



**Engineering Excellence**

*Because Your Image Depends On It*

# ***Atlas***

# ***Focuser***

## **User's Guide**



## **WELCOME**

Thank you for purchasing an FLI Atlas Focuser. We know that this accessory will bring you years of excellent imaging results.

This User's Guide is intended as a reference tool for you to use with the FLI Atlas Focuser. Please read it and follow the procedures to ensure trouble-free installation of your hardware and software. For information on other FLI products or to discuss your Atlas Filter, please contact:

[sales@flicamera.com](mailto:sales@flicamera.com)

If you have any questions about your purchase, please contact us.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Finger Lakes Instrumentation LLC  
200 Tech Park Drive  
Rochester NY 14623 USA  
Tel USA 585-624-3760  
<https://www.flicamera.com>

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## PRODUCT SAFETY



This FLI Atlas Focuser is shipped with a 12V DC power supply. Do not use any other power supply with this FLI Atlas Focuser, or use the power supply in a way other than described in this guide. Doing so may cause damage to the Atlas Focuser that will not be covered under the warranty.



If you are concerned about lightning strikes in the area you use your Atlas Focuser, you may want to take safety precautions as electrical surges can damage electrical equipment. We recommend that when your Atlas Focuser is not in use that you unplug the Atlas Focuser from power and any USB cables.

## ATLAS FOCUSER OVERVIEW

FLI's digital focusers are specifically designed for modern CCD astronomy where the digital imaging system is closely mounted to correct focus. The Atlas Focuser's thin design allows focusing with short-travel optical designs. All of our focusers are ASCOM compliant and are compatible with most software.

The Atlas Focuser is designed to achieve critical focus with heavy loads, and the high performance lubricants allow for use in temperatures as low as -25°C.

The Zero Tilt Adapter™ locking mechanism implemented on both sides of the Atlas Focuser is designed to achieve a rigid and tilt-free connection to adapters and other hardware.

Note: If the directions in this guide are followed properly, upon reactivating the Atlas Focuser, it will recall its most recent position prior to deactivation.

## ATLAS FOCUSER SPECIFICATIONS

Minimum Travel	0.35"
Dimensions	7.0" x 7.0"
Thickness in Closed Position (Factory Set)	1.26"
Weight	3.0 lbs
PC Interface	USB 2.0
Number of Steps	105,000
Resolution per Step	0.083 micron
Clear Aperture	89 mm
Maximum Payload	25.0 lbs
Payload at 6" Distance	10.0 lbs

Note: Do not overload the Atlas Focuser. Doing so may cause permanent damage to your Atlas Focuser or other equipment.

## INSTALLING THE FLI FOCUSER SOFTWARE

Obtain the most up to date software to install and test your Atlas Focuser from our web site:

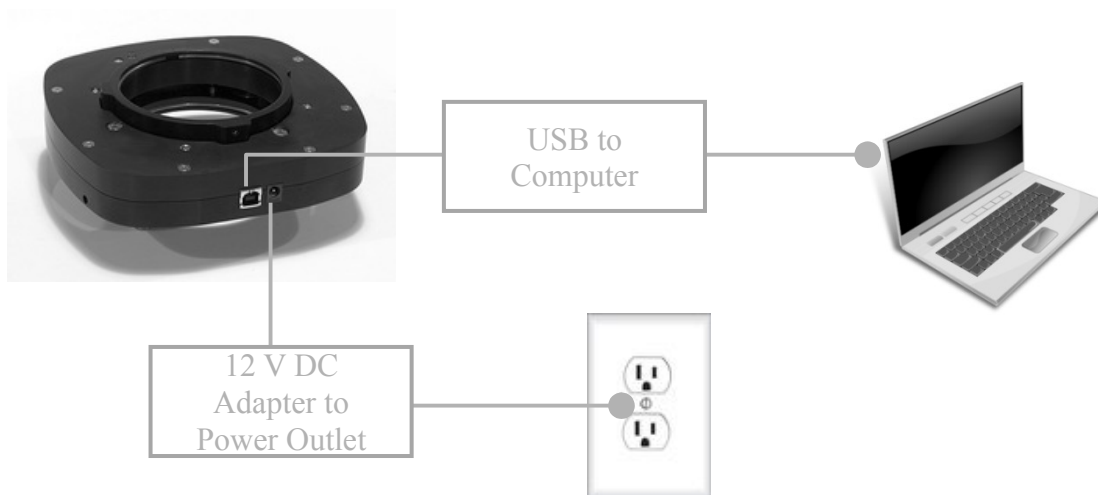
<http://www.flicamera.com/software>

Select the FLI Software Installation Kit. Follow the installation instructions given in on-screen prompts that will guide you through the installation procedure. The FLI Software Installation Kit includes drivers for FLI products as well as utilities that can be used to control the hardware.

