

Jupiter in color

Telescope: **AS80** (Zeiss AS80/1200 mm)

Eyepieces:

O-10 - Zeiss O-10, $f=10\text{mm}$, (120 \times , 21')

Time: 2014/02/25 17:50-19:00UT

Location: Říčany

Weather: Good transparency with excellent seeing.

Mount: Alt-az. TS AZ-5

Accessories: Baader 1.25" zenith prism

I don't have always time to spend hours under the night sky. Quite often, especially during winter, the weather is anyway unstable and the long sessions are rare in general.

For last couple of years, Jupiter was providing nice target for those short sessions as it's oppositions were happening during winter times. I have found out that the bigger is not always the best. As I keep my scopes at room temperature at home, the thermalization is a problem.

Legendary Zeiss lens AS80/1200 has two kind of advantages. First, it is just a doublet with quite thin lenses and it reaches thermal equilibrium quickly. On top of it, the lens is removable. I'm installing it only after I setup up the OTA. It means that I can put the lens outside, on the windowsill, well in advance and without need of getting dressed.

The 80mm diameter sounds quite small for observing the planets but in my experience it is still enough to reveal some interesting features on everchanging Jupiter's disc. Under my usual circumstances, even the 80mm lens is still limited by seeing and nights with Antoniadi I at power of 120 \times are rare¹. The night on February 25, 2014 was such an exceptional one.

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¹That does not mean that the larger diameter is useless, my experience is that the larger telescope was always showing more, even under relatively poor seeing conditions



steady for long periods of time. Most of the features captured on the sketch were relatively easy to see, I need to work much harder to noticed them usually. For the first time, I was actually able to detect some color in Great Red Spot in this small 80mm telescope. It had strong deep orange-reddish tint. The spot was edged from the western side by quite dark wave.

The problem with experiencing such nice seeing is that it is discouraging me from drawing Jupiter under less than perfect condition knowing how better it could be. I shouldn't be complaining, I know. I will have to fight with this feeling.

Alexander Kupčo