

Unitron Telescopes & Equipment

Sam Pitts; President

Eugene Astronomical Society, an astronomy club in Eugene, Oregon has acquired a treasure trove of equipment that it wishes to liquidate. I have been designated to offer the following equipment for sale and wish to sell it as one complete unit. The following items all appear to be Unitron equipment, but some of the items do not have specific Unitron labeling (Lens cells). We are not able to get a complete history on this equipment but it appears to have been acquired in the sixties and seventies. These items may have significant collector value and would not lend themselves to our telescope lending program. It would be a shame to let these scopes just set around or get dinged-up through a loaning program. It seems to be more prudent to offer these items to a collector of Unitron Telescopes and equipment where they will be appreciated and used. The funds generated can be used to better facilitate our club's goals of sharing astronomy with the community, thus fulfilling the intent of the previous owner.

Since the Telescopes and related equipment are both large and heavy, shipping would be very costly and expose them to damage, so they should be picked up here in Eugene, Oregon. Trying to sell individual items would be extremely time consuming and again shipping large telescopes has its own inherent issues. Depending on the circumstances it may be feasible to split the items into two or three groups, but pick-up in Eugene is still preferred.

Trying to assess the true value or market value is a very difficult task, as is the condition of the equipment. We are interested in getting a fair and reasonable amount for the entire lot of items and not to piece-meal each item trying for top dollar. We want someone to get a good deal while our club can benefit from the transaction so everyone is satisfied.

In general all the equipment appears to be in very-good to fine condition for instruments of this age. None of the lenses were cleaned and some show dust particles, mostly on the inside. I was not able to visually detect any fungus, scratches or pits on the objective lenses. They appeared to have the objective covers on during storage and the slight blue tinge of coatings is still present on all objects. The outside objective lens on all scopes (main, guide & finders) appear to be clean, clear, no scratches and well cared for. The OTAs themselves are in real good shape and show some paint flakes but I did not detect any dents or major scratches. All of the equipment is in used condition but seems to be really well taken care of for equipment that appears to be from 35-50 years old.

The following pages are photos taken of the actual equipment with an attempt to describe such equipment and condition. None of us are real familiar with Unitron equipment and have attempted to identify these items with past catalogues and internet sales of similar equipment. We appreciate any help in identifying this equipment and serious inquires towards the purchase of this equipment.

Please feel free to contact me with any information, inquires or reasonable offers.

List of Equipment

6" OTA with Guide scope and 40mm finder scope rings and mount adapter complete (Appears to be Unitron).

5" OTA with 40mm finder scope rings and mount block. (Appears to be Unitron but has Brandon objective and the tube has what appear to be brush marks running up and down the tube.

4" OTA with 3" guide scope, 40mm finder scope, rings and mount block (appears to be Unitron-4" objective cell is Brandon).

Wooden tripod and equatorial head with Unitron clock-drive and accessories, no counter weights, appears to be mostly complete.

All of the above to be sold as one unit.

Additional items:

6" objective and cell, appears to be a doublet in a Unitron cell? With a Unitron super focuser and rear OTA unit that holds the focuser and will fit onto an aluminum tube. This basically looks like the complete parts needed for a 6" OTA less the tube material needed for the Dew shield and body of scope. Also have what appear to be new Unitron block to mount OTA to Unitron mount.

Medium painted wood Eyepiece box with miscellaneous brands of 1.25" eyepieces, Barlows and diagonal.

Another medium painted wood Eyepiece box with miscellaneous brands of 1.25" eyepieces, Barlows and diagonal.

Large painted wood Eyepiece box with miscellaneous brands of 2.7" eyepieces, Barlows and diagonal.

Unitron super focuser Very good condition.

Unitron super focuser appears to be like new in a box.

All items on this page can sell as a complete unit.



IMG_1701: Starting Left to Right: 5" OTA & Finder; 4" OTA with Guide-scope & finder; 6" OTA with Guide-scope & Finder



IMG_1628: All three OTAs and the one Tripod and equatorial mount in wooden boxes.



