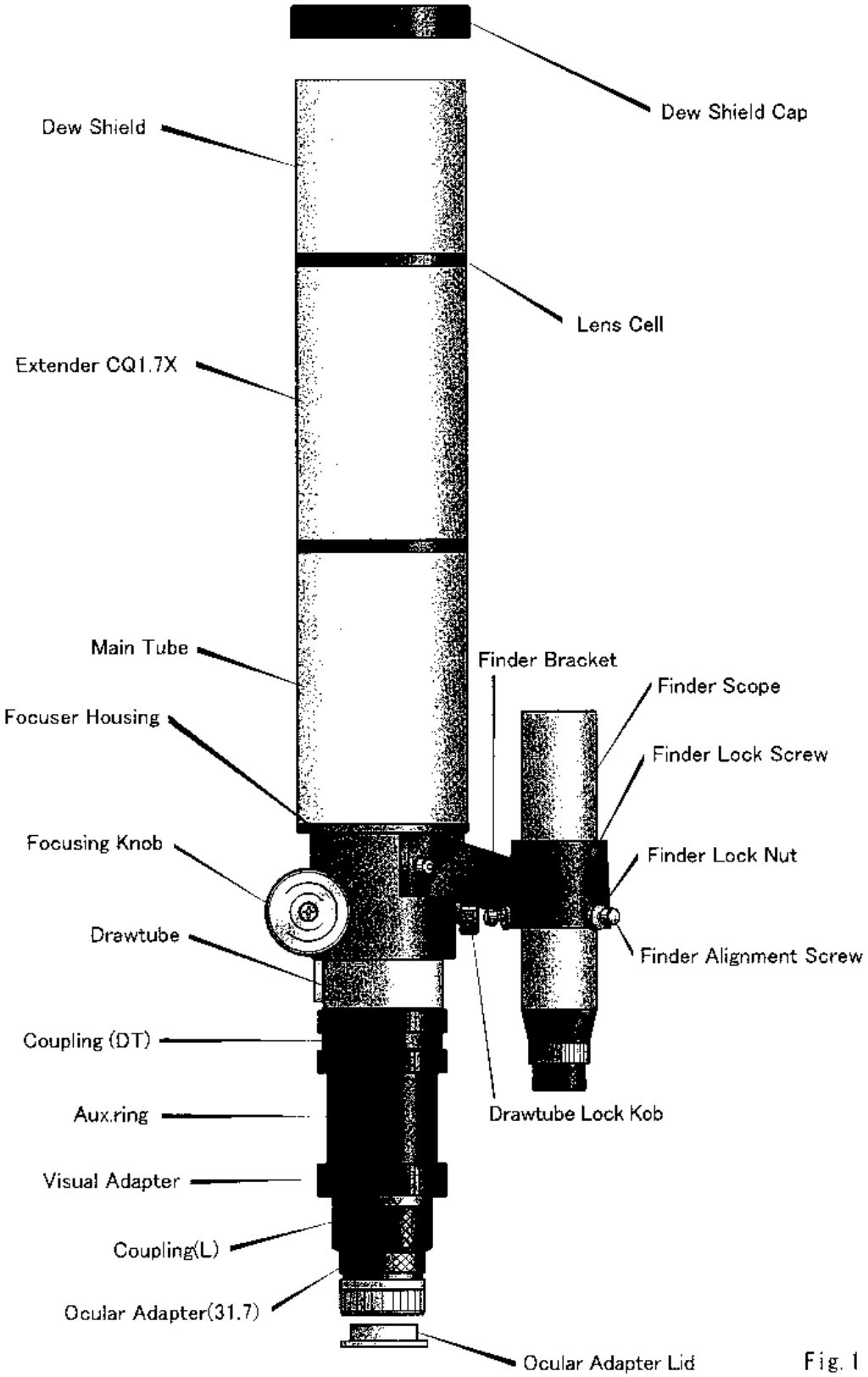


Fig. 1

Attaching The Finder And Tube Assembly

Your telescope is shipped with the finder unattached. Use the following instruction to assemble and align the finder.

■ Attaching the finder scope

Place the finder holder leg on the finder base on the tube assembly and lock it firmly with two cap-bolts provided. Set the finder as parallel to the tube as possible. Failure to do so will make alignment difficult. Refer to Fig.2,3.

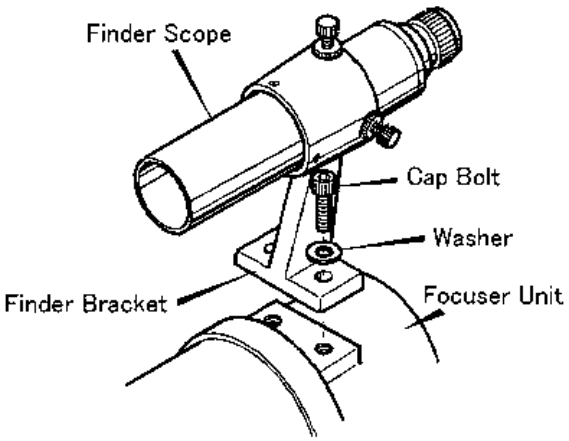


Fig. 2

■Setting the main tube assembly onto the equatorial mount

Set the tube holder onto the head of the mount with two cap-bolts as in Fig.3 and lock the tube with a lock nut after balancing the tube. The tube holder can be used with all Takahashi mounts.

