

## Deforking My LX-90

**Roger Powell**



I've had my Meade LX-90 since 2008. It was my second telescope and it served me very well for eyepiece observing. It also helped me to get into astro-imaging using a DSLR camera, although imaging is definitely not a strong point for alt-az mounted telescopes. It's been magnificent and was still fully functional right up to the time I decided to de-fork it.

In 2017 I decided that, to progress with astro-imaging, I would need to acquire an equatorial mount. I purchased an EQ6R-Pro mount and added a Skywatcher Esprit 120 telescope. The fork-mounted LX-90 with its integral alt-az mount was retired.

Over a period of time, I replaced the DSLR with a ZWO ASI071 astro-camera and upgraded the systems to ASCOM and EQMOD, giving me full laptop control.

The LX-90 languished in its box. Later I fearfully contemplated de-forking it for mounting on my EQ6. It was easier than I thought - once I knew what to do!

I found simple [instructions on the Cloudy Nights Forum](#), without which I would have taken much longer and probably would have damaged the telescope tube in the process. When I finally took the plunge, the de-forking took less than an hour.

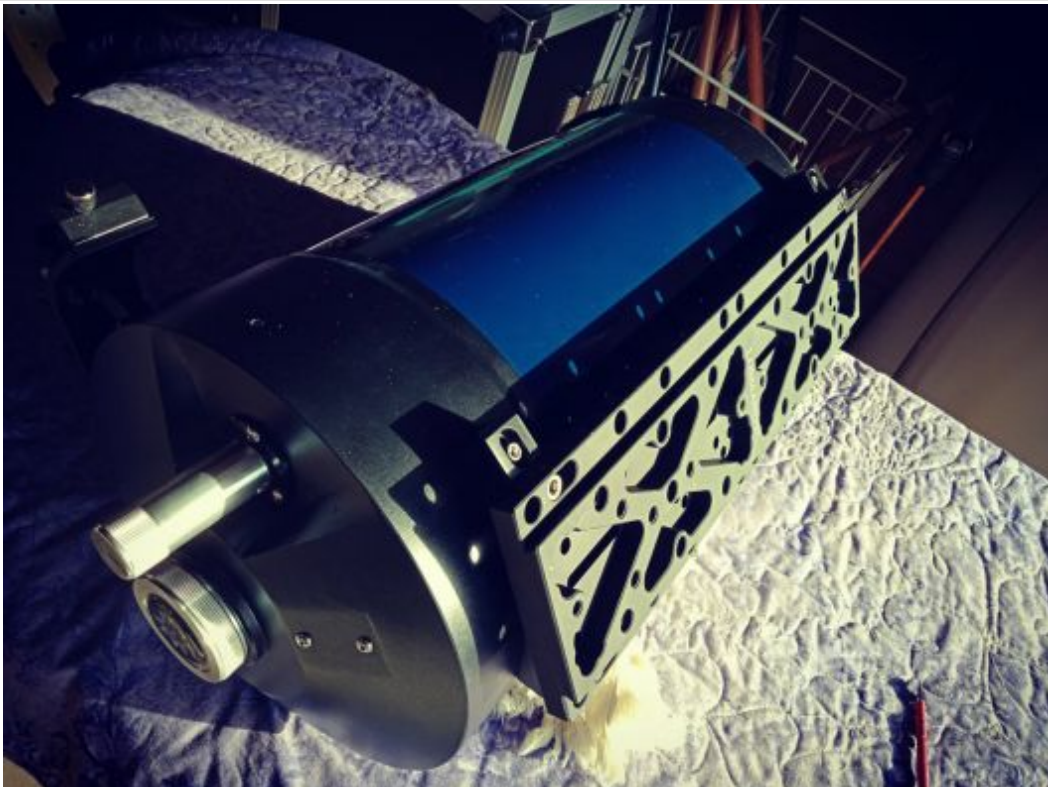
I took this shot before I began:



After de-forking, the remaining fork looked like this:



This is what the de-forked LX-90 looked like after adding a [Losmandy 8 Inch Meade DM8 Dovetail Plate](#) to the telescope for connecting to the EQ6 mount:



