

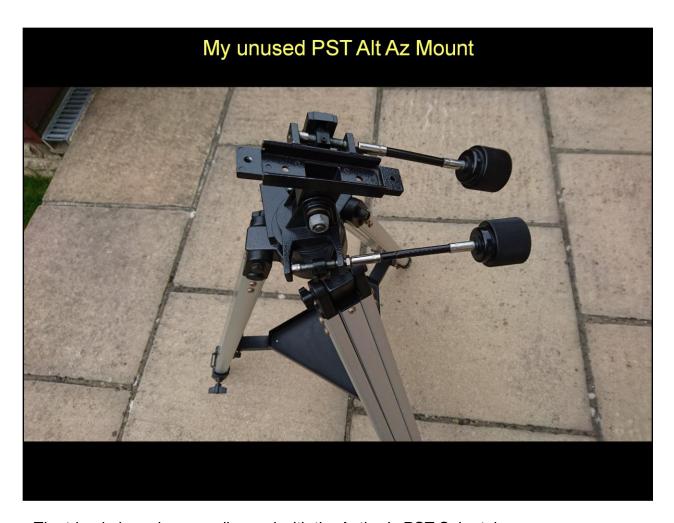
This presentation was given to the Newbury Astronomical Society Main Meeting but may be given to a Beginners Meeting at a later time.



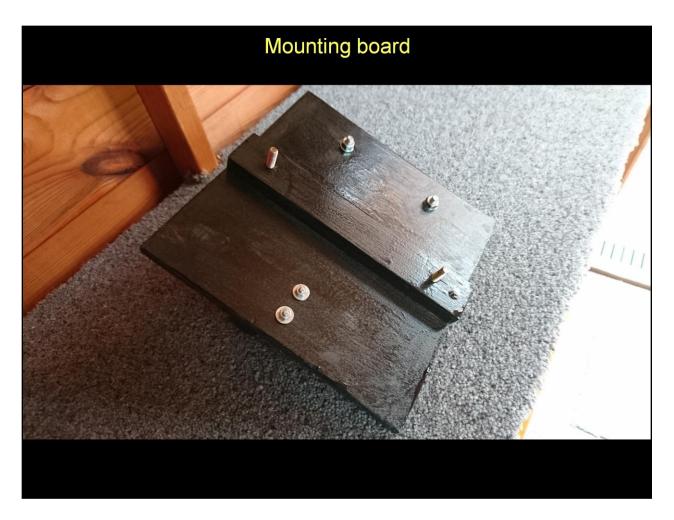
While imaging Comet 2020 F3 (NEOWISE) the author found it rather difficult to find the comet using the camera screen and keep it in view. He came up with the idea to mount the camera with a telescope finder that can be fixed to a tripod. Here is a brief story of the project.



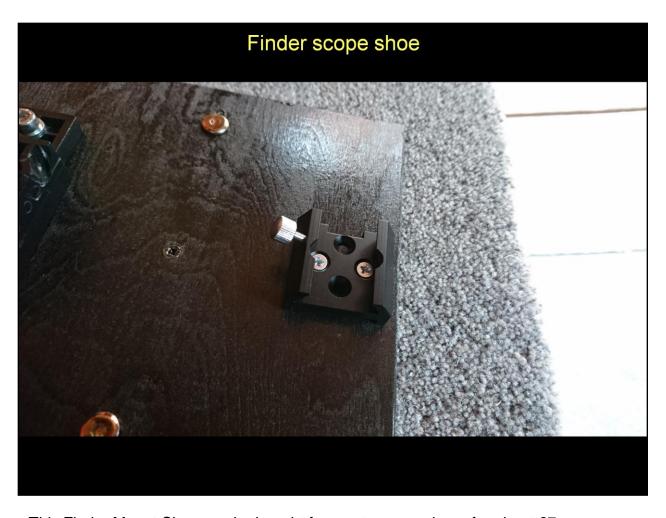
The Author's DSLR Camera on its tripod mount.



The tripod above is generally used with the Author's PST Solar telescope so was available for this project. It has a slot location for alignment and holes for clamping bolts to be fitted.



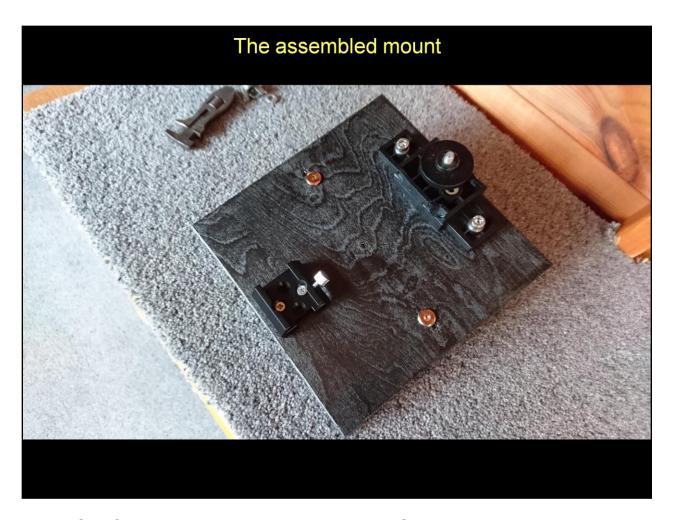
The image above shows the 200 x 200 x 8mm plywood mounting base with a wooden location strip secured underneath using countersunk screws. Two M6 bolts were fitted to clamp the mount to the tripod head using two M6 Wing Nuts.



This Finder Mount Shoe can be bought from astronomy shops for about £7.



The DSLR mount shown was available from a junk drawer but a Camera Hot Shoe Mount, can be bought from Amazon for about £6.



The DSLR Camera Mount and the Finder Mounting Shoe are shown bolted to the plywood mounting base. The tops of the two bolts used to clamp the plywood mounting base to the Tripod location slot can also be seen.



Camera Hot Shoe Mount, shown above, can be bought from Amazon for about £6. The Camera Hot Shoe Mount Base can be drilled for securing using screws or small bolts.

The Finder Mount Shoe shown can be bought from astronomy shops for about £7 and can be secured be the Mounting Plate using wood screws or nuts and countersink bolts.

## Finders available from Astronomy Shops

If a finder is not to hand then they can be bought from Astronomy shops like Rother Valley Optics. Skywatcher manufacture two sizes of Finder Scope a  $50 \times 9$  (£45) model and a  $30 \times 6$  model (£26). The smaller one is perfectly adequate, has a wider field of view and the lesser light gathering capability will not be a problem.



The finished assembly showing the Alt Az mounting movement knobs.



The finished mount was used to image Mars rising but the main purpose for this building project was to follow the Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn in December this year.

The two planets appear close in the sky already but will become much closer. See the following image of the (wide) conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn.



A DSLR Camera image of the (wide) conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn using the DSLR Camera Mount and the Finder Mounting. The planets are currently (21st September) still quite far apart but are moving closer together. They will be at their closest Conjunction on 21st December 2020.