IMG_1629: Wooden Tripod legs, box and miscellaneous accessories that are in the wooden box.



IMG_1635: Closer view of tripod legs



IMG_1637: Closer view of tripod legs.



IMG_1611: Another view of tripod legs and wooden case.



IMG_1630: What appears to be Unitron equatorial head, clock drive, OTA weights, etc., in Wooden Case.



IMG_1631: Closer view of Equatorial box, OTA weights and threaded counter-weight shaft (no counter-weights)



IMG_1632: Closer view of Equatorial box, Unitron clock drive unit to the left



IMG_1633: closer view of equatorial head and Unitron clock-drive unit



IMG_1634: Equatorial head base where wooden legs attach and metal brackets, not sure what they are used for.



IMG_1638; Another view of Equatorial head with tape measure for scale



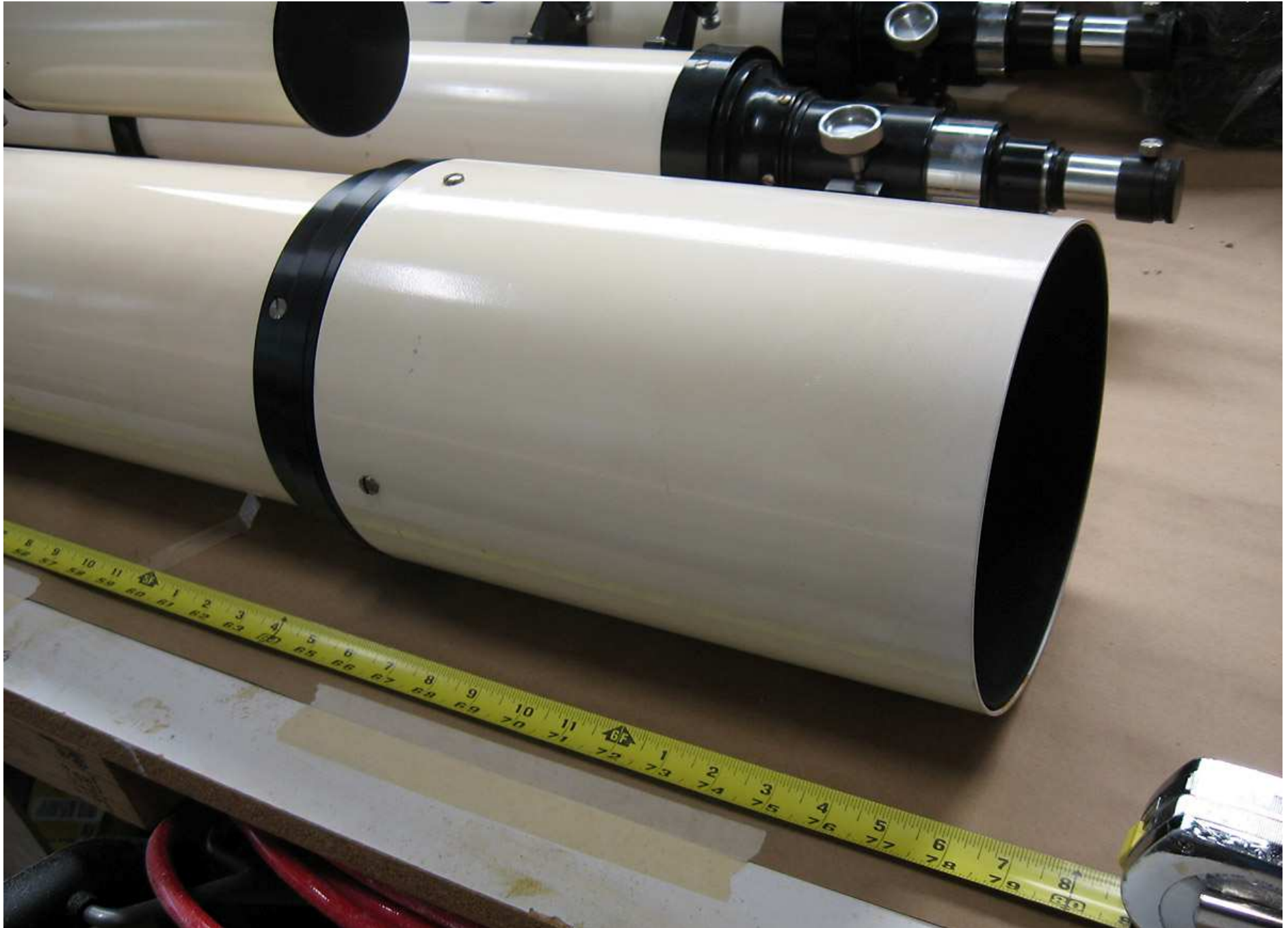
IMG_1639: Use tape for scale. Same equatorial head and wooden case.