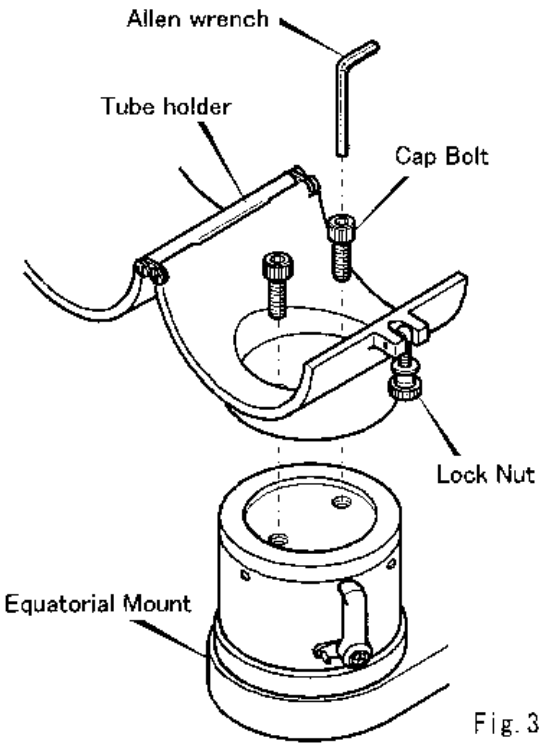


Fig. 3

The correct way to attach the tube holder to the mount is to use the two cap bolts provided. After an optical tube has been set into the tube holder, the next step is balancing. Refer to Fig.4.

Now that the instrument has been attached to the mount, it will be necessary to balance the load in the R.A. and the Dec.

The first step is to clamp the R.A. and unclamp the Dec. Hold the tube of the telescope in the event it is out of balance. Then, loosen the tube clamp slightly so that the tube can be moved in either direction. Move the tube in either direction until it balances. When the tube is balanced, tighten the clamp.

Next, loosen the R.A. clamp, and tighten the Dec. clamp. Unclamp the counter-weight(s) and slide them in either direction until the package is balanced.

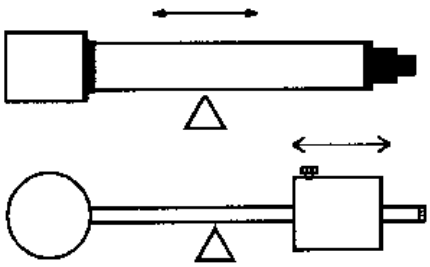


Fig. 4

■ Attaching the oculars

Remove the ocular adapter cover and loosen the lock ring by turning it counter-clock- wise. Then, insert your desired ocular into the ocular adapter and lock the ocular by turning the lock ring clockwise. Refer to Fig. 5.

■ Connecting system parts

The adapters and the rings are provided on the visual back to connect various system parts. Carefully study the system chart in this book before connecting system parts. Incorrect connection of the parts may pre vent the telescope from coming to a sharp focus or any focus at all. Refer to Fig.6.

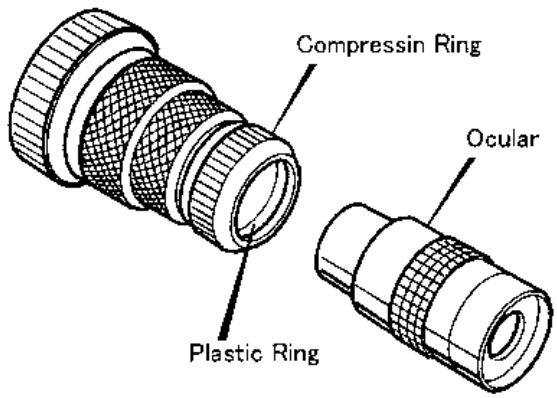


Fig. 5

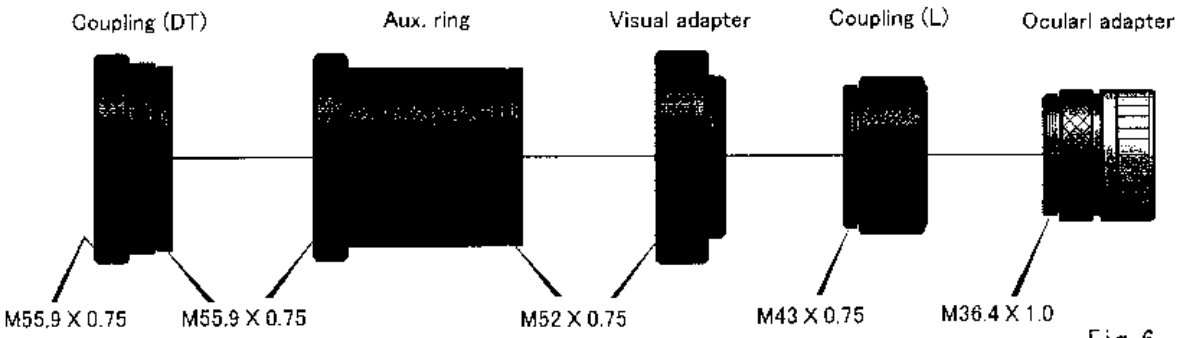


Fig. 6

■ Focusing

After incerting the ocular into the telescope, it is necessary to achieve the best possible focus. Remember the atmosphere will limit the highest magnification that can be used on any given night. Using the lowest power ocular, focus the image and then use successively higher magnification, until the desired magnification is achieved. This is particularly useful, if very high magnification will be used and will permit the continual centering of the object viewed. Please familiarize yourself with the following procedure.

● Focusing system

Focusing is made with a rack-and-pinion system. This system will permit rapid focusing. Turning the focusing knob backwards as arrowed will move the focuser out, and turning it in the other direction will make the focuser move in. Refer to Fig.7.