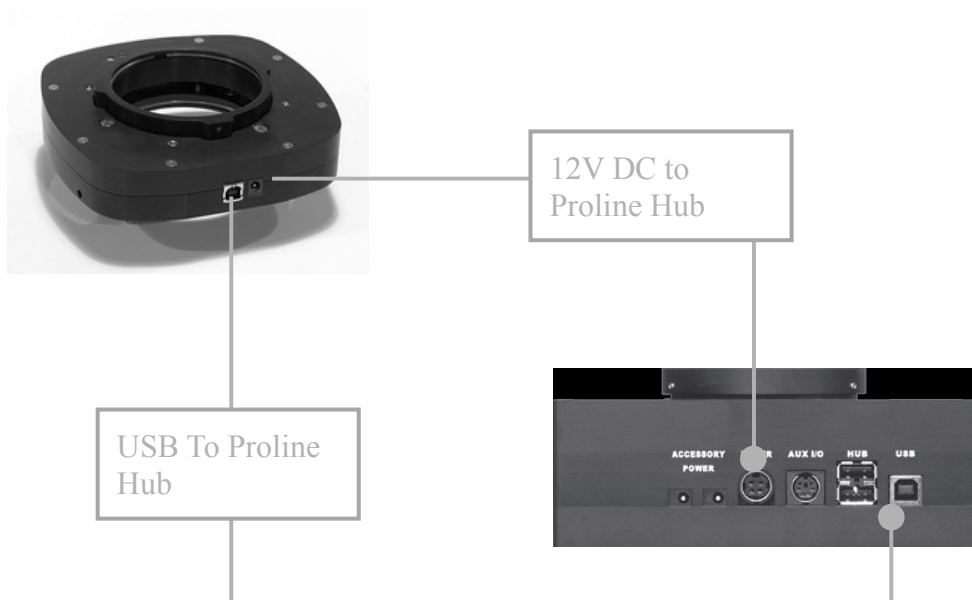
Note: Run the FLI Software Installation Kit before you set up and power the Atlas Focuser for the first time to ensure the system recognizes and correctly initialized the Atlas Focuser when you connect it. Failure to do so may result in errors.

# ATLAS FOCUSER CONNECTIONS

## Connecting the Atlas Focuser to a Computer



## Connecting the Atlas Focuser to a ProLine Hub





## ACCESSORIES

For more information on any accessories that may be available for your Atlas Focuser, please contact Finger Lakes Instrumentation, LLC by phone or email at:

585-624-3760

[sales@flicamera.com](mailto:sales@flicamera.com)

A short cable kit is available for connecting the Atlas Focuser to a Proline hub more efficiently.



Fig. 1: Short Cable Kit (Part#SCK)

## SETTING-UP AND POWERING AN ATLAS FOCUSER

We recommend you assemble all components in one area before beginning this set up procedure. Complete the software installation previously detailed before running the Atlas Focuser for the first time.

1. Plug the power supply cable into the Atlas Focuser.
2. Insert the USB cable into both the Atlas Focuser and your computer.
3. Plug the power supply cable into a wall socket or active AC power strip.
4. Run FLI Focus to operate the Atlas Focuser.

### **The following notes are provided to assist you with the FLI Focus Software:**

- The FLI Focus software will automatically recognize the type of Focuser that is attached to your computer. If the computer does not correctly identify the Atlas Focuser, refer to the Troubleshooting section of this guide for further instructions.
- The home position of the focuser could be 0 (completely closed) or the middle of its range, depending on the software in use. The Atlas Focuser has 105,000 steps. Press the “Move Home” button to put the focuser in the home position.
- Use the “Zero” button to override the focuser position indicator without homing.
- To increase the position (extend the focuser) click “Out” and to decrease the position (retract the focuser) click “In”. The rate at which the focuser's position depends on the speed setting.
- You can modify the speed settings of Slow, Medium and Fast to better match your imaging setup and protocol. To configure the speed settings, right-click on the dialog box and select “Focus Settings”. Choose the number of steps you would like for each setting, then click “OK”.

