

I had my first experience with the new 14mm(100degree) lense at RTMC show 2009. The lense was demonstrated with two different instruments and it perform extremely well.. Unbeknown to the excited group of astronomers to see the performance of this new lense in real action, I actually ran back and forth to the well known Optical lense company to see their 100degree lense being tested a few hundred feet away in the dark. I saw little if not, no difference in either lense performance. They both perform superbly. The only real big difference was the price. One, being hundreds of dollars less expensive than the other.

I ordered one on the spot, however I needed to be patient, and wait for the shipment of eyepieces to the USA, which was about two weeks later. This put it very close to another popular star party event that is held at the Grand Canyon in June.(astronomers from all parts of USA- join in). The "Call" finally came in that they arrived and were tested(before being shipped out(now thats quality control)! But sadly the shipment would take place (after) I left for the Grand Canyon 19th star show. My excitement couldn't wait any longer. Yes, I drove over 200miles to just pick up an eyepiece, and knowing what I know now, I do it again in a light-speed moment!

I left the Grand Canyon star party after doing our typical public outreach, sometimes showing up to 1000 persons in a single night from ALL parts of the world! IF you haven't been to the Grand Canyon star party you are truly missing out on a fantastic event. Astronomers share their knowledge and equipment with the public for first two to three hours, and then we have the skies to ourselves for the rest of the night- the true diehards. Everyone wins,-- extreme dark skies, over 7k in elevation, the views can be quite rewarding.

I picked up the package from my brother's place in Sedona. Wow, was my first impression. The well shipped box was over 1foot in size. I thought I was getting a small scope instead of an eyepiece. I studied it closely, and realize this lense has excellent craftsmanship throughout. This is no light-weight, coming in at 2lbs, but you cannot make a good quality lense by cutting corners and this lense shows that someone put alot of thought in making it right.

Now a little about me. I have been stargazing for almost 35years. It is now what I do almost exclusively with over 300 stargazing events a year! This clearly shows I know my equipment very well. I tried out the new lense on my SKY90 TAK and my homebuilt 3/4meter reflector(28inch mirror-John Hall /optician).

The lense performed superbly in the SKY90 TAK. The contrast was excellent and the flatness was controlled flawlessly over the multiple degrees of real sky! I saw both regions of the Veil nebula, and hints of the middle section and this was done without a sky filter!

For the record, I have had my 3/4meter scope operational since early 97' and use it exclusively for most of my star shows for the past 12years.

However, nothing prepare me for what I was about to experience. I put in the lense, and focus on the ever popular M-13. My jaw drop. The view of this globular displayed a 3 dimensional look like I have never seen before. And yet I have \$1,200 binoviewer and it was not being used! Speaking about accessories, I have over 60 lenses in my collection, and yet this lense was clearly becoming my favorite. The sharpness, and high contrast was again superb, and the pin-cushion and coma

abberation was extremely well controlled over the amazing 100degree AFOV. What made this even more remarkable was the fact this was done in a 28inch--F-3.8 ratio scope mirror without a paracorr corrector!!

Now onto the deep sky objects, to name a few, M-51, M101, Veil Nebula, Barnard 86 and the M-17(Swan nebula). Nothing could express the true feeling we shared on the nights of seeing these spectacular sights in my scope. Knowing my scope all to well, yet the views I was seeing was like viewing thru someone else larger scope(3inches more). WOW-- now that is an eyepiece performance! The amount of extra detail and high contrast I was seeing for the first time, was a (direct) result of this stunning lense capabilities. I truly put my astro friends in a state of frenzy and awe. It was difficult to pull them away from the views. The extra detail of brighter knots and extra extentions of the Whirlpool was breathtaking! All of my old favorites were taking on a new look and again this was clearly a result of the properties this eyepiece has to offer.

I offer the 14mm(100degree) eyepiece to other astronomers to try out in their scopes. It was doing the same thing with their scopes, giving them views they had not seen before. They were hooked too, this eyepiece gave a power boost to their scopes too. I truly extend my gratitude for those who inspired to make this eyepiece a reality.

Sincerely D. Young --[Sirius Lookers of Sedona](#)