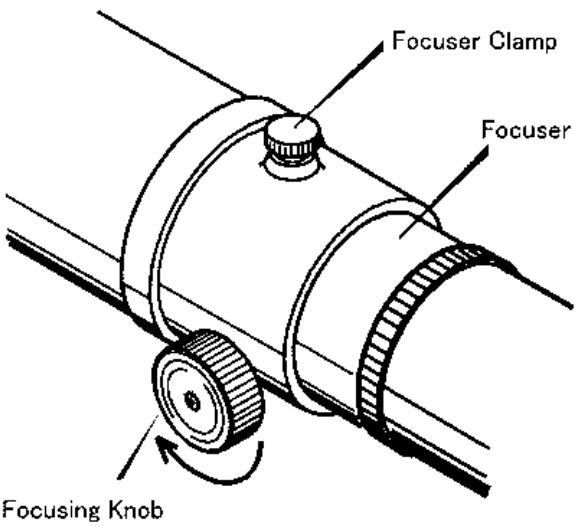


Fig. 7

● Focusing

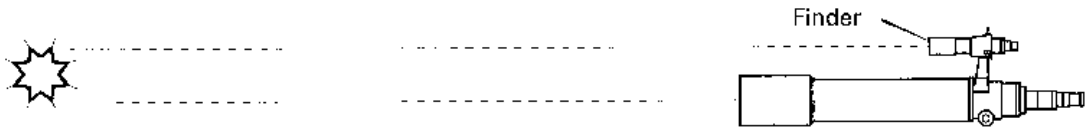
Remove dew shield and ocular cover from the telescope. Insert the diagonal prism into the compression ring adapter at the end of the focuser and tighten it with a clockwise motion. Do not overtighten the ring. Then insert the ocular into the compression ring on the diagonal prism, repeating the process.

Use a brighter star at low power or an object in the daylight that is at least a mile away. You may place a small mark on the focuser tube as a reference. When you think you have achieved best focus, move the focuser in and out past focus then back to best focus of an object. As mentioned, start with low power and them proceed to higher power as desired. When a star is brought into critical focus, you may notice a bright and a dimmer ring around the star. This is the diffraction pattern of the star. This is not defect, but rather is a result of diffraction limited optics.

● Focuser clamp

The focuser clamp can be used to lock your telescope at best focus. It is a good idea to use this lock when critical focus must be held for a long period when a heavy accessory such as a camera is attached. For visual use, it will be rare to use the lock. Remember to always loosen the lock before refocusing your telescope.

Finder Alignment



Before the finder is placed in the finder holder, use plastic clear tape and tape the finder with two layers to prevent the tube from being scratched by the front finder set screws.

A finder is a useful tool. It permits the precise centering of an object in the field of view. The 6.3° field of view allows the easy centering of an object to be viewed or photographed.

The Takahashi finder uses an interrupted crosshair which is designed to allow the easy centering of an object to be photographed or observed. The wide field of the finder makes the finding of an object easier, therefore, it is important that the finder and the telescoep be in alignment. The following procedure can be used to align the finder.

◆ Alignment procedure

1. Place a low power eyepiece in the telescope and center a bright star in a convenient part of the sky. Do not forget to engage the motor drive to keep the star centered. If this procedure is done in daylight, use an object that is at least one mile away. Loosen the lock nuts on the finder bracket and slightly move the star to the center of the field using the adjusting alignment screws.

2. Then use a higher magnification eyepiece and repeat the procedure by centering the object in the field of view of the telescope and then the finder. Continue this process until the highest possible magnification has been used.

◆ Adjusting screw procedure

1. Turn all the lock nuts until they reach the head of the alignment screws.

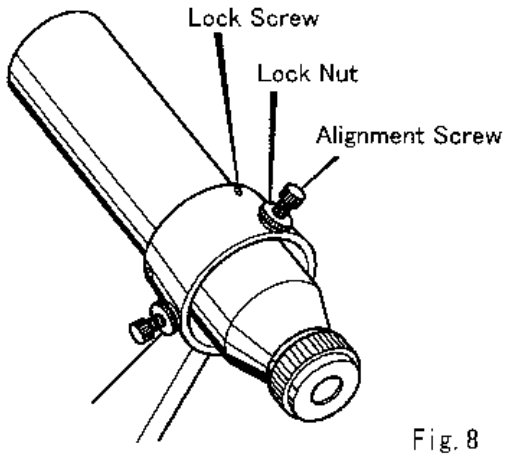


Fig. 8

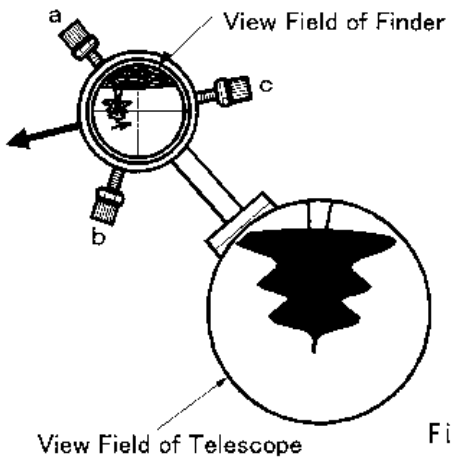


Fig. 9

2. In order to move the crosshair in the direction of the arrow, first loosen screw (a) and tighten (push) the finder with screw (c). This procedure will move the crosshair in the desire direction. The top of the finder will move in the opposite direction and the object will move in the direction of the smaller arrow. Refer to Fig.9.

3. In a similar fashion the direction of the movement of the finder is made by adjusting the three screws.

Learn the relationship between the movement of the three adjusting screws. If the finder cannot be moved in the desired direction, loosen the locking nuts.

Observation

■ Visual Observation

◆ Determining Magnification

The magnification of any ocular used with the telescope can be calculated by using the following fomura.

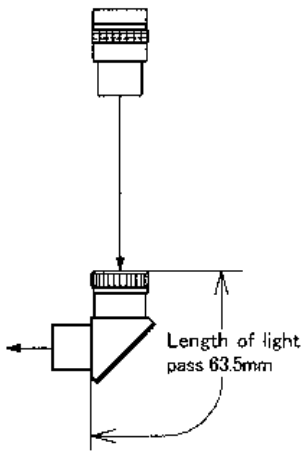
$$\frac{\text{(focal length of a telescope)}}{\text{(focal length of an ocular)}}$$

Therefore, the shorter focal length oculars will produce the higher magnification. On some nights of exceptional seeing, it is a fun to use highest possible magnification to view the Moon and planets.

