

These are just a few of the customer comments on the ServoCAT:

AP: The new INSTALLATION VIDEO is GREAT! I was reluctant to install something on my beautiful scope... your instructions and video made it a breeze (literally!). Thanks for a super product.

JR: I continue to be the envy of lots of colleagues at star parties. I have installed a drool shield on my 18" Obsession with ServoCAT and Argo Navis.

MC: This thing is amazing. Thanks for all your help

RR: As for the performance of the CAT while I was observing in New Mexico, I kept wondering how I ever functioned without it...

RE: I have installed the ServoCAT and the first night using it set it out on a planet at a ridiculous 1470x... an hour later it was STILL CENTERED! INCREDIBLE!

HM: (regarding "Cable Sling" product) Your design and the ease of the adjustment are fabulous!!! 🍌. This is another quality product you designed, which enhances the look and simplicity of function of Obsessions.

VB: I am a die hard starhopper and love the servocat. I disengage the motors, find the object, reengage, instant tracking. Beats the heck out of a platform any day. A lot of times hunting a dim GX or quasar in my 20" its actually easier to starhop than use goto. the servocat works well for starhopping even if you dont disengage the motors and use the handpad.

ME: Got the system up and running last night and I can't begin to tell you how unbelievably cool this combination of the ServoCat, Argo-Navis, and SkyTools2 is.
Thanks again, for a product that far exceeded my expectations and my imagination!!

VM: "I use to like to star hop - now (with GOTO/tracking) I like to "GALAXY hop!"
[speaking of the virtues of having a GOTO system]

MS: I thought that I would never want goto capabilities on my personal scopes. But I ended up installing ServoCats on the scopes that I build and I felt the need for a demo scope. Wow. It increased my ability to find and see galaxies much dimmer than what I had previously been able to do. I would search for what seemed like hours for those 14th mag galaxies in my 15" scope and only hit them once in a while. Now with the tracking capabilities of the driven scope, I can find the right star field and really search for those little dim guys. I've been able to find and observe down to 15th magnitude! I never thought it possible with just 15" of aperture. You still need your charts and you still need your observing skills. But I am simply amazed at how much more performance I'm getting out of my scope.
I came down from an 18" and now I'm able to see things that I never was able to find in a 15"!!

CS: Last night was the first time I had my scope out in over three months. Boy, was I rusty. Had to use the Argo manual and your cheat sheet email to refresh my memory on how to align it. The last time I had aligned a scope was when David from Chicago was here. The first warp was 0.35, which I used. As the night wore on, the objects got farther from the FOV center and the tracking deteriorated. Finally, I reset the ALT REF ANGLE to the actual value and realigned. The warp was 0.08. After that, the objects were nearly dead on in the FOV and the tracking was outstanding. I have noticed that the warp is extremely sensitive to using an accurate ALT REF ANGLE. I had first used the ubiquitous 90 degrees. When I checked it and reset it, the new value was only 90.19, but it made a world of difference.

I remain amazed at the power and capability of the ServoCAT!

GS: It all worked like a dream. I was out for about an hour and must have looked at 15 to 29 objects with ease.

BC: Life with wireless GOTO is just plain wonderful. I have the wireless connected to my laptop via USB-RS232. All working perfectly. I am very pleased with MegaStar (thanks for the advice a while back). Got the entire RealSky CD set installed on the laptop (12 hours of installation).

AF: I have a 15" equipped with the AN and ServoCat. It works great. The Guide function is a precious help. I use it many times at high magnifications in Jupiter, Saturn, Ring Nebula etc. and it just stays there long enough for a careful watch..After the alignment procedures, it runs just smooth. I am very pleased with this interface.

KA: I was able to see detail in Saturn I've never seen before! Magnification is MUCH easier to push! I was not ready for some of the benefits I saw in the EP. I now feel that the ServoCat is an optical product just as much as my mirror.

DM: I too love my AN and ServoCat combo which I used the first time last night on my new Obsession 25". Wouldn't trade it for nothin'

MS: I really like the way MegaStar5/Argo-Navis/ServoCAT all work together so well -- it's such a pleasure to use this system. I know the rear table and computer stuff is not for everyone, but I gotta tell you, this setup is a lot of fun -- I guess that's what it is all about. The whole system glides smoothly and seems to track well. As I mentioned, the Spiral Search function is especially nice in conjunction with the monitor. Any way, this is just a quick note on my project -- another happy ServoCAT customer! Great product Gary! Thanks.

DB: motorizing your dob is the best thing you can do, and certainly worth the money. after motorizing mine, i would never go back. tracking with dob driver is a dream, but using goto with the argo navis and servo cat is heaven.

JJ: I recently got to try an Argo Navis unit attached to a Servocat system on a 25" dob (talk about a nice setup!!!). It sure was crazy to watch that thing slew around!

