

JIFFY FOCUSER TO IMPROVE SCT FINE FOCUSING



I far as I know, this concept originated with Bill Arnett. By simply increasing the diameter of the focus knob on a Schmidt-Cassegrain (or other scopes with similar focusers), the ability to achieve critical focus is greatly enhanced. Before adding a Jiffy focuser to my scope, I found it difficult to change the focus in small enough increments to achieve best focus at high magnifications. Of course, the Jiffy focuser does not solve any mirror shift issues. However if you only need to improve focusing precision, the Jiffy work s great and costs less than 1% as much as an add-on focuser. Mine has never been removed from the scope after the initial installation.

The name is not related to the function or performance of the focuser, but comes from the Jiffy peanut butter lid used with Bill's original design.

All you need is the proper sized rubber grommet from your local home improvement or hardware store and a jar lid. The Jiffy lid I obtained for this project was thin and brittle. It split in two when I tried to use a hole punch to make the hole. I found a more substantial lid in the pantry. Use a lid with a diameter of at least 3 inches, unless your telescope configuration dictates otherwise.

Make the hole in the jar lid with whatever means you have available, pop the grommet in, and push it over the focus knob. I used a miniature sanding drum in my Dremel tool to enlarge the inside diameter of the grommet a bit, as the fit was initially too tight. Rubber sands surprisingly well. Friction holds everything together firmly, so I did not have to glue the grommet to the lid. You may need or want to glue the grommet in place.