Tucson, AZ
73 °F

RECENT SOLAR CONDITIONS

100 200 300 400 500 600 700 800 900 1000

There's definately stuff to look at :)

WHO'S ONLINE…

MORE LUNT SOLAR SYSTEMS

luntsolarsystems.com

THE VERY LATEST NEWS

Aug. 18th
Lunt Solar Systems introduces the LS80THa and new DSII system!

Sept. 8th.

LINKS

Lunt Solar Home Page
Visit our Home Webpage to view our products and picture galleries
Lunt Solar Chat Forum
Open discussion forum regarding Solar equipment. A great place to ask questions.
Buy & Sell Used Telescopes
It's free to view or list your used astronomy equipment for sale.

EVENT CALENDAR

PATS (CALIFORNIA)
September 18th and 19th Lunt Solar Systems will be attending PATS once again! Come on out, say hi, and check out the Lunt line of products!

EXPLORE

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ARCHIVES

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July 2010
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April 2010
March 2010
February 2010
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December 2009
November 2009
October 2009

SHOOTING THE MOON

October 26th, 2010

No Comments »

Yes, this is a little change of pace for Lunt Solar System, an image of the moon?

Well last week well known Solar Outreach guru and imager Stephen Ramsden of Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project aimed his 127EDT refractor at the nearly full moon and capture the 10 frame mosaic below.

Now I'm sure many of you are asking, what does this have to do with Lunt and solar astronomy? Well this entire image was taken through a Lunt 2″ Solar Wedge! The Solar Wedge was used without an of its polarizing filters as the wedge does all the work, most of the light passes through the wedge like it would with the sun passing only a fraction of the light up to the camera. The final image was stitched using iMerge to give a beautiful Lunar Mosaic!

To see more images from Stephen as well as pictures from his countless solar out reach events please see his website: Charlie Bates Solar Astronomy Project

We love getting images from our users so please continue to send them in!

About Lunt Solar Systems LLC…

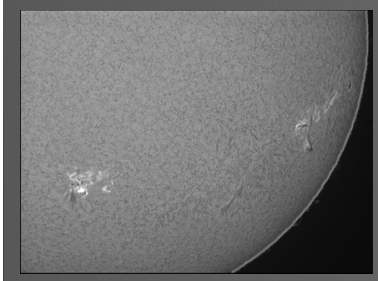
Lunt Solar Systems introduces the LS230THa, the largest solar telescope in the amateur market to date!

Oct. 4th.
Lunt Solar Systems introduces the LS60FHa and LS50THa.

IMAGE OF THE WEEK

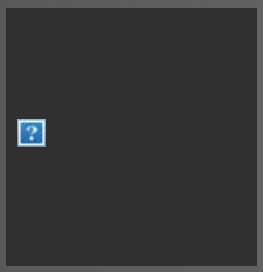
Here is the Solar Image of the Week.
Thanks to: Dodi
LS60T/Ha Single Stack

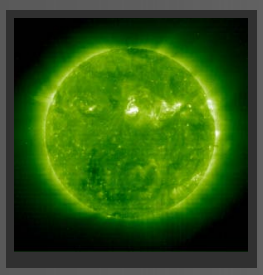
Recent image of AR11045.

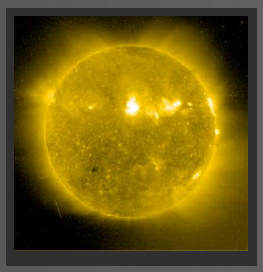


REAL TIME IMAGES: THE VERY LATEST FROM SOHO

SOHO, the Solar & Heliospheric Observatory, is a project of international collaboration between ESA and NASA to study the Sun from its deep core to the outer corona and the solar wind.







THE SUN IS OUR STAR!

.....and as you would expect, our Star is hot, bright, dynamic, and sometimes quite violent.

At 93 million miles away, we are ideally placed at a point where the Sun provides just enough warmth and energy essential to our living planet, Earth.
At only 93 million miles, the Sun is close enough for us to view it's surface thru a relatively inexpensive scope from the comfort and relative safety (Sunscreen please) of our backyards on a clear and warm day.

