

Astro-Physics

Mounting Plate Recommendations for the 130 mm f6.3 StarFire “Gran Turismo”

(also useful for other scopes of similar size)

The 130mm f6.3 StarFire EDF Gran Turismo, with its short, compact tube is ideally suited to the 6.3” ring spacing that is typically used for the 105mm Traveler and 90mm f7 Stowaway (previous Astro-Physics refractors). We recommend using this ring spacing for whatever plate configuration you choose in order to maximize the versatility of your system and to permit the widest variety of accessories to be employed. Note that the maximum ring spacing possible for this scope is about 8.75” center to center.

The 4.7” mounting rings (47RING) are drilled and tapped with five 1/4-20 holes on the bottom of the rings to attach to a variety of sliding bars/dovetail plates. They also have two pairs of holes on the tops of each ring for accessories and accessory plates: two 10-32 and two M8 holes.

This document will discuss mounting plate options for the 130mm “Gran Turismo.” Please refer to the Products section of our website for additional information regarding each product discussed below. In particular, which mounting plates are used on various mounts. These suggestions can also apply to our original 130mm StarFire EDF if you substitute the 5.5” Mounting Rings (55RING).

8” Dovetail Plate (DOVE08) with either the 7” Sliding Bar (SB0800) or the 10” Sliding Bar (SB1000)

The Astro-Physics 8” Dovetail Plate has been a standard for our smaller instruments. Over the years, it has been especially popular with owners of the 90mm f5 and 92mm f7 Stowaways, the 105mm f6 Traveler and the 130 mm f6 StarFire EDFs.

Both the 7” and 10” sliding bars for the 8” Dovetail accommodate the 6.3” spacing of the rings. The 7” bar (SB0800) will be adequate for many users. The 10” version (SB1000) can be positioned with the long end either forward for lightweight visual setups using smaller eyepieces that will be objective-end heavy, or with the long end to the rear for back-heavy setups employing a heavy camera or perhaps a binocular viewer.

The 8” Dovetail Plate is also an outstanding choice for an accessory plate on top of the 130mm f6.3 StarFire EDF Gran Turismo. Guidesopes, finders and piggybacked cameras are all easily attached to the top of the scope with this versatile system. The 8” Dovetail Plate mounts directly to the top of the Astro-Physics 4.7” rings (47RING) when the recommended 6.3” spacing is used. Here are some options:



- Attach the 7” Sliding Bar (SB0800) to the bottom of your 4.7” rings with two 1/4-20x3/4” socket head cap screws (one for each ring in the center hole).
- Attach the 10” Sliding Bar (SB1000) with one 1/4-20x5/8” socket head cap screw and one 1/4-20x3/4” socket head cap screw (one screw per ring in the center hole).

- Attach the 8" Dovetail Plate (DOVE08) to your mount according to the fastener chart in the Technical Support section of our website.
- Attach the 8" Dovetail Plate (DOVE08) to the top of the rings with four 10-32x3/4 socket head cap screws.
- Attach a 12" Sliding Bar (SBD12, as described below) to the top of your scope as an accessory plate. You will need a set of Losmandy AP blocks (LMAPBLOCKS). Attach the blocks to the rings with four 10-32x3/4" socket head cap screws (2 for each ring). Then, attach the 12" Sliding Bar to the blocks using four 1/4-20x1" low-profile socket head cap screws. This allows you to use the Losmandy Dovetail Plates Adapter (LMDA) and other adapters with a female D-style dovetail channel.

8.5" Dovetail for Losmandy D-Series Style Plates (DOVELM2) and the Astro-Physics 12" Sliding Bar for Losmandy D-Series Style Dovetails (SBD12)

The Losmandy D-series of mounting plates have become one of the few "standards" throughout the amateur astronomical community. Because of its widespread popularity, we wanted to provide a way for our 130mm f6.3 StarFire EDF Gran Turismo to take advantage of this ubiquitous system. We found, however, that an ideal solution for using the Losmandy system did not exist for our short-tubed Gran Turismo. So, we made one!

The Astro-Physics 12" Sliding Bar (SBD1200) was designed from the ground up to be the ideal plate for this instrument. As it turns out, it works beautifully for many other scopes as well! It provides the recommended 6.3" ring spacing on a raised surface that allows ample sliding length without causing interference with either the dew shield or the focuser. Used in conjunction with our 8.5" Dovetail Plate designed for the Losmandy D-Series Plates (DOVELM2), this sliding bar provides a rock-solid mounting solution that is both extremely versatile and elegantly thought-out. It can also be used with other D-Series style plates. The SBD12 is not suitable for the DOVELM16 and DOVELM16S.