In general, the limit of magnification will be highest 20X and lowest 1.4X respectively to the effective aperture. In case of FS-60Q, the highest will be 120X and the lowest 9X. Therefor, most of Takahashi LE oculars can be used with FS-60Q except Hi-LE 2.8mm and Hi-LE 3.6mm.

◆ Compression Ring Star Diagonals

A 90° diagonal prism is optionally available from Takahashi. This permits easy viewing of objects at the zenith. The 31.7mm standard diagonal prism is set into the compression ring adapter at the end of the telescope and then the ring is tightened just enough to hold the diagonal prism. The, the ocular is placed in the compression ring on the prism and held by the same procesure.



31.7 Prism Diagonal

Fig. 10

◆ Lunar observation

The Moon is an excellent object to observe for beginners as well as advanced amateurs. Though the entire full Moon can be observed at 50x, its intense brightness warrants a Moon filter to protect the eye from the Moon's bright glare and allow some detail to be observed. The best time to observe lunar detail is when the Moon is in its partial phases. Then viewing the terminator and it adjacent area will allow the observer to see small detail, ray structures and rilles. The high contrast images produced by the 60Q will reward the observer with great views of the lunar surface and its many features at high magnification.

◆ Observing the Planets

The FS-60Q is capable of producing planetary images of great detail and contrast. This is possible on a night of good seeing. The twinkle of lack thereof from stars at the zenith will tell the observer the quality of the seeing. The less twinkle the stars show, the better the seeing will be. Since the aperture of the FS-60Q is small it has an advantage on nights of poor seeing; since it less affected by poor seeing. On those nights of steady seeing, pictures of the planets and the Moon taken with a digital SLR will produce detailed images.

◆ Observing Nebulae and Star Clusters

In general, observing nebulae and star clusters is best done with low power wide field oculars. On the other hand, observing globular clusters and small nebulae requires higher power to reduce the background glow and increase the contrast. This is particularly true in cities with a great deal of sky glow. Therefore, higher magnification can benefit the observer with the 60Q.

◆ Observing the Sun

Never observe the Sun directly; this will cause instant and permanent damage to the eye. If the Sun is to be observed there are two options available. The first, is a high quality glass filter that blocks out 99.999% of the light and heat. This filter should be secured over the lens shade with nylon set screws to prevent the filter from falling off the telescope and an opaque cover placed over the finder. The observer can now view the disc of the Sun and see sunspots and other phenomena. The second is the dedicated sub angstrom solar filter systems which allow prominences and great detail to be seen on the solar surface.



● Prime Focus Photography

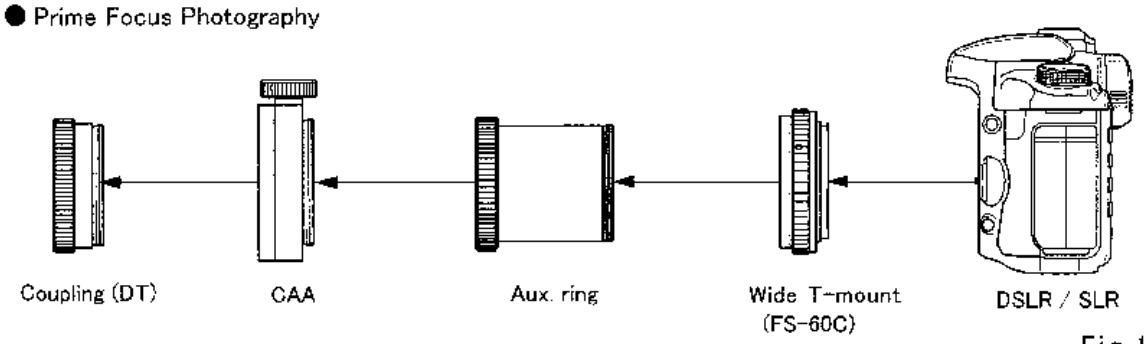


Fig. 11

■ Astrophotography

◆ Prime Focus Photography

Attaching a DSLR for prime focus imaging at 600mm f/10 allows the user to make images of the Moon, solar eclipses and nature photos during the day. A steady mount is needed to keep the images as sharp as possible. The camera can be attached to the prime focus tube using the FS-60C female camera mount to attach the camera to the prime focus tube.

For prime focus imaging use the following specifications

Focal length 600mm
Focal ratio f/10.0
Image circle ..... 44mm (95% illuminated)

◆ Eyepiece Projection Photography

When the FS-60Q is used to make images of lunar craters or the planets the TCA-4 eyepiece projection system can be used. The magnification for each ocular can be increased or decreased using the sliding tube that is an integral part of the TCA-4. It is easily attached and removed.