What! Astronomy during the day? Lunt Solar wants to show you how.

REFERENCES

Prominences:
These look like eruptions from the edge of the Solar disk.
Prominences can be small spikey looking details, or large cloud-like detail with fine feather-like features.

They are, in fact, ionized Hydrogen-alpha emissions being projected from the linb.

Prominences are anchored to the Sun's surface in the Mesosphere, and extend outward into the Sun's Troposhere.
They typically measure many earth diameters.

Filaments:
These are strin-like features on the surface of the Sun.

At high resultion they take on a 3D effect due to the coller aspect of the suspended filament contrasted against the bright, hotter Sun.

They are actually prominences being viewed against the surface.

Spicules
A Spicule is a dynamic jet of gas about 500km long.
They move outward at about 20km/second thru the Chromosphere.

Father Angelo Secchi of the Vatican Observatory discovered them in 1877.

The Chromosphere is entirely composed of Spicules. These features can be seen as

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Posted in..... Stephen Ramsden, astronomy, herschel wedge, hobby, space, telescopes

A FEW FACTS ABOUT LUNT SOLAR SYSTEMS..

October 7th, 2010

No Comments »

I often get asked questions about where Lunt Solar Manufacture, assemble, and test it's products. It was suggested that I blog a little about what we do and how we do it…

Lunt Solar is located in Tucson, Arizona. We occupy about 7,000 square feet of space in a nice industrial park located right off the main freeway at I10 and Grant road. Tucson is about 50 miles from the US/Mexico border, and about 300 miles from one of my favorite dive spot, San Carlos. (My other hobby is underwater photography). My wife and I recently dove with Hammerhead Sharks.. Tucson has about 300 clear days per year (you wouldn't have thought so lately). Being in the Solar Telescope market we feel that it is important to be have access to these clear skies as often as possible.

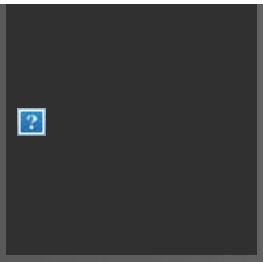
What is probably little known is that I (Andy Lunt) personally test every Telescope and Filter that ships from Lunt Solar (sometimes more than 2 or 3 times). I do this in order to maintain the highest of quality control. It is my "humble" opinion that no-one else is better qualified. It also removes any doubt as to what any issue might be and wether or not they should be addressed. Wether it be alignment, off band, astigmatism, pinching, pin holes, banding, etc, etc… None of these issue are overlooked. I feel that if the customer receives the product in the same condition that it left the factory, they would be very pleased with it. As we all know, a few times there are issues due to running of the shipping gauntlet. It's too bad that the shipping companies don't always take the same pride in their handling of customer's product that we feel they should.

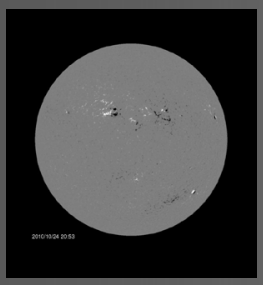
The public often ask if it safe to look thru a Lunt Solar Product, I've been testing these products for almost 20 years… I still use the same eye……. All joking aside. Safety has to be the number one priority to this hobby. Lunt takes safety very seriously, and the testing of any filter or scope should be done by the a person who can take full responsiblity for the safety and performance of a solar product, a person who understands the design and function of all safety elements and has the experience necessary to determine a pass or fail.

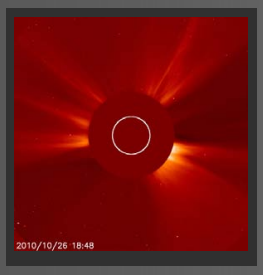
No other astronomical product requires a higher level of quality control than a Solar Instrument.

Testing should be done under clear transparent skies. Tucson is therefore ideal. If testing is done under any less conditions, even I would find it very difficult to qualify these products. How can the tester determine the quality of a precision optical system if the seeing conditions are to blame for the majority of the optical performance? While most people do not live in areas of ideal seeing, it is good to know that should they get a great day, the scope will not disappoint.