IMG_1640: Use tape for scale. Same equatorial head and wooden case.



IMG_1641: Front of 6" OTA with metal objective cover. The handle shows some corrosion in the chrome finish.



IMG_1642: Front side view of 6" OTA. Some marks on dew shield are visible.



IMG_1643 6" OTA side view so you can see condition



IMG_1644: further to the left of photo # IMG_1643, paint flakes on Guide-Scope



IMG_1645: further to the left of photo # IMG_1644



IMG_1646: left of # 1645 showing rear cell and Unitron focuser with tube extended.



IMG_1647: 6" OTA with focuser extended on the main OTA & Guide-scope. Note finder and rings.



IMG_1648: Close-up view of 6" rear cell and focuser



IMG_1649: Focuser on Guide scope



IMG_1652: same 3" guide scope with dew shield removed, some dust but no marks. 5" OTA on the right; note paint chips and paint lines



IMG_1653: Unitron 10x-40mm Finder Scope attached to 6" OTA. The metal dew cap has some pitting to chrome plate.



IMG_1654: front view on Unitron finder on 6" OTA; lens is clear and clean. Note paint chip on 6" OTA



IMG_1655: Side view of Guide-Scope on 6" OTA, tape for scale.



IMG_1656: View of 6"OTA and guide scope with tape scale and dew shield from 3" guide scope standing up



IMG_1658: Guide Scope on 6"OTA. Note rings and paint chips and oxidation on screws.



IMG_1659: 6" OTA trying to show some paint imperfections and marks; guide scope on bottom of picture



IMG_1660: 6" OTA. Note paint anomaly near top of reflection, there are a few spots like this on the OTA, "paint crinkle"



