

A home-brew multipurpose accessory tray for the NexStar N11GPS

After acquiring a second hand N11GPS I was quickly missing an accessory tray for the eyepieces and my accessories. I liked the 3in1 tray from Startek but a) it is not sold in Germany and b) I wanted some additional features. However I recommend considering to buy the original one from StarTek. Please visit their webpage at <http://www.startekind.com>.

I use a 16mm thick multilayer wood and painted it black. The diameter of my tray is 54cm. Besides the features of the 3in1 tray I added a heating plate under the eyepieces and a indirect red light. The heating power can be switched between off, 10 Watt and 25 Watt. The indirect light has a on/off switch as well as a potentiometer for continuous control to choose the proper (minimum needed) light. The tray is larger than the 3in1 and thus used as an additional spreader for the N11GPS tripod rather than a replacement of the original spreader.



Top view of the tray, left space for accessories, right carrying handle, bottom eyepiece holes



Accessory tray assembled as an additional spreader to stabilize the tripod



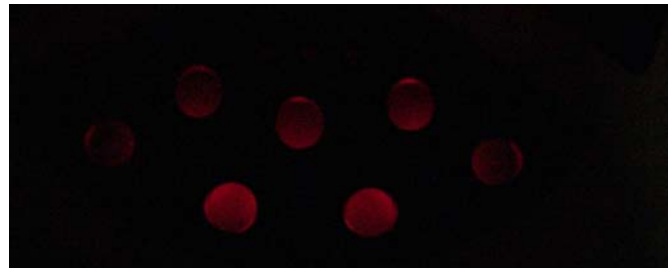
Bottom view of tray with insulated heater plate



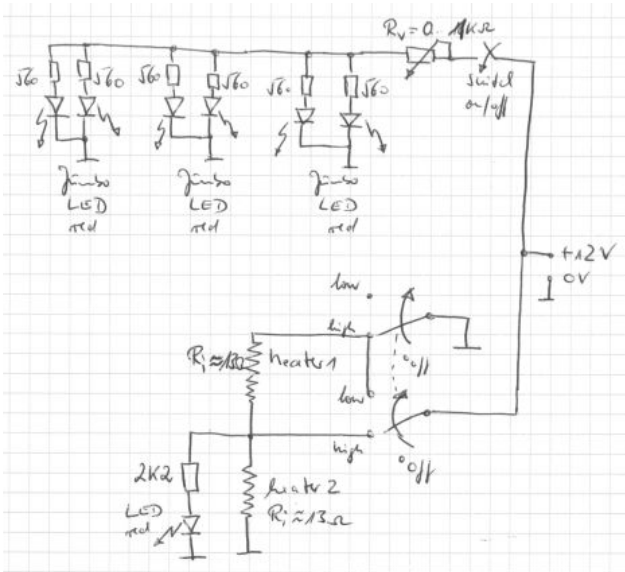
Side view of the tray with 12V DC power supply plugs and switches for heater and red light (between the wooden accessory tray and the metal heater plate below)



Power supply plugs and switches for red light and heater



Tray in the dark. Eyepiece holes are indirectly lighted from the bottom and can thus be easily found in the dark.



Sketch of the schematic of the simple electronics in the described accessory tray.

Kind regards

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