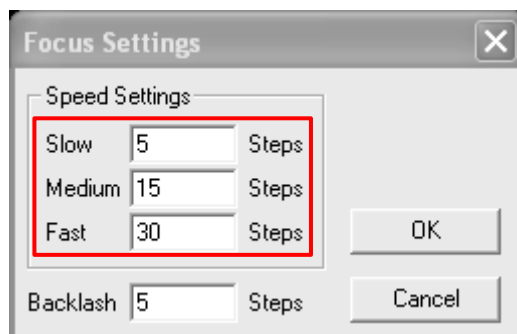


Fig. 2: Window to modify speed settings

- To jump to an exact position, click the “Move To” button which will display the following window. Enter the desired position and then select “OK”.

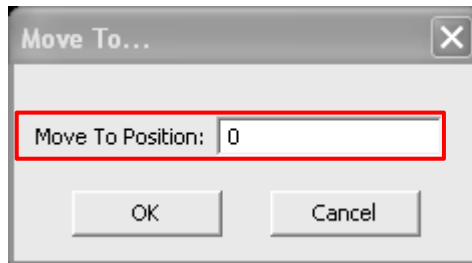


Fig. 3: Window to control position

- **Relative Position** displays the value of the focuser position relative to the user designated zero value.
- **Absolute Position** displays the value of the focuser position relative to the zero-value designated by the system.
- **Extent** is the number of steps of the focuser, which is 105,000 for the Atlas Focuser.
- **Steps Remaining** displays the number of steps remaining during a focusing move.
- **Therm 1** displays the internal temperature in degrees Celsius of the unit.



Fig. 4: Window displaying Focuser diagnostics.

## CONNECTING ADAPTERS TO ATLAS FOCUSER

FLI Atlas Focusers employ the Zero-Tilt Adapter™ mechanism to attach to other components in the imaging train. The mechanism is easy to use and provides an extremely rigid connection. The locking mechanism is actuated with three set screws accessible at the perimeter of the engraved side of the housing and three set screws located on the moving center portion of the focuser, in a manner similar to a more traditional V-groove connection.

### **The following notes are provided to assist you with attaching an adapter:**

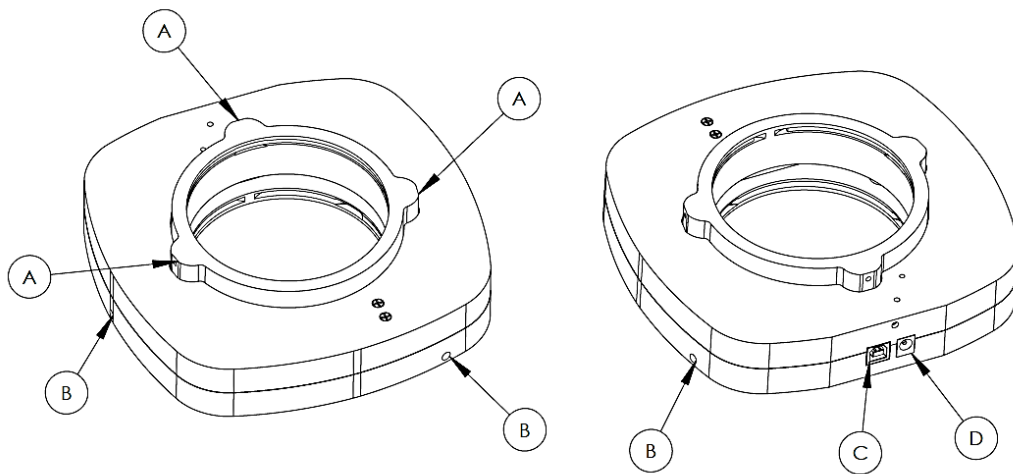
1. Place the focuser on a clean surface with the FLI logo facing down (this is the camera side of the Atlas Focuser).
2. Insert the adapter inside the center bore of the Atlas focuser. The fit between the adapter and the focuser is very close to achieve maximum precision, it is necessary to align the adapter with the opening. If the Zero Tilt Adapter™ spring in the groove of the Atlas Focuser inhibits the insertion of the adapter, loosen the three set screws in the bosses around the perimeter of the center bore using the supplied 5/64 Allen key.