DH: The Alt-Az mount points and tracks extremely accurately, which obviated the need to star-hop to the asteroid's position. Wireless slow motion controls (a hand-paddle about the size of a cell phone) and a "spiral search" capability make the scope much easier to operate from the ladder than the typical Dob. In my opinion, for what it's worth, the ServoCAT system is much superior to an equatorial platform if you're considering motorizing your Dob.

CP: If you could have heard me laugh at the first goto. I was so tickled and it works so well. I could not be happier.

CP: After an on time delivery last week, Mike came over this morning around 9:30 AM and we installed the ServoCat on my 20" custom dob. The instructions were very good, and I only had to call Gary twice (after installation). He resolved the problems off the top of his head and we proceeded to the driveway tests after dark. All seems to work as promised and expected. I know I need to tweak some, but that's no problem.

G.O.....First run

If there is something I won't tolerate from a system like this is to spend the night fiddling with wires, making adjustments, or fixing problems. I was thus somewhat apprehensive when I arrived at xxxxx not having tested or adjusted the system. My wiring was not finished as I was still undecided where to put the Argo Navis (digital setting circle) and the hand pad; I had wires hanging from the front of the telescope. I was also

concerned that I had not adjusted the final gear ratio parameter (set in a configuration file) and that the unit wouldn't track accurately. I knew that the motors moved the scope but I had done this test with the scope disassembled so I could only move it a few degrees in altitude.

I assembled the telescope as usual, dropped a 7 amp-hour battery in the rocker box and waited for twilight. After aligning the Argo Navis with two stars and verifying that it accurately found objects I engaged the drive system and did a GOTO. The telescope glided smoothly to the object. I then did a GOTO to another object. The telescope moved smoothly to this southern target and began tracking again. I left the telescope on this object and came back half an hour later to find it still in the 20-minute field of the eyepiece. I used the system for two nights without problems, and I love it!

(Star Party attendee): I was testing a new telescope: Obsession 18", with Argo Navis digital circles and ServoCAT GOTO, slewing and tracking. It worked perfectly. I was a bit surprised. I had not connected the ServoCAT motor control before!. Although the wind was rather strong, the strong friction of Dobsonians helped a lot.

T.K. ... Tried it out last night and it and the servocat performed flawlessly. It tracked Jupiter for 40 minutes when I the shut it down. TK

T.G.: The 20" performed well at Starfest this weekend. The people who know my scope were stunned to see it slew. All more impressive since the first time I did it it was getting fairly dark. David Levy (who spent most of his time at our campsite) called it "graceful". He spent an hour or so using it to comet search Sat. night. He likes the wireless handpad.

P.R.: I wanted to let you know that my ServoCAT was a real hit at its first star party! Everyone was amazed that such a big scope could move like that. (I know an 18" Obsession doesn't seem big after you've been working on a 36" scope, but it was the biggest scope many of the people at the star party had ever seen). It really made it easy to be able to GOTO an object and let the CAT track it. not having to adjust the scope between every observer (and there were a LOT of observers there!) and being able to use as high magnification as I wanted was Great!

J.S.: Was able to track Mars at 305x with NO drift.

R.C.: I can report that the ServoCat works at the 10,000 foot elevation mark and the views were great, especially the veil nebula.

RN: Results are great. scope went right to alberio, held in the fov at 200X for 1&1/2 hrs, (might have done even more) On Mars at 350X, went edge to edge in 50 minutes, which is great for crowds, (default values - no AutoCAL done)

R.P.: Wow - works great! Saw more objects in 5 minutes than I usually see in an hour.

M.W.: How well does it work? You ask.

Using 136X and slewing across the sky at 8° per second, then having the object in the FOV, is really amazing, but the ServoCAT handled it very well. Those few targets that were not in the FOV after a slew (due to alignment) were easily located using the “spiral search” feature.

So, if I had my money back would I buy an EQ platform or the ServoCAT --- you have got to be kidding --- a 15” TD with goto, tracking, and spiral search --- no comparison. The platform doesn’t even come close. Besides, if Obsession Telescopes thinks that the ServoCAT is good enough to be optionally factory installed, it has to be a great system.

M.B.: I've attached some pictures of the ServoCAT install on my telescope. The GOTOs are nothing short of spectacular, sometimes placing the object within the field of a 5mm Nagler @ 507x.

M.L.: Took out my 'scope last night with the new encoder and wiring. It worked perfectly all night. Used the laptop with Skytools. Good fun!

JB.: (ServoCAT tracking Jupiter): ...had a pair of 12mm radians in a Bader Bino Viewer with a 2x convertible barlow. I think it was around 550 to 600 power. It held up very well. I think its great. I've been very pleased.

J.H.: On Wednesday and Thursday, I had my ServoCAT controlled 17.5” TeleKit connected to SkyTools Real Time. As people stood in line waiting to observe what I had the scope centered on, they were able to see the scope’s field of view and target on the laptop’s screen. When the scope was centered on the Veil, they watched the “X” move along the nebula as the person at the eyepiece used the wireless handpad to move the scope up and down the length of the target. The quality of the display blew them away.
