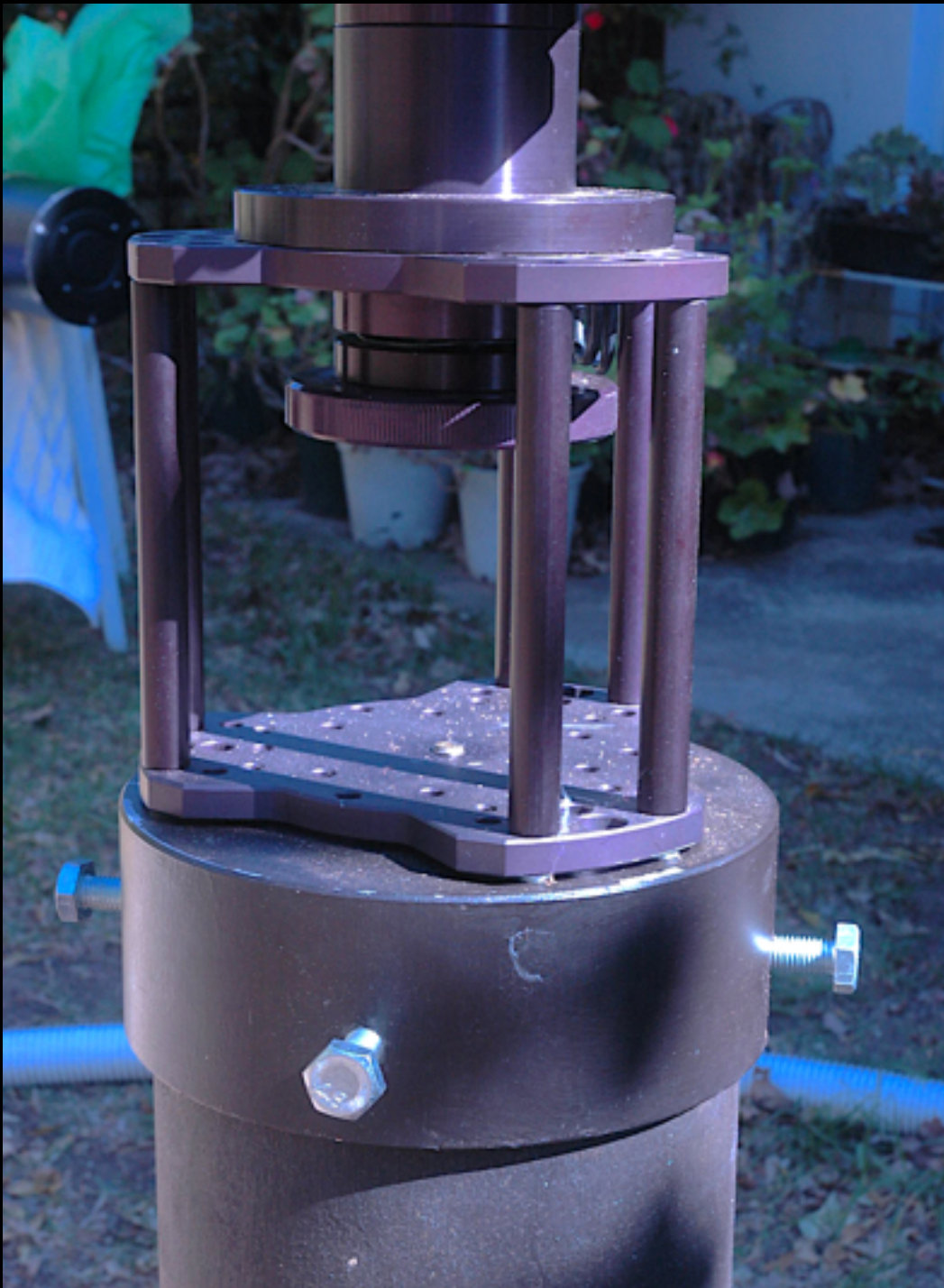


Equipment clearance sale – Mounts

Losmandy AZ8 alt-az mount





The knurled disc inside the “bird cage” adjusts the azimuthal rotational friction – useful when mounted with a single-side telescope configuration. A Vixen-style dovetail clamp is available for the presently empty side of the declination axis.

The column cap under the birdcage comes with the mount and fits 5” to 6” columns.

