

Economical Polar Axis Finder Illuminator

Although its not a necessary item, you may already have a Celestron or Orion polar axis finder installed in your AS-GT mount. If you do, here's an easy and inexpensive way to illuminate the reticle to aid in polar alignment.

Parts List

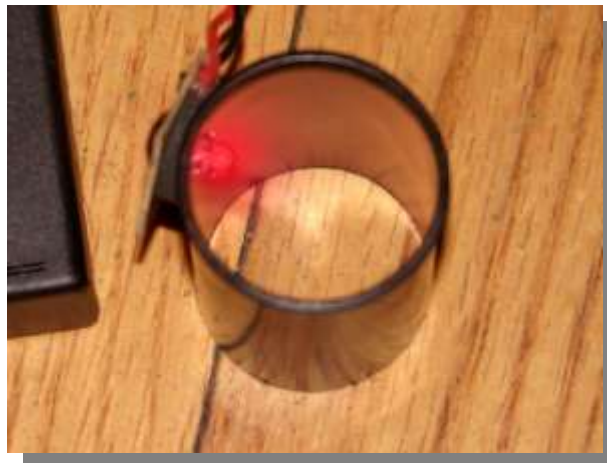
1. Radio Shack part number 276-299 'Blinking LED Module' - about \$3.00
2. 2 "AA" batteries – about \$1.00
3. Plastic 35mm film canister – free

Directions

1. Purchase the Radio Shack part and batteries, and locate a film canister.
2. Carefully cut the bottom the film canister.
3. Drill a hole in the side of the canister big enough to accept the LED.
4. The LED circuit board has a foam 'donut' attached to it with an adhesive. Remove the protective cover and stick the led through the drilled hole.
5. Add some Velcro to the battery box and mount. Insert the completed illuminator into the AS-GT mount and switch the LED on. Position the mount and position Polaris in the appropriate location on the reticle.



Completed Illuminator



The stock unit blinks approximately once per second. If you'd rather have a non-blinking LED, remove the circuit board entirely and solder a standard LED in its place. However, a resistor may be required to prevent the LED from burning out.

Don Gallian