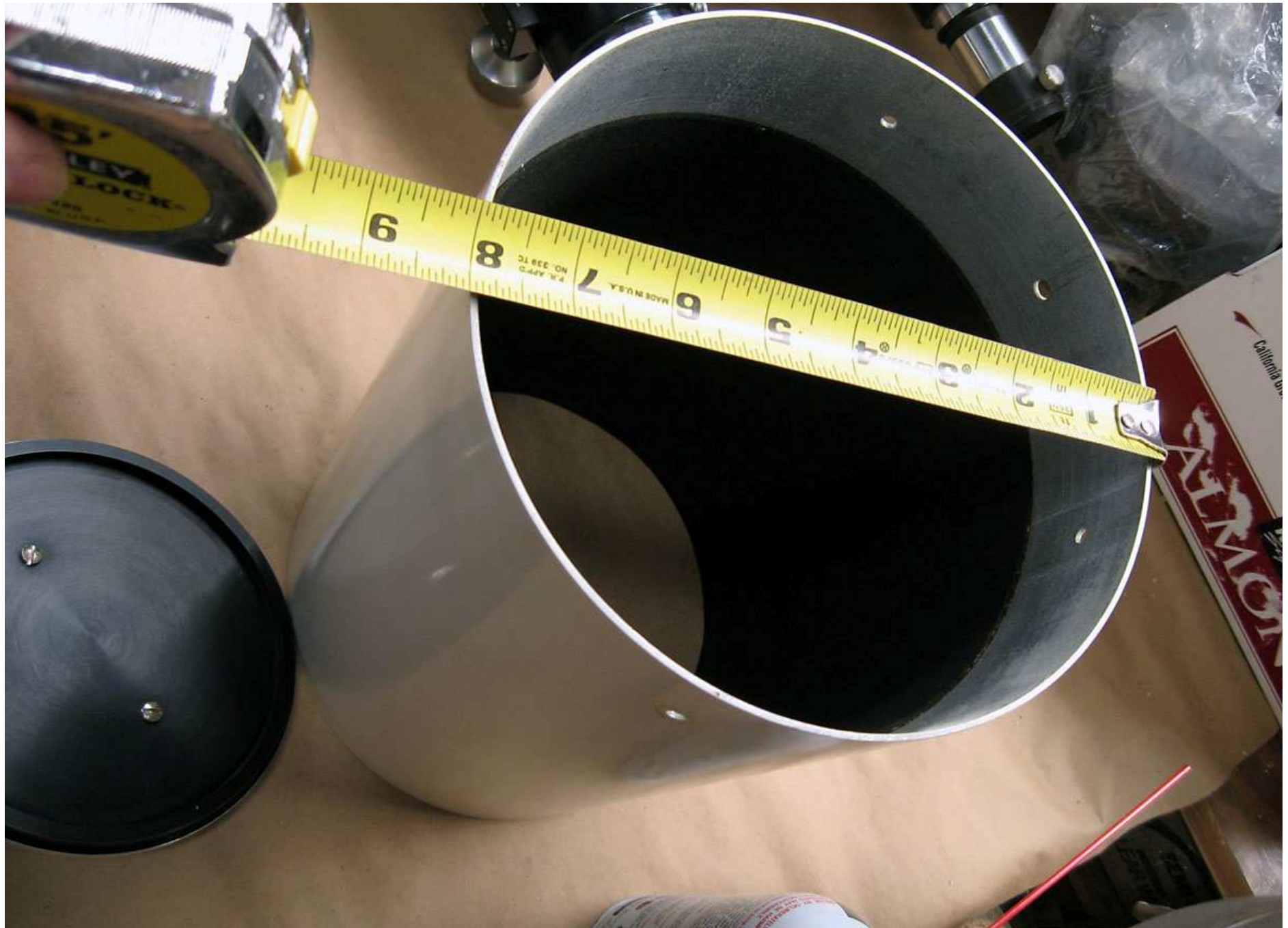
IMG_1661: 6" Objective, couple of dust particles inside, coatings are present, no scratches or marks observed



IMG_1662: Bright light to show no marks on 6" objective but some dust inside. Almost none on outside; we did not clean any optics.