Price: R3000, not incl. shipping.

Desert-Sky Astro DSV-3 Alt-Az Mount

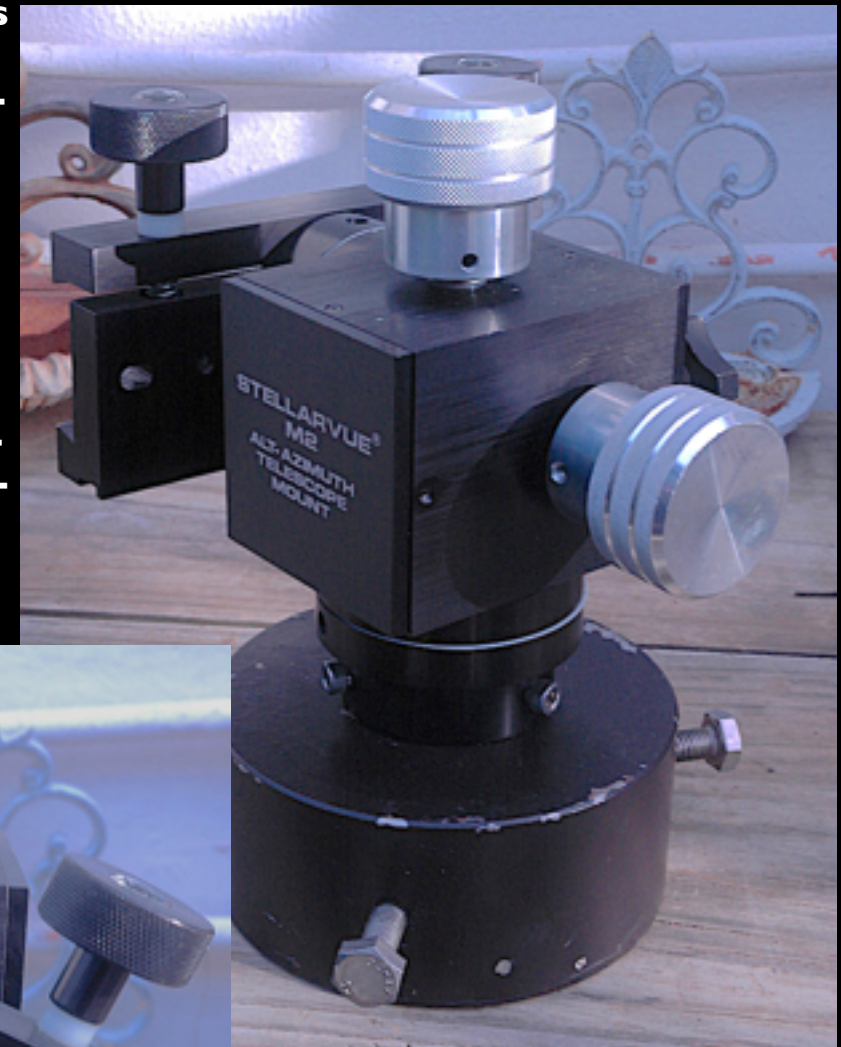


Desert Sky Astro mounts are hand-made to customer order by Raul Castro in Tucson, Arizona, USA. Raul uses two roller bearings in each axis for smooth tracking by the touch of a hand, even at high powers. Each axis also has a gear drive with knobs on both sides so users can track objects from front or back. The right & left dovetail brackets are fully collimatable vertically and horizontally for side-by-side scope observing. The last tension adjustment on both axes was done in 2015 and the mount still tracks smoothly by the touch of a hand at >150x. R4500 plus shipping. The current factory price for a new unit is \$745 (R11,175) plus shipping. The column cap shown fits 6-inch dia. piers. A cap that fits 7-inch piers (shown below) is also available for another R800.