●TCA－4

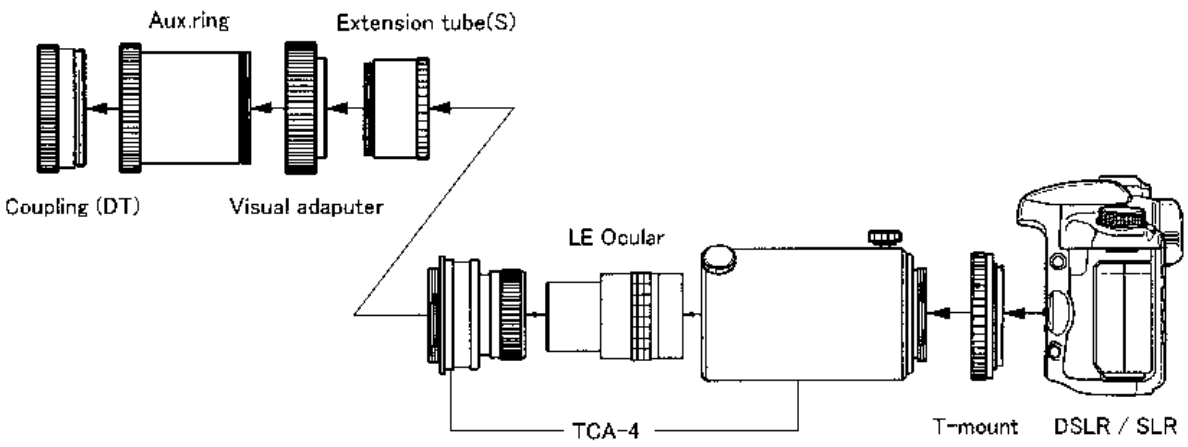


Fig. 12

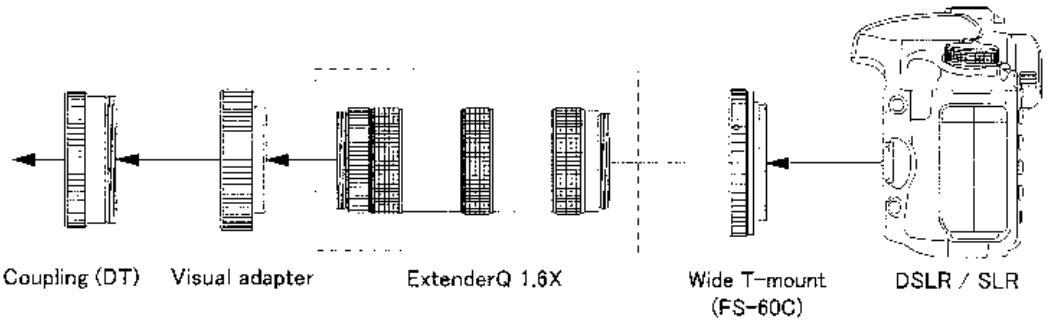


Fig. 13

◆ Extender Imaging using the Extender-Q 1.6x

The Extender-Q will increase the focal length of the FS-60Q to 960mm.

Focal length 960mm
Focal ratio f/16
Image circle ..... 40mm (60% illuminated)

The Extender-Q 1.6x changes the FS-60Q to a 960mm f/16 system.

◆ Seeing

Imaging the Moon and planets at very long focal length requires very good seeing. The method for determining the quality of the seeing is simple. The seeing scale is rated on a value of 1 to 10, with 10 being the steadiest. Look at the stars at the zenith.

If the stars overhead a twinkling rapidly then the seeing is a 1 to 4. If the twinkling is less but still noticeable, then it will be 5 to 7. Finally when the twinkling is far less frequent to none then the seeing is 7 to 10.

⚠ Cautions

When making long focal length images with the FS-60Q it is very important that the telescope and camera be in perfect balance. When the telescope is moved to a different object, be sure to rebalance the telescope and camera package.

These exposures will normally be in seconds so it is better, to prevent any vibration which would blur the image, to use the "hat trick." The hat trick needs a black card that will cover the front of the telescope.

Center the object to be images. Cover the front of the telescope with the black card. Open the shutter using the bulb setting and count to three. Then remove then cover for the required exposure. Then cover the scope again with the black card and close the shutter. This method removes any vibration that would blur the image.

Care & Maintenance

◆ The FS-60Q refractors have been precisely collimated at the factory by highly skilled optical technicians. In the event that as a result of a heavy blow, collimation is lost, please contact your distributor. They will collimate the instrument and return it to you.

◆ If the front lens of the objective has dust or dirt particles on it, use a large hand powered blower to remove the particles. Under no circumstances should dust be removed by any other means, rubbing the surface will cause scratches. If the lens must be cleaned, be certain that all dust and dirt particles have been removed by using a blower. Then, using cotton swabs slightly moistened with lens cleaner, gently clean the particles off.

◆ **REMEMBER, DO NOT USE ANY FORM OF CANNED AIR TO REMOVE THE PARTICLES.**

This product is very cold and could harm the front lens of the objective. Be certain that the dew cap is removed before attempting to clean the objective. Use the following procedure, if the front and rear surfaces of the objective must be cleaned.

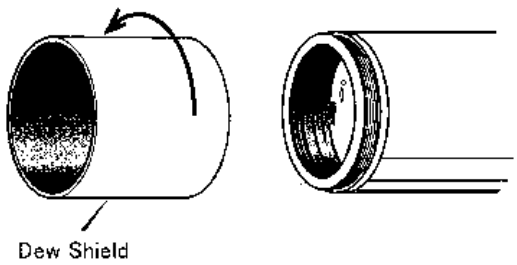


Fig. 14

Do not try to disassemble the lens cell for the lens cleaning. It will be impossible to collimate the objective without the special collimator.

If the telescope is used in condition of high humidity, be certain that it is taken indoors and dried out before it is stored. If the dew has not been dried and the telescope is stored, there will be a harmful residue left on the surfaces of the telescope. Leave the lens cap off until the objective lens is totally dried.

What is Fluorite?

Calcium fluorite (CaF2) is a naturally occurring crystal. Its very low refractive index makes it the best of materials to use in the manufacture of apochromatic telescopes. Unfortunately, the natural crystal contains impurities and as a result, displays some properties that make it unsuited for use in a telescope.

Comparative Diagrame(non-coated)

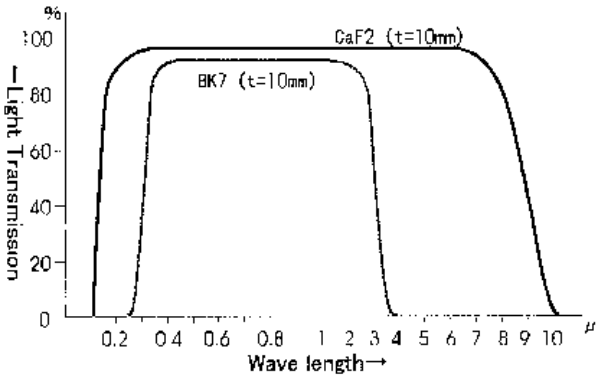


Fig. 15

Now thanks to modern technology, fluorite crystals are grown in an oven. This process produces a totally pure mono crystal structre that does not display any of the unsuitable properties of the natural crystal and has the same very low refractive index. Now, calcium fluorite crystal can be hard multicoated for maximum light transmission and durability.

