

2008 CORONADO MAXSCOPE 60

Review by Stephen W. Ramsden (spike@solarastrophotography.com)

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MaxScope 60 Product Description



For those looking for more aperture we proudly present the SolarMax 60 dedicated H-alpha telescope. Built to our exacting standards the SolarMax 60 telescope provides the user a telescope with the same lightweight portability of our SolarMax 40 telescope but the extra aperture greatly increases the resolution of detail on the surface and on the limb. With over twice the surface area of the SolarMax 40 telescope the difference is obvious.

The SolarMax 60 telescope comes standard at <0.7 Angstroms with a BF10 and is available with an internal module to lower that to <0.5 Angstroms. A T-Max attached directly behind the etalon gives you the ability to adjust for Doppler shifted light. Bino-viewers and most imaging equipment will come to focus, sometimes with the use of a Barlow or OCS. The advantage of the extra aperture becomes clear each time you view.

- **Aperture:** 60mm
- **Focal Length:** 400mm
- **F/Ratio:** F/6.6
- **Bandwidth:** $<0.7\text{\AA}$
- **Thermal Stability:** $0.005\text{ \AA}/^{\circ}\text{C}$
- **Safety Blocking:** $>10^{-5}$ from EUV/IR
- **Price:** \$2499

REVIEW:

The Coronado Maxscope 60 is the middle sized dedicated solar scope in the MaxScope family of products. The 60 mm scope arrived packaged in a single ply cardboard box via UPS ground with no damage. Inside the box was a very thin and long case made of the same leatherette material that all of the Coronado cases use. The case is quite attractive but has very little protection from rough handling and as with the other scopes I own, I assume it will not stand up to daily use very well. The case has 2 non-locking latches and a vinyl covered handle. There is some sort of locking gizmo in the center that I could not easily figure out.



Inside the case were the following items:

5 year warranty card

Generic manual for Halpha viewing

1-25mm CEMAX eyepiece

1 Maxscope 60 telescope

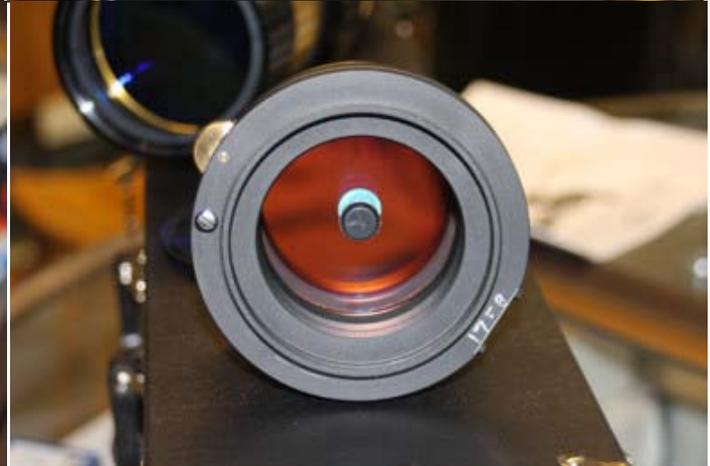


The Maxscope 60 had a Coronado Sol-Ranger attached to a clamshell that was secured to the telescope with two chrome plated screws.