Lunt purchase our raw glass materials from a company on the east coast (USA). We grind, edge, bevel, and polish all the glass needed for the etalon and filters systems in house. Most coatings are oursourced to a coating facility that maintains a coater specific to our requirements. Our coating facility has the required ability to produce AR coating at less than 0.1%R. (typically in the 0.06%R range). They also hold the high reflector coatings to better than +/-1%. The ability to control the coating processes to such high accuracy has allowed me to make precision modifications to the coating formulas which have proven to improve contrast thru the reduction of the background noise.







"fur"around the edge of the disk.

Lunt employ 8 people.

Lunt purchase mechanical parts from numerous locations. We have a local, family owned, CNC machine shop in our industrial complex that machine many of the unique parts specific to adapting existing scopes for Solar use. Adapter plates, prototype parts, and some mechanical parts are also made in house.

Lunt purchase focusers and accessories from numerous suppliers in the USA, Germany, China, and Taiwan. We do our very best to provide a quality product at an affordable price. We are also very proud to put "Made in the USA" on all our Telescopes and Filter products.

If you have any questions about Lunt Solar, please ask. I would be more than happy to post questions and answers in this area.

About Lunt Solar Systems LLC…

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Posted in..... lunt solar

THE NEW LS60F (UNOBSTRUCTED)

October 4th, 2010

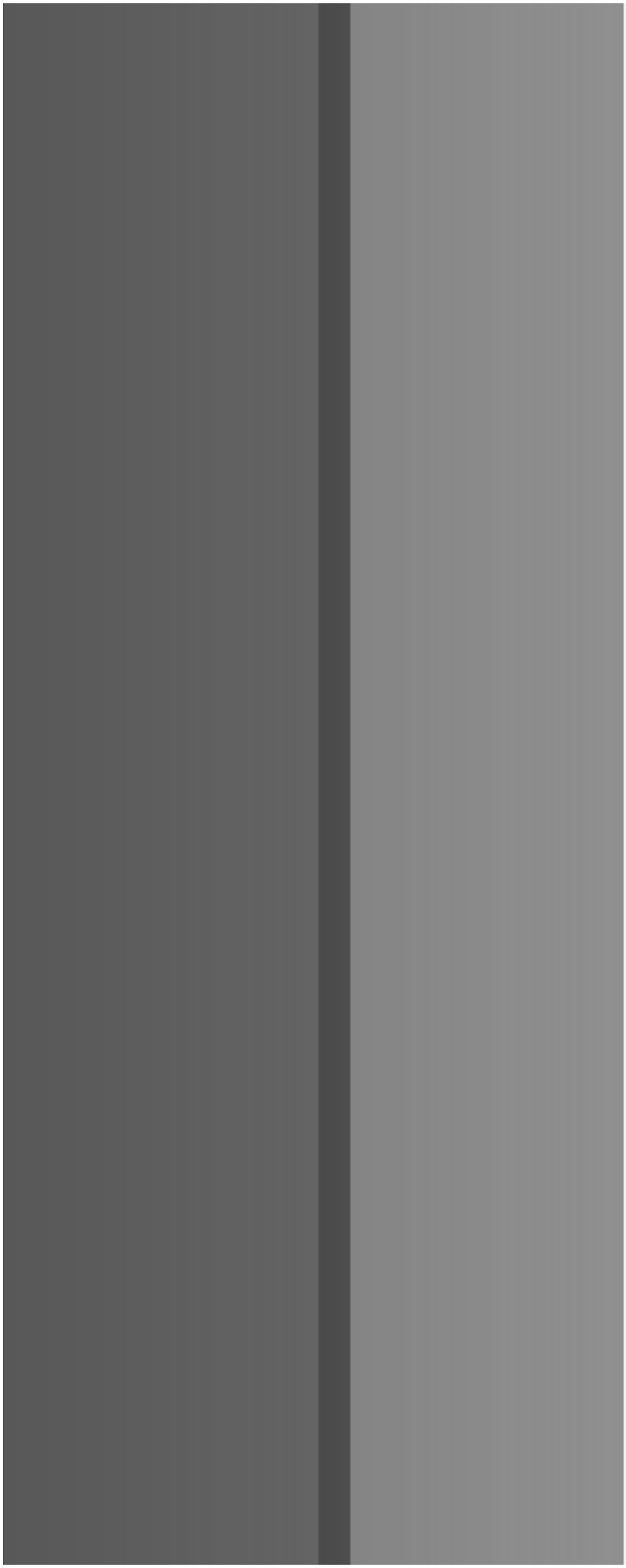
No Comments »

Introducing the New LS60F Unobstructed Front Mount Filter!