- Attach the Astro-Physics 12" Sliding Bar (SBD12) to the 4.7" rings with four 1/4-20x1 1/2" flat head socket head cap screws. (Do not use the center holes.) This provides a solid 2-hole connection for each ring. Photo shows SBD12 and 47RING.



- You can raise the scope another half inch above the plate by using Losmandy AP blocks (LMAPBLOCKS) between the rings and the plate. First, attach the blocks to the bottom of the rings using the supplied 1/4-20x1/2" socket head cap screws – two per ring / block assembly. Then fasten each ring / block assembly to the 12" Sliding Bar with two 1/4-20x1" low-profile socket head cap screws (4 total). Refer to the photo to see how this looks. Photo shows SBD12, LMAPBLOCKS (set of 2), 47RING.



- To attach another 12" Sliding Bar to the top of your scope as an accessory plate, you will need a set of Losmandy AP blocks (LMAPBLOCKS). Attach the blocks to the rings with

four 10-32x3/4" socket head cap screws (2 for each ring). Then attach the 12" Sliding Bar to the blocks using four 1/4-20x1" low-profile socket head cap screws. This allows you to use the Losmandy Dovetail Plates Adapter (LMDA) and other adapters with a female D-style dovetail channel. Photo shows two SBD12, LMAPBLOCKS (set of 2) and 47RING.



- An 8" Dovetail Plate (DOVE08) can be used on top of the rings in place of a second 12" Sliding Bar, if you prefer. The photo shows a great setup with the heavy-duty D-Series style plates on the bottom and the highly versatile DOVE08 system on top with the 7" sliding bar (SB0800). **NOTE:** The dovetail's knobs must be positioned on the opposite side from the ring lock knobs.
- For additional information on using this versatile plate with other instruments, see the Mounting Plates page in the Products section of our website.

Other Losmandy D Series Options

If you already have the 13.5" Losmandy Universal Plate (LMDUP), you may wish to use it with your 130mm f6.3 StarFire EDF Gran Turismo. To do so, you will need to use a 7" Sliding Bar (SB0800) as a spacer to raise the instrument up off of the plate so that the focuser and dew shield aren't subjected to interference. We do not recommend using the short 7" Universal Plate (LMDUPS) because of its limited travel for balancing in the 8.5" Dovetail for Losmandy D Series Plates (DOVELM2). It is not very useful in this application. However, if you do use it, you must move one of the dovetail knobs to the center hole position. Both Losmandy Universal Plates allow for the recommended 6.3" ring spacing.



- Attach the 13.5" Universal Plate (LMDUP) with the 7" Sliding Bar (SB0800) spacer using two 1/4-20x1" socket head cap screws. There are several ways to accomplish this by taking advantage of the Universal Plate's long slot on one end. Using the 7" Sliding Bar as the spacer automatically ensures the 6.3" spacing that permits the use of the 8" Dovetail (DOVE08) on top of the rings or the 12" Sliding Bar (SBD12).

15" Dovetail Plate (DOVE15) and 15" Sliding Bar (SB1500)

The Astro-Physics 15" dovetail system is also a good choice for the 130mm f6.3 StarFire EDF Gran Turismo, especially if you already own the parts. Because of the long 1/4" slots on the 15" Sliding Bar, it is still quite easy to achieve the 6.3" spacing that allows the use of the 8" dovetail system or 12" Sliding Bar (SBD12) on top of the instrument.



- Attach the 15" Sliding Bar (SB1500) to your 4.7" rings with two 1/4-20x5/8" socket head cap screws (one for each ring in the center hole). If you use the 8" Dovetail Plate on top of the rings, fasten it in place before tightening the 15" sliding bar below. Also, be sure to position the 15" sliding bar so that it will not interfere with the Gran Turismo's dew shield when retracted. Photo shows DOVE15, SB1500 and 47RING.



- You can use a 7" Sliding Bar (SB0800) as a spacer between the rings and the 15" sliding bar if you want a bit more clearance, as shown in the photo to the left. This will eliminate concerns about dew shield interference with the bar, but it may not be quite as rock solid as the 15" sliding bar by itself. Attach this configuration with two 1/4-20x1 1/4" socket head cap screws (one for each ring in the center hole). Photo shows DOVE15, SB1500, SB0800 and 47RING.

- Attach the 15" Dovetail Plate to your mount according to the fastener chart that is in the Technical Support section of our website.

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