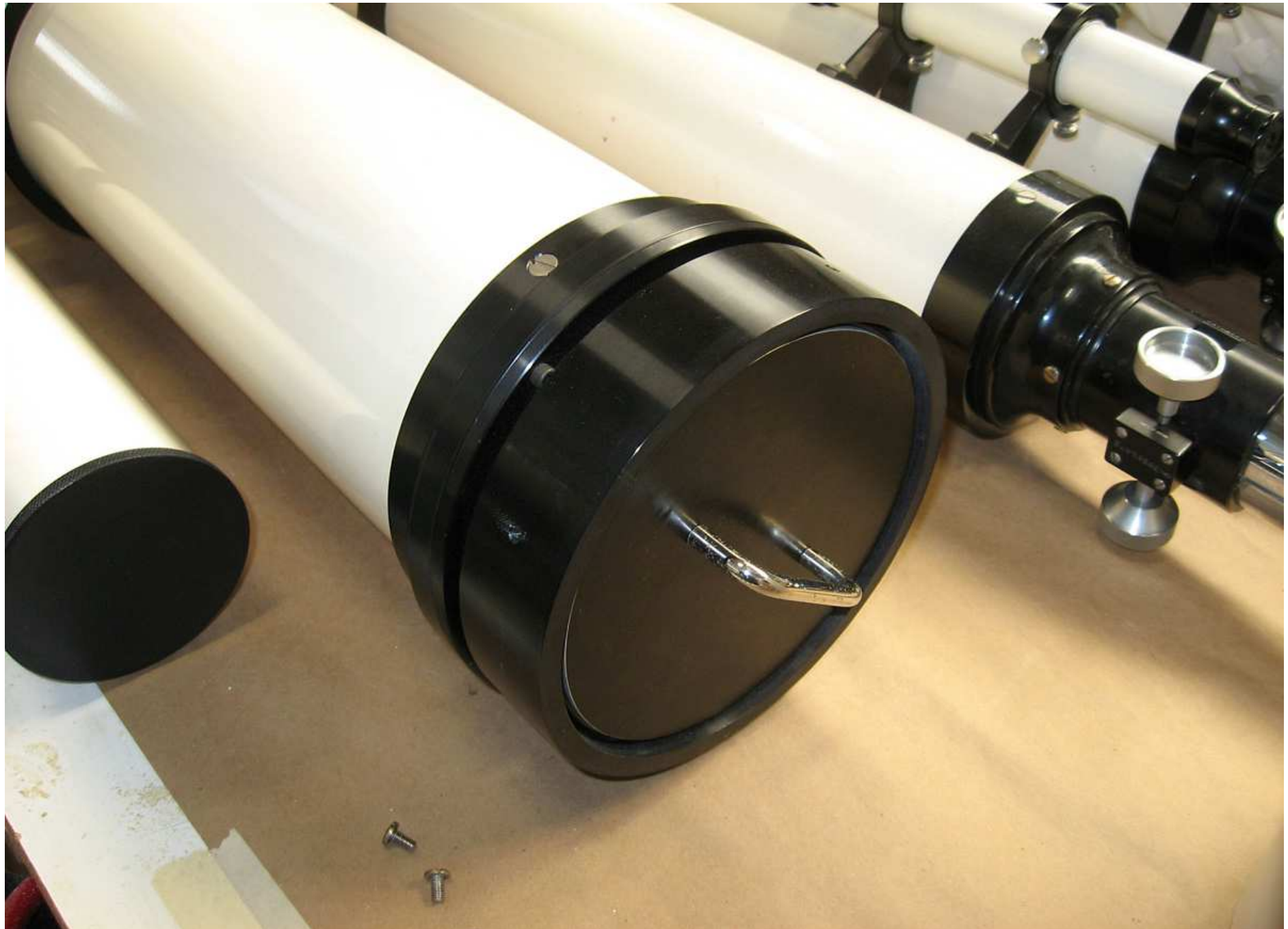
IMG_1663: Normal light image of 6" objective to show coatings and some internal dust. Did not take objective cell out; nor cleaning.



IMG_1664: 6" dew shield & metal objective cover (lower left) that screws into objective cell.



IMG_1665: metal screw-in objective cover for 6" OTA



IMG_1666: 6" OTA with objective cover screwed in, no dew-shield, 3" guide scope to the left, screws for attaching dew shield



IMG_1667: Rear view of 6" OTA and attached scopes, pointed to the 5" OTA and the 4" OTA is on table with 3" guide scope & finder



IMG_1668: 3" guide scope on 6" OTA with some scuff marks on paint with some chipping



IMG_1669: Unitron finder scope attached to 6" OTA



IMG_1670: Focuser on 6" OTA partially unscrewed to reveal Brass. From the weight, many fittings may be brass that is painted.



IMG_1671: 5" OTA with just a Unitron 10x40mm Finder scope.



IMG_1672: Unitron Focuser on 5" OTA, extended. Note window for precise focus measurements.