I have been accused of thinking too much about new products and technologies as they relate to my passion for Solar. My wife would tell you that there is something new on the horizon when she sees me staring at the fan above our bed for hours on end. There's just something about the spinning fan that keeps my thoughts on track and allows me to work through the optical and mechanical details.. (not to mention the issues of day to day business ;)

I will never apologize for my need to improve the current technology, providing better Telescopes and Filters next month than I did last year.

Lunt have been around for 3 years!! Wow, time has flown. We have come a



long way in that timeframe. From working/polishing the first 8 months in my kitchen (*I can admit it now*). To being accused of marketing vaporware (*come on, a few of you can admit saying that*). I began the company with 10 products. 9 of the 10 made it to full production, the LS200T being the only failure.

Some products did very well in the short time they have been around, reaching the pages of Popular Science's best of the year issue, and being picked for the National Geographic Eclipse Documentary from Easter Island.. What will we do next year :)…

Lunt Solar has grown to a point where we now deliver 200-300 Telescopes and Filters per month and with the Sun's increased activity (*go Sun!!!)* we have had to expanded our operations once again into the space next door just to maintain. With so many new "astronomers" entering the market thru Solar observation, *(up to 50% of purchases are made by people who have never even looked thru a scope*), Lunt will be looking at expanding our business, and participating in education and outreach efforts.

I've got a great idea!!! Why not introduce a few new products, and offer an optional upgrade to the Lunt Blocking Filters for those that have Doublestack systems, and like to use their Bino's?? (*yep, that's a teaser for a later post).*

So here goes...

Coming soon… Lunt Solar Systems is pleased to announce that the unobstructed 60mm front mount filter system will be available at your local dealer before the end of the year. (*dealers will be getting full info soon*).

The LS60F will be available as a stand alone filter set with the LS series of Blocking Filters. It will also be available as an upgrade to the current LS50F for Doublestacking the very popular LS60T series of Solar Telescopes. The OD of this filter matches the same OD as the LS60T's. Yes! we have been able to place 60mm of aperture into the same housing as the LS50F.

We are currently looking at providing the LS60F in a red anodized housing with black trim. (*as seen in picture*).

As a stand alone filter for DS use the LS60F will have a retail price of US$1,699.00. *(subject to change).* Being an un-obstructed system, the LS60T does require a level optical accuracy significantly higher than the obstructed 75mm.

We are currently in the process of finalizing some of the specifications and dealers should have full details of price and delivery in a few weeks.

In other news.....

Lunt are currently working on the design an manufacture of a new LS50T. This telescope system will utilize a novel approach for the tuning of the internal etalon. Lunt's ability to produce precisely tuned etalon filters allows us to use novel methods of precision tuning that do not require any manipulation of the etalon itself**. Thus reducing the risks of trying to tune a precision optical system via direct mechanical means.

The LS50T is intended to be priced significantly under the US$1k mark. This system is designed to provide excellent views of the Sun's growing activity, and while it may not have all the physical features of it's bigger brother, it will provide the novice observer (non imager) an unparalleled first look at our nearest Star (the Sun). The addition of the very popular LS50F will, off course, bump the LS50T's performance significantly.