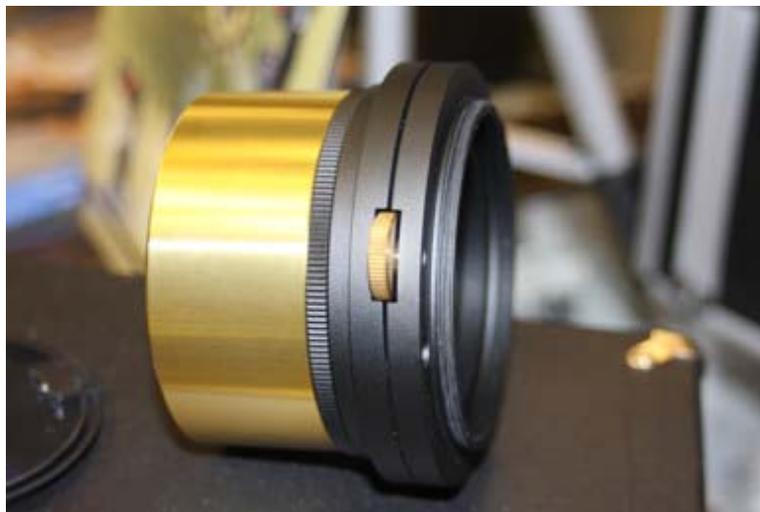


The 60mm etalon was attached to a T-max tuner and screwed into the end of the telescope in front of the clear blue objective. There was an empty gold tube that led to an ERF inside the scope and then to a 2 inch helical focuser which held a 1.25 inch drawtube containing a BF10 Blocking filter encased inside a 1.25 inch star diagonal. There was a plastic clip on etalon cover and a white eyepiece plug in the diagonal.





The scope had a solid but easily manageable weight. The etalon itself had a small central obstruction and was screwed onto the T-max tuner. No visible defects on the etalon surfaces were visible.



The patented T-max tuner on all of the Coronado MaxScopes is a system that tilts the entire etalon assembly so that the wavelength sensitivity can be adjusted around the H α wavelength to detect different solar phenomena. The brass tuning wheel was moderately firm and ended up on the underside of the scope when the etalon was fully attached.



The MaxScope 60 was certainly pleasing to look at. The standard Coronado gold and black accents were attractive and the scope was very appealing to look at and touch.

I attached the scope to the standard Vixen Porta-Mount as available at Camera Bug for \$199. The scope required a 2 inch dovetail bracket to be attached to the mount which was not supplied.

Once attached properly the scope balanced easily. I extended the focus drawtube and inserted the included CEMAX 25mm eyepiece.

The sun was very quiet and also low on the horizon this time of year in Atlanta. I did not take any photographs as I was not using a guided mount. I also do not own the scope and did not want to scratch it.

The image was very bright and the prominences were easily visible. Very little surface detail was visible due to its single etalon .7A resolution. It was a VERY pleasing image and in line with that of the competitors 60mm single etalon systems.

I would say specifically that the image was a little less bright than the LUNT 60 but that the details were exactly the same. The image was far superior to the single PST.



The Coronado Maxscope 60 has the same aluminum drawtube/ Helical focuser that is on all of the MaxScopes. I am personally not a big fan of this system as it is not very strong and has no way to lock the focus in place.

The 1.25 inch drawtube is secured with 2 nylon screws that easily bend or even break off under pressure. The blocking filter is secured in place by a 3rd large chrome plated screw that will bend the nylon screws when you try and stuff all of this or any other MaxScope into the tiny little supplied Coronado cases.

I am certainly no design engineer but I can't believe that this is the best that they could come up with. This is the weak spot of this scope just as it is on the 40 and the 90 MaxScopes.

LUNT and Daystar use a standard Crayford style 10:1 two inch focuser on their solar products which I find to be much more attractive and usable either visually or for photography.

You are also limited to inserting only 1.25 inch cameras or eyepieces into the BF10 blocking filter. Not good for a premium priced solar setup in my opinion. Of course for

an extra \$1600 you can get the straight thru BF30 blocking filter attached to any of the MaxScopes. The Helical focuser remains though even after this enormous upgrade.

THE BOTTOM LINE

The Coronado MaxScope 60mm/BF10 setup is a very well designed solar scope for visual use. The scope has a lot to be desired for camera use. I believe it is vastly overpriced at \$2499 when compared to the competition.

Prominences are easily visible in fine detail in this scope. The focuser is weak at best and the case is not very sturdy.

The scope does come ready to use with included clamshell, eyepiece and sol-ranger sun finder.

Thank you for reading,

Stephen W. Ramsden

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