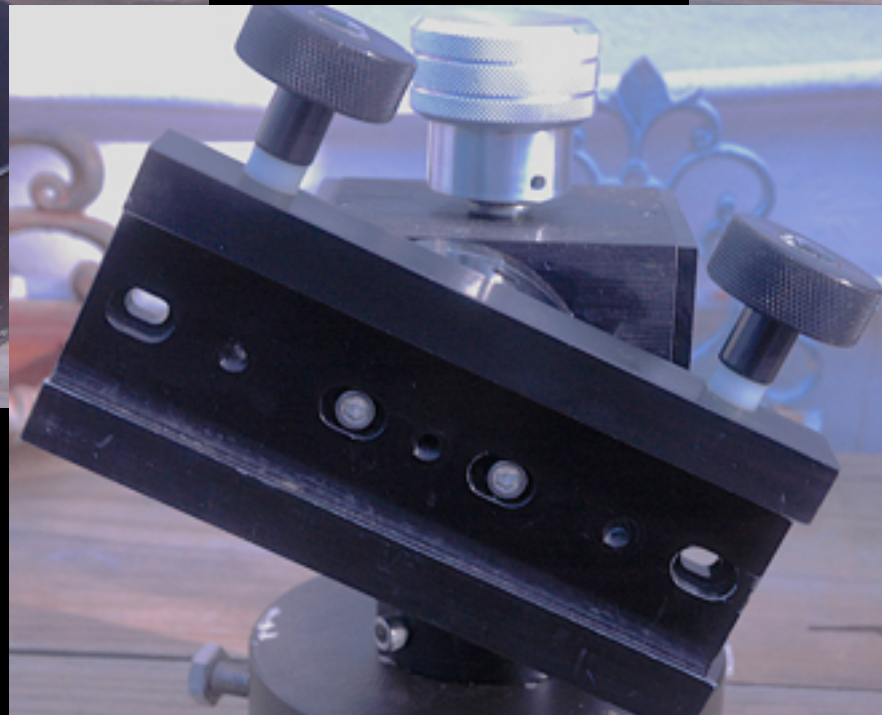
Stellarvue M2 Alt-Az Mount



The M2 was Stellarvue's small to mid-size telescope mount. It was designed to swing easily with loads up to 3.5 kg. This unit was used mainly for birding and landscape viewing. It's not for long-tube refractors due to the swing moment and sensitivity to winds. It's excellent with a 6 inch Schmidt-Cass such as the Celestron C6.



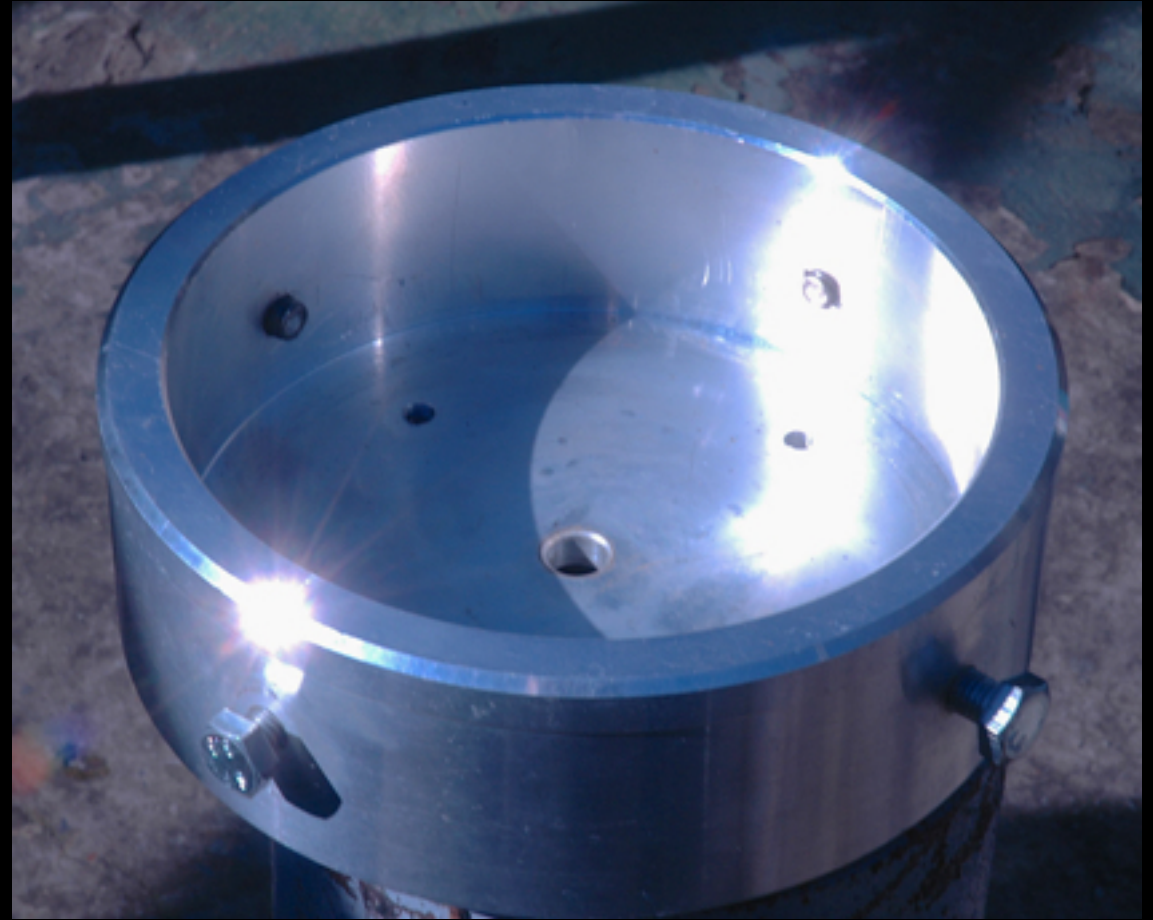
The knurled knobs press a teflon plug against steel shaft supported by bushings on both sidewalls of the housing. Fine-tuned friction makes finger-touch tracking a breeze.