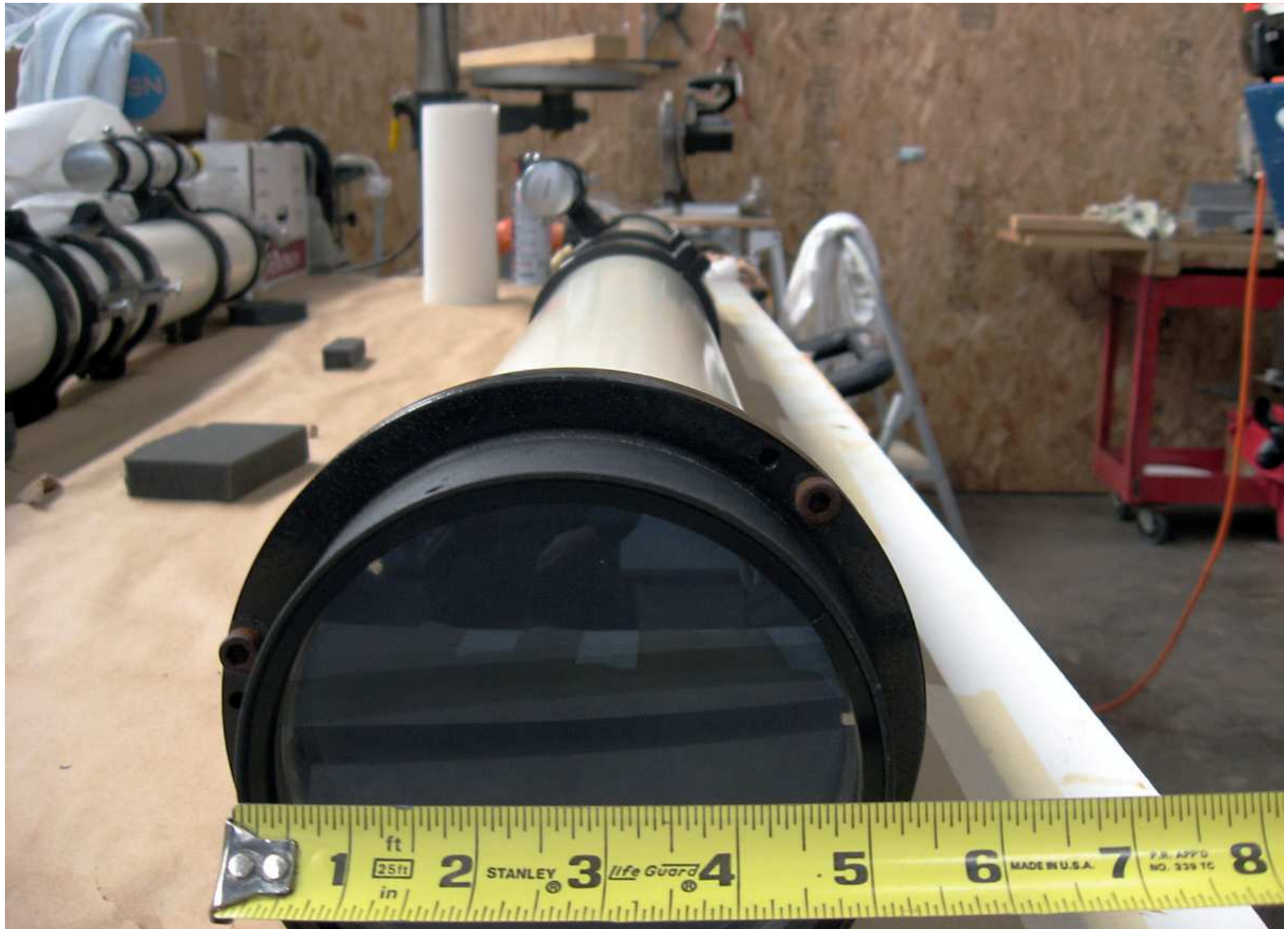
IMG_1673: 5" OTA, 10x-40mm Unitron finder. Note paint flakes on OTA and striations that run length of the tube, pitting on finder cap.



IMG_1674: Tube rings and mounting block on 5" OTA. Note lengthwise striations on OTA, some scuffing on rings.



IMG_1675: 5" OTA



IMG_1676: 5" Objective, coatings visible, no visible marks or scratches; some rust on objective recessed hex head screws.



