

FINDER SCOPE SOLAR FILTER



WARNING: Solar viewing should never be attempted without proper filtration. Solar filters should be inspected before each use to ensure safety. Before attempting solar viewing, become familiar with all safety precautions. Failure to do so may result in severe and permanent eye damage.

With some telescopes, finding the sun for solar viewing can be less than easy. Since I had some Baader Astro-Solar Safety Film left over from making a solar filter for one of my telescopes, I made a solar filter for my Meade 8x50 finder scope. Wanting something more aesthetically pleasing than a paper or cardboard filter cell, I searched around the house and discovered a spray paint can cap, when lined with felt, fit perfectly.

I used the black cap from the Krylon Ultraflat black spray paint I had purchased for another astro project. You have a wide variety of colors to choose from when it comes to spray paint caps.

Although the construction is fairly obvious, here's my technique:

The first step is to cut out the "support structure" inside the cap. Next, cut the hole in the end of the cap. To mount the solar film, cut a washer from an old cd-rom such that it fits inside the cap and the I.D. of the washer matches the hole in the cap. Also cut another washer to the same dimensions from some thin, dense foam (I used a piece of a Craftsman tool chest drawer liner.) Lightly sand one side of the plastic washer to aid adhesion, then glue the solar film to it. Glue the foam washer to the solar film side so the film is sandwiched between the two washers. Once the glue dries, mount the washer/film assembly in the cap and line the cap with felt. I installed mine with the foam washer towards the finder objective. The film/washer assembly is only held in place by the felt lining.