Spring-supported dovetail clamps make it easy to switch scopes.

Asking R2800. [Compare with vendor price of R4500.](#)

Heavy-duty custom-made 7-inch pier cap



This pier cap was custom machined from a solid Dural billet to fit over a 7-inch concrete-filled steel irrigation tube. The walls and cap are 11 mm thick. The smooth-side centre bore is 12.5 mm. The 4 bolt holes are threaded for 8mm/20 standard thread. The 8/20 side bolts accommodate column diameters down to 5.5 inches. R800 plus shipping.

Edmund Scientific field tripod & pier



In the late 1990s the venerable American parts & equipment seller Edmund Scientific Corp. sold a beautifully designed 6-inch Newtonian on an adjustable equatorial fork mount, all in a rather daring pinkish red. These were in turn mounted on an innovative cast-aluminium tripod & mounting plate combination (the beige pieces in these photos). Six-inch Newts and fork mountings advanced rapidly in those days, leaving the lowly tripod behind. 'Behind' is a relative term, because those tripods became the most desired part of the original assemblage. This particular unit was shipped to S Africa in 2013 to become the undercarriage of the multi-tasking tripod/column system shown here. I wanted something sturdy and yet easy to assemble without any tools at remote dark sites in desert or mountains. The tripod is surmounted by a custom-made steel pier 6 inches in diameter, topped with a machined aluminium cap that can accommodate many different mount & scope combinations. It takes only about 4 minutes to go from pieces on the ground to stars in the eyepiece. The thing is so heavy that a sharp knock on the tripod legs merely trembles the field for a second or two. Any of the alt-az mounts shown earlier can be mounted on this unit. (The DSV-3 mount in the photo is not included, but is separately for sale above.)



Asking R2500 exclusive of shipping. Shipping will add several hundred Rand because of the long legs and that heavy steel pier.

Transportable pier tripod for field use

With traditional long-legged field tripods those spindly legs get in the way. The webbed aluminium legs shown here have two steel bolts protruding on the inner side of the curved base. They pass through holes drilled in any stiff material and lock from the inside with wing nuts. Unassembled, the pier occupies little space in a vehicle and assembles from 4 parts on the ground to fully ready to observe in about 2 minutes. Any mount can be bolted to the tube cap on top – here the Stellarvue M2 advertised in the Alt-Az mounts section of this sale. This unit comes with three steel tubes of varying lengths for different telescope sizes.

The stubby tube is good for small-aperture Newtonians used while seated. The mid-length tube works for longer-tube Newts up to 6-inch f/8 size and SCTs up to 8 inches. The tall tube has 7 mm walls and is quite heavy. It works well for longer refractors if sitting down and SCTs up to 10 inches if standing up. The massive weight resists wind sway and accidental knocks from a foot or arm. A fist rap against the pier shaft dampens in under 2 seconds when an 8-inch SCT is on top. The M2 shown is not included but is a good companion to this mount for the interested buyer. Price: R1100 with all the pier tubes shown. Shipping will be about R300.



