

LED Dome Flats

P. Gabor (standing on the shoulders of R. Boyle, E. Green and others)

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This method can be used by a single observer.

- Suppose you want to obtain dome flats after observing. You will need to close the dome shutters, which should only be done with the mirror cover on. Therefore, stow the telescope, disable drives, close mirror cover, and close dome shutters. Then, open mirror cover, and enable drives.
- The telescope is still in the stowed position, i.e., nominally at Az=180°. With Dome tracking enabled, right click on the Dome azimuth field in TCSglue and introduce an offset of +190°. Wait until the dome stops rotating to its offset position, bringing the screen to the South meridian.
- XEPHEM: find a star close to Alt=29.5°, and Az=179°, and slew to its position ("Telescope Go To" in XEPHEM). As a result, the telescope will be tracking (through the closed dome) an object which is about to pass through the south meridian at Alt=30°. Wait until the telescope reaches Az=180°, and Disable Drives. Disable Dome Tracking (otherwise the dome keeps oscillating slightly around the required position).

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- After finishing your flats, return dome to home Az=180°: Turn on Dome Tracking, right click on the Dome azimuth field, and eliminate the dome tracking offset. Keep Dome tracking on (you will need it later when you go to the dome).
 - Go to the basement and turn off the oil system for the hydrostatic azimuth bearing.
 - Return to the Control room and release breaks in TCSglue. (The mirror cover being still open, the telescope is well balanced and will not move of its own accord. Better make sure this is the case, though: In TCSglue, release breaks, and observe the behavior of the Altitude value. The Azimuth axis will not budge because the hydrostatic bearing is off.)
 - In the dome, power up the stow pin system. Then move the telescope manually to the stow position, and insert the stow pins.
 - Use your presence in the dome also to home the dome position in the usual manner (manually tweaking the dome's encoder wheel).
 - In the Control room, set the breaks.
 - Before resuming observations, you will need to reboot VATTEL and to turn the hydrostatic bearing back on.

4s exposures; 2×2 binning

blue LED	1%	B filter	~3,000
green LED	1%	B filter	~2,000
green LED	100%	R filter	~10,700
white LED	1%	B filter	~1,825 (floor)
white LED	25%	I filter	~2,600
white LED	100%	I filter	~27,000
amber LED	1%	B filter	~1,825 (floor)
amber LED	10%	I filter	~1,825 (floor)
UV LED	1%	B filter	~1,825 (floor)
nothing		B filter	~1,825 (floor)
incandescent	1%	B filter	~1,825 (floor)
incandescent	1%	I filter	~1,825 (floor)
incandescent	10%	I filter	~1,840
incandescent	100%	I filter	~3,475

We obtained screen flats with B filter (4s exposure, 40% blue LED), V filter (4s exposure, 20% green LED), R filter (8s exposure, 100% white LED), and I filter (60s exposure, 100% white LED + 100% incandescent).

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