



Newsletter February 2010

Hello from Atik!

You know something exciting is going to happen when things go quiet, the lack of an Atik newsletter during January being a case in point. Well, February is living up to expectations with more to come. Our new 2MP camera, the Atik 320E, is now shipping and being very well received. To drive away any post-Christmas blues we have introduced some fantastic offers on the Atik 314E and the ever-popular Atik 314L+. In this newsletter you will read some reports from the London Astrofest meeting, so without pre-empting what the others will write, we did have a fantastic time. Thanks to everyone who came to our stand. For those who were unable to attend, read on for new product announcements we made at the show and news of how to view and vote on the pictures submitted to our imaging competition.

Early spring typically brings us some of the best deep sky conditions. I wish you all clear skies and look forward to seeing some great pictures posted to the forums.

Steve

Many thanks to all those who stopped by to see Dawn at Astrofest - it was great to see so much interest in it, and to have the opportunity to discuss it in depth with some of you. It was nice to hear so many positive comments, and the suggestions and ideas for future development were most welcome and have been taken on board. Thanks too for the very useful feedback which I have received by email since the last newsletter. There has not been much further development of Dawn this month since I have been concentrating on modifications to our other software

in order to support all the new hardware which we are in the process of bringing out, so stay posted for news of the next update to Dawn's capabilities.

Jonathan



Moon by Steve, Atik 314L+, RGB filters, Tak FSQ

Astrofest

This year's Astrofest was extremely successful for Atik. Our booth looked great and we had loads of positive feedback from everyone who visited.



Atik Booth at Astrofest 2010

Our booth featured our new products: the EFW2, the 383L+ and the OAG. The photo competition was also a success and we had more votes this year than in any previous year. Olly from Les Granges, www.sunstarfrance.com was kind enough to donate a beautiful, framed photo he took of M42, M43 & NGC 1977 to a lucky voter whose name I've just drawn out of the ballot box... and it's Paul Revell! Congratulations Paul and thanks again to Olly for his generous donation.

By far the most anticipated and talked about camera was the 383L+. It was set up on a table with the mechanical shutter running for people to see. It was the most

popular camera of the show. We expect this to be the most sought after camera of 2010.

We were also lucky enough to have beautiful weather which no doubt helped with the turn out. We were busy talking to people all day.



Steve, Pedro and Rui at the Astrofest booth

Atik is on the move!

Rui is away at the moment, representing Atik at the Winter Star Party in Florida, USA but we will have a full report from him in next month's newsletter!

Steve & Jennifer will also be attending ATT in Essen, Germany in May so more photos to come!

Hi all, I've been organizing this year's annual astro imaging competition of images taken with the whole range of Atik cameras. I must say I've been very impressed with the high standard of entries from all over the world. This year we've had more than 200 entries so printing and cataloguing them was a bit of a challenge as was pinning them up on the boards at Astrofest, a job that was undertaken by Pedro and myself. We both had sore thumbs by the end of the day! The display filled three of the four walls of the room that we were in and looked fantastic. We had people from the age of 10 to about 80 admiring and voting for their favourites on the two days of the event and several hundred people passed through all very impressed with what amateur astronomers can achieve these days.

All the images entered are now on line and are available for viewing and voting at <http://www.atik-cameras.com/html/competition.html> The voting ends on the 31st of March.

Vince



Atik Imaging Competition at Astrofest, 2010

As Steve mentioned it has been an ultra- busy couple of months with the release of not just one new camera but three! The 383L+ has been overwhelmingly successful and we are looking forward to all the great images we expect to see from this camera over the next few months.

The 320E has already begun shipping and we expect to get the EFW2 and the OAG available to order mid March.

With all this going on we have announced the release of another camera - a high-speed camera, which is a first for Atik.

Atik announces [The Titan!](#)

Atik is pleased to announce its first high-speed camera- The Titan!
This camera will do 15 frames per second in 16 bit mode making it a great planetary camera. It is also suitable for deep sky imaging as it features a cooled CCD. The Titan can also be used as a high-end guide camera.

We are expecting shipment of this camera to be some time in April and with a tentative retail price of around £460 it should be an excellent choice as an introductory camera.

[And it's blue!](#)

The Titan Brochure can be viewed on the next two pages!