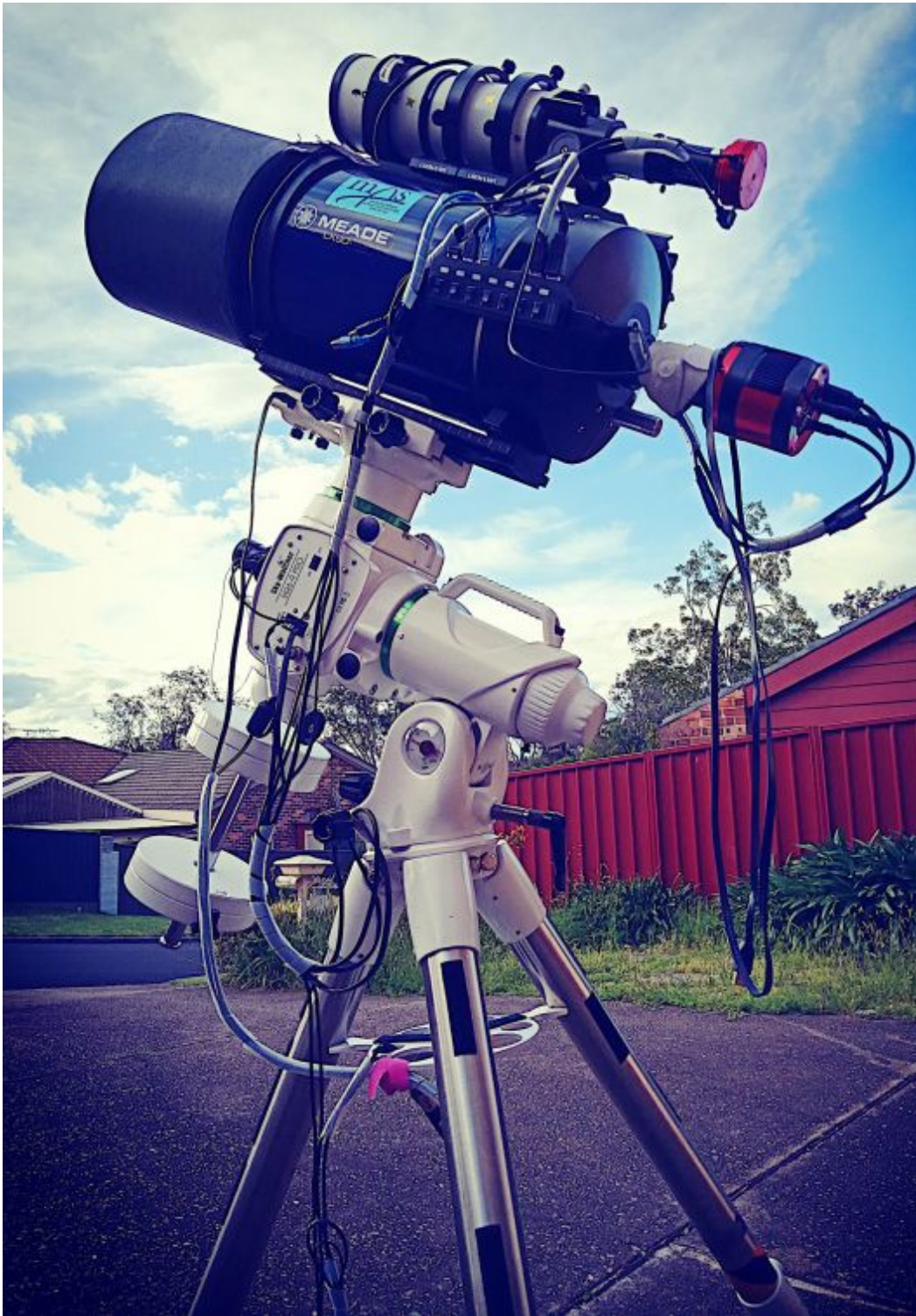
This is what it looked like when I first added it to the EQ6:



The Esprit, (840mm focal length), gives me images of  $1.5^{\circ} \times 1.0^{\circ}$  using the ZWO ASI071 but the LX-90 (2000 mm) gives me images of about  $38' \times 25'$  using the same camera. It gave me larger images of planets, planetary nebulae and galaxies.

This is what it looked like with everything wired up:





Now I am left with the remaining parts - the fork, the mount, the hand-box etc., which might all be of value to someone in need of a replacement fork or spare parts.

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