As the diagram shows, the band pass of fluorite of 1000 to over 100,000 angstroms eclipses by many magnitudes that of any optical glass. Additionally, the use of multicoatings further increases light transmission over any ED glass. These features make the fluorite objective the premier photo/visual instruments for deep sky or lunar and planetary applications in their size class.

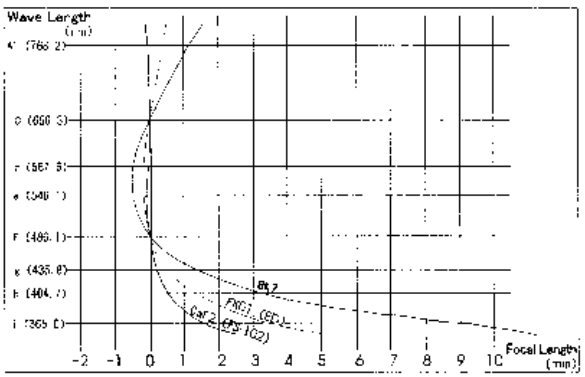


Fig. 16

When the fluorite telescope is taken out for an observing session, it will take about 30 minutes for the objective to temperature equalize for maximum performance. This fact is also true for any optical system used.

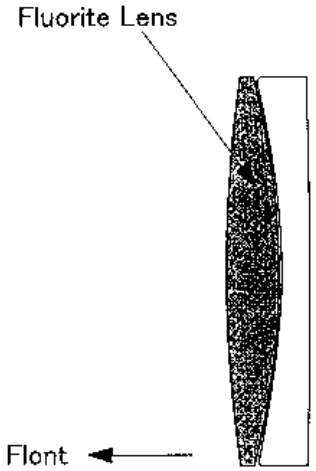
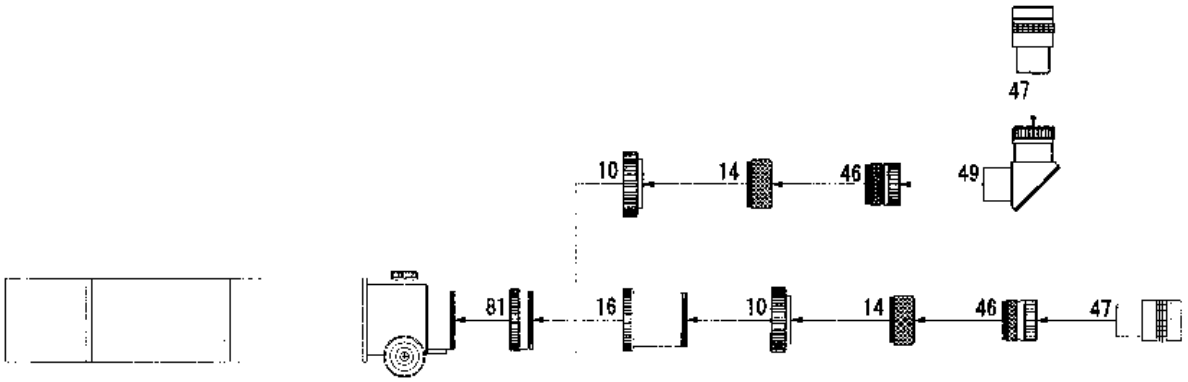


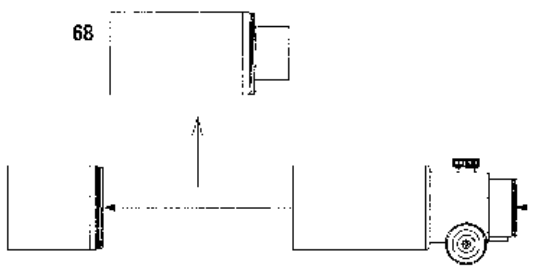
Fig. 17

System Chart

■ Photo/Visual System Chart



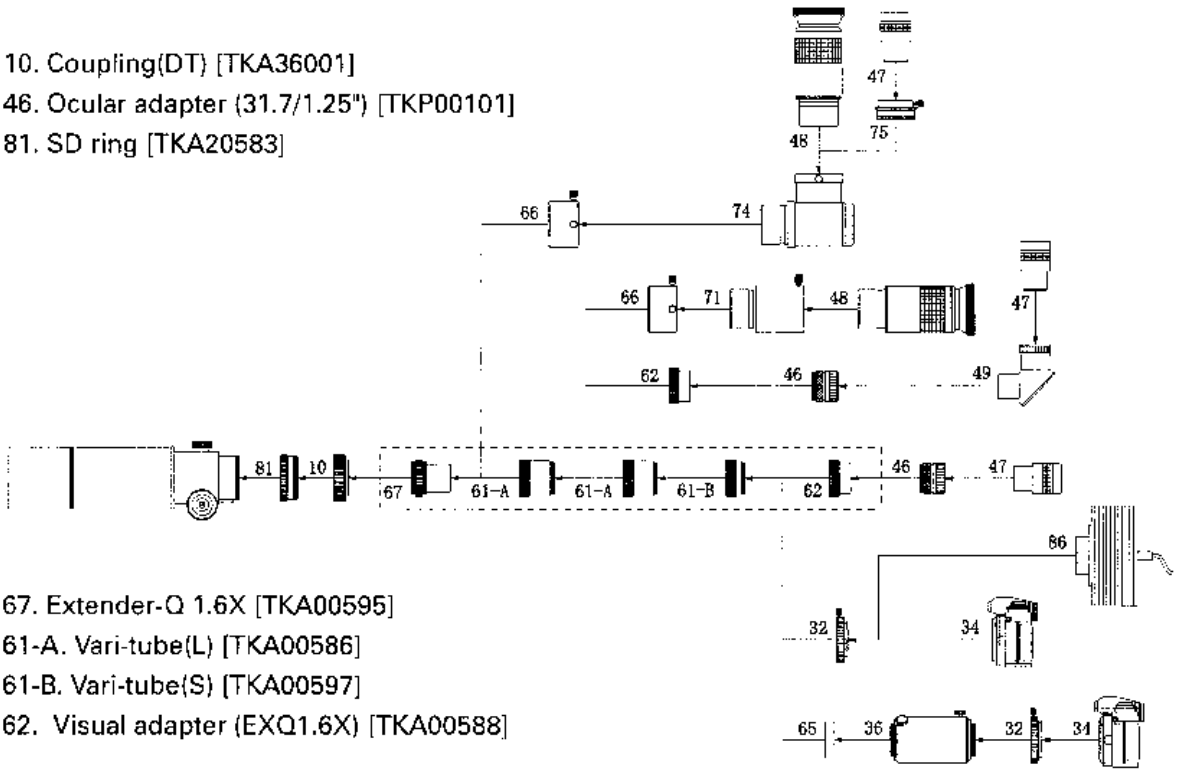
6. CCA [TKA21200]
10. Visual adapter [TKP20005]
11. Extension tube(S) [TKP00105]
14. Coupring(L) [TKP00104]
16. Aux.ring [TKP20001]
18. Reducer-C 0.72X [TKA20580B]
32. T-mount
33. Wide T-mount(FS-60C)
34. DSLR / 35mm SLR camera
36. TCA-4 [TKA00210]
46. Ocular adapter(31.7 / 1.25″) [TKP00101]
47. Ocular(31.7mm / 1.25″)
49. Diagonal prism(31.7) [TKA00541]
68. Extender-CQ 1.7X [TKA20595]
81. Coupling [TKP20001]