***Lunt do not phyically contact the etalon for tuning. We avoid any mechanical/physical contact to the etalon filter to avoid issues such as pinching and differential stress which could lead to banding, astigmatism, and soft resolution caused by un-uniformity of the mechanical systems and resultant optical spacing. (more on this in a new post).*

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Posted in..... lunt solar

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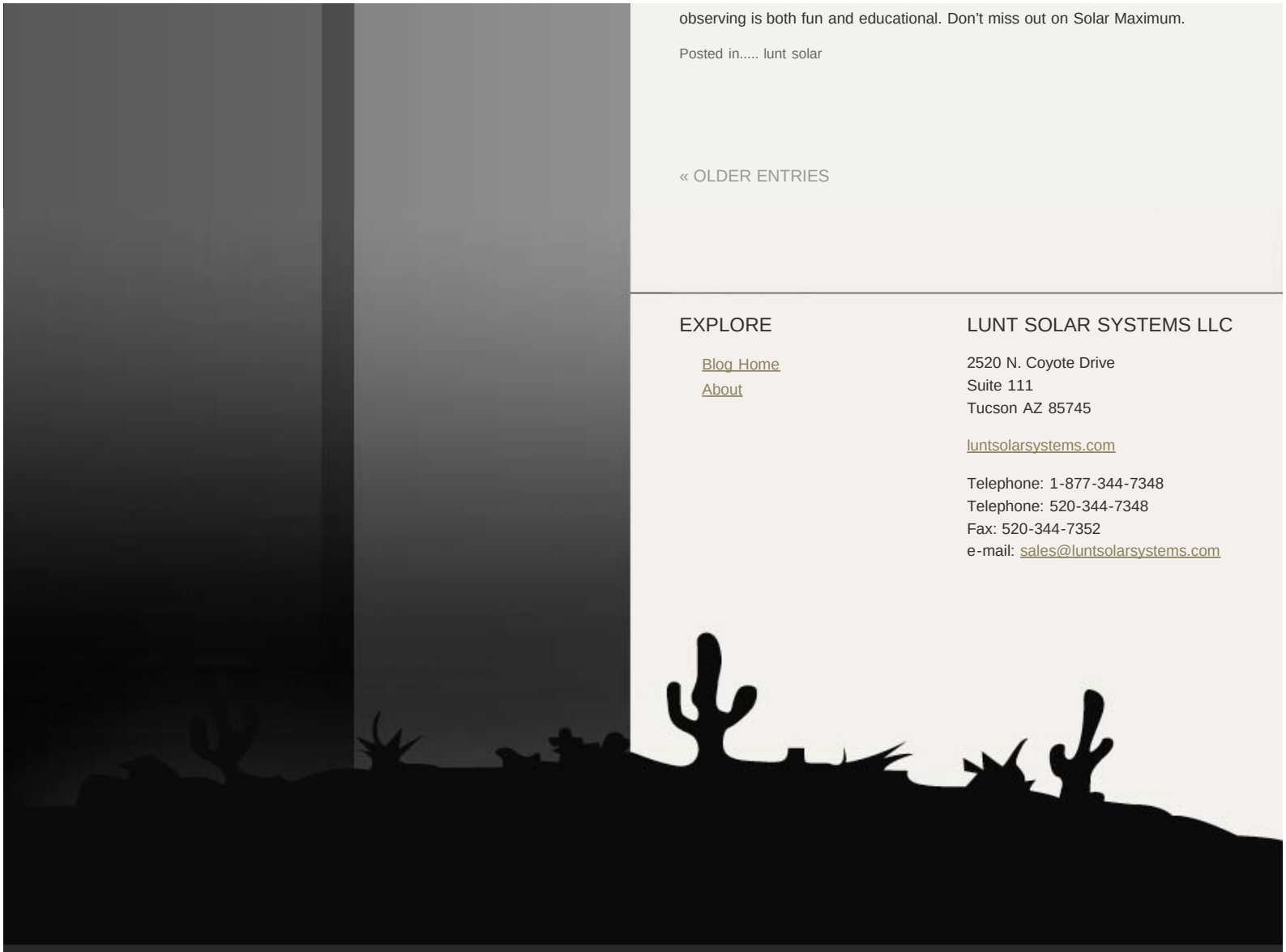

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About

LUNT SOLAR SYSTEMS LLC

2520 N. Coyote Drive
Suite 111
Tucson AZ 85745

luntsolarsystems.com

Telephone: 1-877-344-7348
Telephone: 520-344-7348
Fax: 520-344-7352
e-mail: sales@luntsolarsystems.com