IMG_1677: 5" Objective with bright light to reveal very minor dust, better view of hex head screws & rust. No markings on Objective cell.



IMG_1678: tried to show striations in OTA paint.



IMG_1679: 5" OTA rings, showing some paint flaking on them.



IMG_1680: 5" OTA Focuser opposite side as photo # 1672. The entire OTA is in very nice condition with 10x 40mm Unitron finder. The focuser is a D102 F 1500, but the OTA and lens is 5"; have no idea who made the objective or if this is a complete Unitron scope.



IMG_1681: Another view of the 5" OTA



IMG_1682: Another view of 5" OTA and Unitron finder, note blemish (chipped paint) on OTA



IMG_1683: 4" OTA, 3" Guide Scope, Unitron 40mm finder and ring for camera attachment. 5" OTA in background.



IMG_1684: 4" OTA and Unitron focuser extended.



IMG_1685: 4" OTA, guide scope and finder



IMG_1686: Dew Shield and front of 4" OTA. This scope is very heavy in relation to the 6" OTA, being only 4"



IMG_1687: 4" OTA & 3" guide scope. Note camera mount ring.



IMG_1688: 4" OTA and mounting bar and rings.



IMG_1689: 4" OTA



IMG_1690: 4" OTA with dew shield off, Brandon 4" cell. Objective is free of any visible marks or scratches, very little dust.



IMG_1691: 4" OTA



IMG_1692: 4" OTA, side view, scratch in lens cell shows brass. This may answer why this OTA is so heavy.



IMG_1693: 4" OTA showing slight blue on objective indicating some type of coating, as well as the 3" guide Scope.



IMG_1694: 4" OTA and 3" Brandon Objective guide scope. I do not know if Unitron used Brandon objectives in some of their scopes.



IMG_1696: Closer view of 3" guide scope attached to 4" OTA



IMG_1697: 4" OTA with dew shield. Note how thick, some type of composite material.



IMG_1698: 4" OTA with guide scope & finder.



IMG_1699: 4' OTA and attached scopes.



IMG_1592: We put all three OTA's, 4", 5" and 6" on the mount and they reached focus and the image seemed clear and good. The 5" OTA is pictured above on the mount and tripod in the pictures. We had to improvise a counter weight.



IMG_1702: Another Unitron Motor and mounting block and other unknown accessories.



IMG_1703: continued from photo 1702 of additional accessories



IMG_1704: Dew shield for 4" scope with brass fitting for objective



IMG_1705; scale of dew shield in photo 1704



IMG_1706: Only the two super-Untron focusers on the right with adapter collars, and short aluminum tube are available. The one in the box is being held out to be mated with a 6" objective and rear cell/flange to OTA that the focuser screws into.



IMG_1587: Box of 2"+ eyepieces.



IMG_1588; box of 1.25" eyepieces



IMG_1589; 2nd Box of 1.25" eyepieces



IMG_1613; 6" OTA



IMG_1619: 6", 5' & 4" OTAs



IMG_1618: 4" OTA on the left is the one available and described with 3" guide scope & finder; the one in the middle is not available.



IMG_1609: additional accessories and some type of drive that is available.

In Conclusion,

We have a lot of stuff and don't know if Unitron actually used Brandon Objectives/cells in their scopes, or if these scopes are pieced together with both Unitron and Brandon parts. The 5" & 6" OTAs, objectives, and cells have no markings so we don't know if Unitron made scopes like these or if the objectives came from elsewhere. I have been told that a new doublet 6" objective without a cell sells for \$1800 at Royce Optics. Royce advised the 6" objective should be worth at least \$1000 or more in the cell. The issue is not being able to quantify the quality without sending items in to be tested and certified as to their individual correction.

All three scope were mounted and reached focus with a 40mm 1.25" eyepiece during the day. All telescopes reached focus.

Please if you can offer any insight or are interested in these items let me know. Again we want to be fair and make it a good deal for both parties.

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