[Note 1] No.10,14,16,46,81 are standard with the tube ass'y.
[Note 2] Some types of 35mm SLR or digital SLR cameras might be not connected.

■ Extender-Q 1.6X System Chart

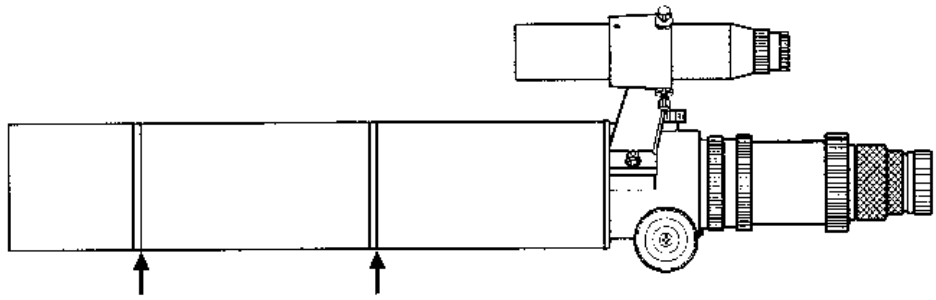
10. Coupling(DT) [TKA36001]
46. Ocular adapter (31.7/1.25") [TKP00101]
81. SD ring [TKA20583]



67. Extender-Q 1.6X [TKA00595]
61-A. Vari-tube(L) [TKA00586]
61-B. Vari-tube(S) [TKA00597]
62. Visual adapter (EXQ1.6X) [TKA00588]

● Optional parts

11. Extension tube(S) [TKP00105]
32. T-mount [KA00220] ~ [KA00226]
34. 35mm SLR / DSLR camera
36. TCA-4 [TKA00210]
38-B. Filter ϕ 30.5mm
47. Ocular(31.7/1.25″)
48. Ocular(50.8/2″)
49. Diagonal prism(31.7) [TKA00541]
60. Extender-C2X [TKA00594]
65. EC ring [TKA00590]
66. Adapter-Q(50.8/2″) [TKA00596]
71. 50.8Extension tube [TKP27112]
74. Diagonal mirror(50.8/2″) [TKA00543]
75. Adapter(DM)(31.7/1.25″) [TKA00111]
86. CCD camera

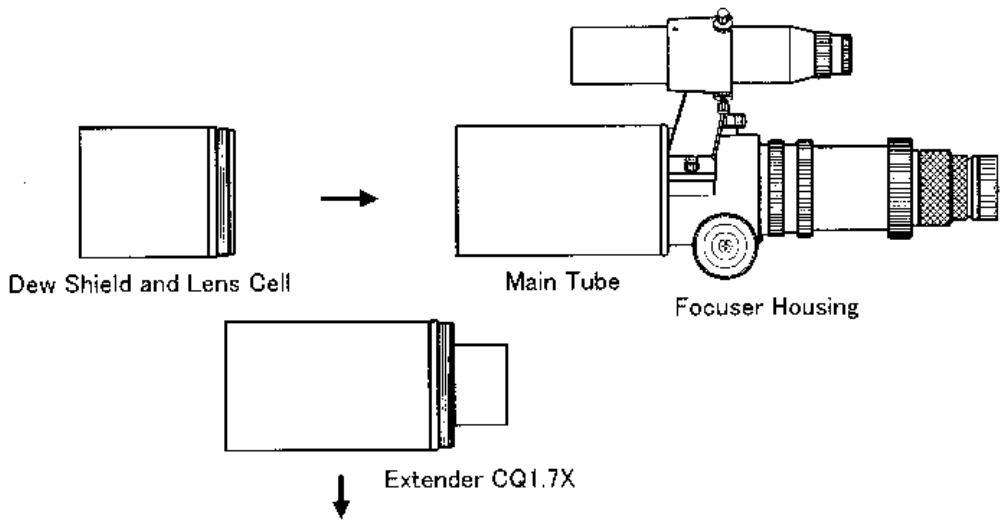


■ Removing the extender-CQ 1.7X

When the Extender-CQ 1.7X is removed from FS-60Q, it turns into FS-60CB. The Extender-C1.7X can be removed at the parts arrowed in the above illustration. These parts are locked with screws. Turn the parts counter-clockwise and then they will come off. The part in black at the center of the tube assembly is a part of the Extender-CQ 1.7X so remove the part from the tube assembly. Then, connect the tubes screwing in as illustrated below. Now your telescope has been changed from FS-60Q to FS-60CB.