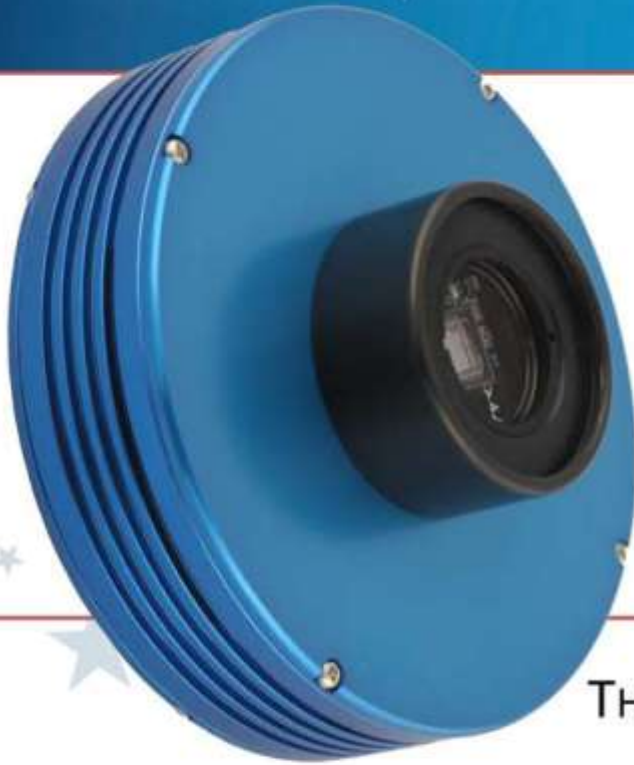
Until next month!

Adios Amigos!

The Atik Team



Atik Titan



* Planetary Imaging

In high-speed mode, the Titan is able to record up to 15 frames per second in uncompressed 16-bit format.

* Deep-Sky Imaging

The Titan's signature Atik cooling system produces low-noise, long-exposure images.

* Guiding

High sensitivity and high frame rates make it an ideal guide camera.

THE PERFECT INTRODUCTION TO ASTRO-IMAGING

No longer do you have to choose between planetary and deep-sky. Now you can do both with the new Atik Titan.

The Titan is the perfect new comer's camera giving the user the capability of taking both planetary and deep-sky images.

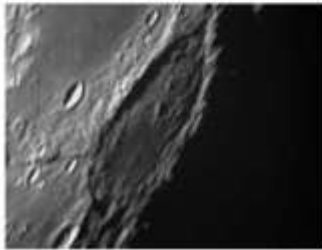
As a deep sky camera, the cooled CCD with low read-noise allows detection of faint details over long exposures. Planetary imaging moves the goal posts from sensitivity to resolution, requiring fast frame rates to capture moments of best seeing.

Excelling at both, the Titan is the perfect introductory camera.

And it's blue!

PLANETARY

In high-speed mode, the Titan is able to record up to 15 frames per second in uncompressed 16-bit format. The high frame rate is important in order to capture moments of steady 'seeing' where the image becomes clear. The 16-bit digitisation makes it easier to pull spectacular detail out of low contrast objects like the surface of the Sun or the cloud belts of Saturn.



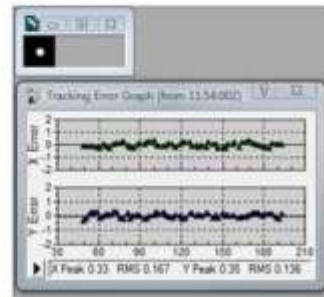
DEEP-SKY

The Titan has a remarkable 5 electron read-noise in deep-sky mode which is better than many astro-cameras costing thousands. The low read-noise allows faint detail to be teased out of the Titan's images. The Titan also features advanced cooling for long-exposure imaging.



GUIDING

The Titan's mix of high sensitivity and high frame rates makes it an ideal high-end guide camera. It sports a standard ST-4 type guide socket on the back for direct connection to a mount. Guiding can be performed through our Capture software or programs like MaxIM DL, Astroart and CCD-Soft.



QUALITY SOFTWARE

CAPTURE

The Atik Titan comes with Atik's renowned Capture application which provides a simple and intuitive yet powerful way to acquire images. Tools include a focus assistance readout, image sequencer, guide camera control and integration with Atik filter wheels. Capture aims to take the stress out of imaging, making your time at the telescope more enjoyable. If you require compatibility with other software there are plugins for Maxim DL, Astroart and CCDSoft.

DAWN

Also included is Dawn, Atik's new image-processing software. Like our cameras, it was designed from the ground up to be powerful yet easy to use. It allows a sequence of image-processing steps to be represented in the form of a pictorial workflow which can be created with a few mouse clicks and can then be executed very easily for repeatable and speedy results.

SPECIFICATIONS

The Atik Titan is a true multi-use camera.
How will you use it?



Sensor Type	Sony ICX424
Horizontal Resolution	659 pixels
Vertical Resolution	494 pixels
Pixel Size	7.4µm x 7.4µm
ADC	16-bit
Readout Noise	5e-
Interface	USB
Power	12V DC 0.55A
Cooling	Thermoelectric, $\Delta T = -20^{\circ}\text{C}$ max
Weight	350g
Guide Port	ST-4 compatible