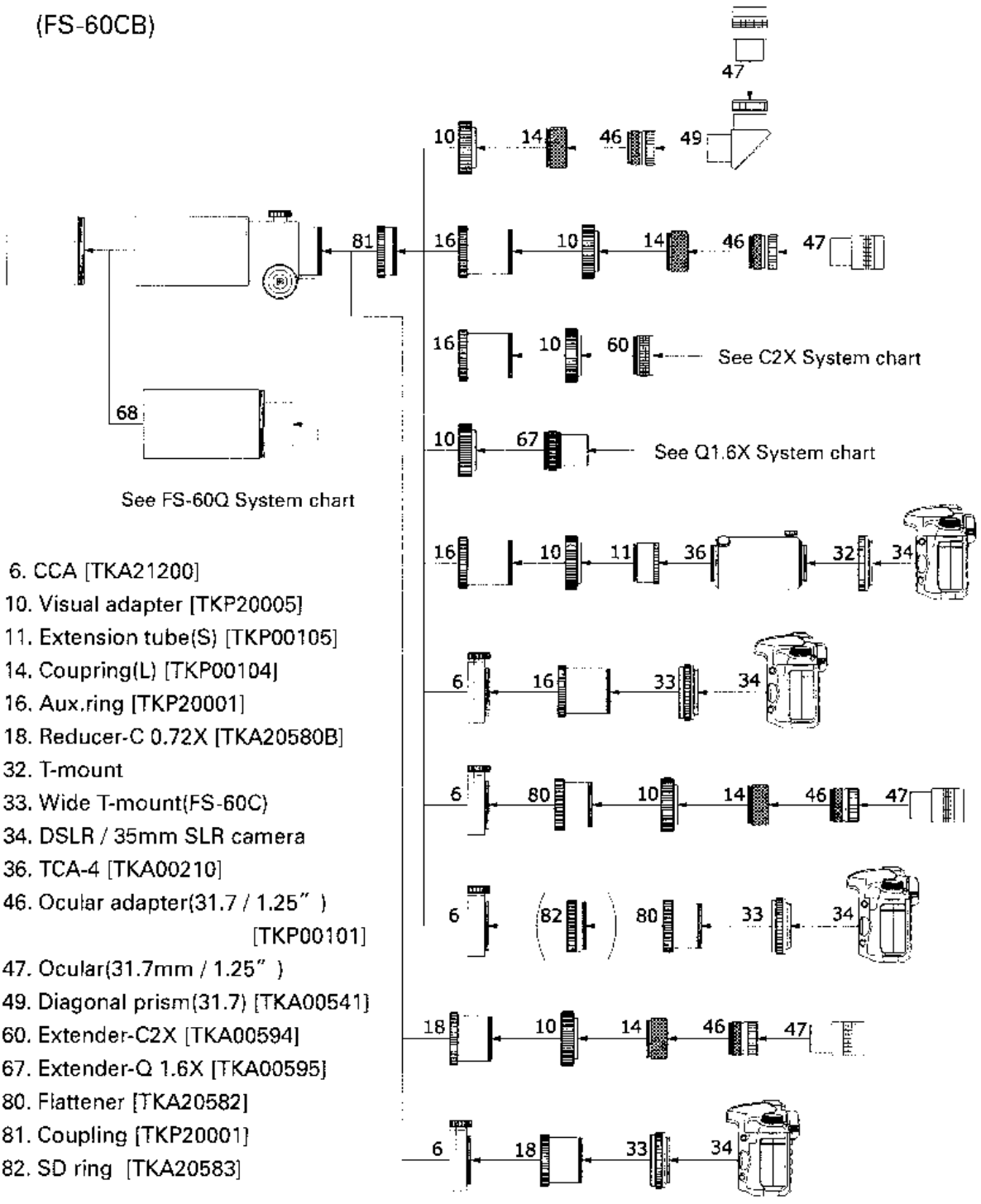
FS-60CB can be used with its dedicated Reducer-C 0.73X and the Flattener, When used with the Reducer-C 0.73X, its focal length will be reduced to 255mm (f/4.2), producing images of about 20 microns across 40mm image circle. Illumination at the edge of the image circle will be 95% at 25mm circle and more than 70% at 35mm circle. So, you can use your FS-60CB as a high performance telephoto lens.

When used with the Flattener, images produced on every corner of a 35mm format will be made flat just like at its center image. Using the Flattener, your FS-60CB will be an ideal photo/visual mini-telescope. FS-60Q is the high performance fluorite telescope capable to use three different focal lengths.



■ Photo/Visual System Chart

(FS-60CB)



6. CCA [TKA21200]
10. Visual adapter [TKP20005]
11. Extension tube(S) [TKP00105]
14. Coupring(L) [TKP00104]
16. Aux.ring [TKP20001]
18. Reducer-C 0.72X [TKA20580B]
32. T-mount
33. Wide T-mount(FS-60C)
34. DSLR / 35mm SLR camera
36. TCA-4 [TKA00210]
46. Ocular adapter(31.7 / 1.25″) [TKP00101]
47. Ocular(31.7mm / 1.25″)
49. Diagonal prism(31.7) [TKA00541]
60. Extender-C2X [TKA00594]
67. Extender-Q 1.6X [TKA00595]
80. Flattener [TKA20582]
81. Coupling [TKP20001]
82. SD ring [TKA20583]

[Note 1] No.10,14,16,46,81 are standard with the tube ass'y.
[Note 2] Some types of 35mm SLR or digital SLR cameras might be not connected.
[Note 3] When the extension tube (No.82) is used, the FS-60C can focus the object in the distance of about 6m to infinity.

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