Note: The Atlas Focuser ships in its retracted state. The Atlas Focuser must be extended out by 50,000 steps for the camera-side adapter set screws to become accessible. Failure to do so may cause permanent damage to your Atlas Focuser.

3. Once the adapter is inserted fully inside the Atlas Focuser and the adapter flange rests on the focuser metal, use the supplied 5/64" Allen key to secure the adapter in place by tightening the three set screws (locations detailed on the following page). It is recommended that you begin with the set screw located in the center and then proceed to the two outer set screws to avoid damaging your Atlas Focuser.
4. After all three set screws have been securely tightened, it is safe to attach the Atlas Focuser with the adapter to the imaging train.

Note: Be sure the adapter is firmly attached to your Atlas Focuser before operating to avoid damaging any equipment.

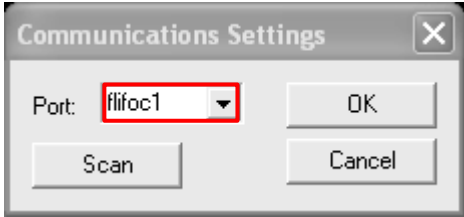
5. Repeat these steps for attaching an adapter to the telescope side of the Atlas Focuser, the set screws for this side are located around the perimeter of the housing (the locations are outlined in the photo below).



Label	Description
A	Three (3) Zero-Tilt Adapter set screws (camera side)
B	Three (3) Zero-Tilt Adapter set screws (telescope side)
C	USB connector
D	12V DC power connector

Fig. 5: Set screw and input/output locations.

## APPENDIX A – TROUBLESHOOTING

Issue	Remedy
<p>The computer does not correctly identify the attached Atlas Focuser.</p>	<p>Check that the Atlas Focuser’s power supply and USB cable are properly connected. If so, follow the steps below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. On the FLI Focus dialog box right click on the top of the dialog box and select “Communications Settings”.</li> <li>2. On the new dialog box click “Scan”. The system will display “<b>flifoc0</b>” or “<b>flifoc1</b>” in the port window.</li> </ol>  <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3. If a problem persists, unplug the Atlas Focuser power and USB cable, then uninstall and reinstall FLI Focus.</li> </ol>
<p>There is non-parallelism in the images.</p>	<p>Verify that the adapter is correctly attached to the Zero Tilt Adapter™.</p>
<p>In the event that the Atlas Focuser becomes overloaded.</p>	<p>Rectify the cause of the overload and then reset the Atlas Focuser to the home position.</p>

## **APPENDIX B - WARRANTY FOR FLI PRODUCTS**

### **Limited Warranty Coverage**

If your Product does not properly function because of a defect in its materials or workmanship, Finger Lakes Instrumentation, LLC (“FLI”) will, at its sole option and for the length of the period indicated on the chart below, which period begins with the date of original purchase (the “Warranty Period”), either:

- (a) repair your Product with new or refurbished parts;
- or
- (b) replace your Product with a new or refurbished product.

The decision to repair or replace, the parts used to repair, or the new or refurbished product used to replace your Product, as applicable, shall be made by FLI in its sole discretion. Without limiting its discretion, where FLI determines that your Product shall be replaced with a new or refurbished product that is different from your Product, FLI will use its commercially reasonable efforts to replace your Product with a new or refurbished product that is as close to equivalent to your Product as practicable.

This Limited Warranty is offered to the original purchaser of a new product from FLI, which was not sold on an “as-is” basis. A legible purchase receipt or other verifiable proof of purchase for your Product is required to receive Limited Warranty parts or service.

This Limited Warranty does not apply in special circumstances in which prior arrangements have been made and separate documentation has been supplied prior to, or with, your Product; in such cases, the warranty (if any) provided in such documentation shall supersede and replace this Limited Warranty for your Product.

Item or Part Name	Warranty Period
Your Product, except those items listed in this table below	One (1) Year
Your Product’s Application Software (if included) and Batteries	None

### **Parts and Service**

You must carry-in or mail-in your Product during the Warranty Period to receive the Limited Warranty parts or service. Prior to mailing or carrying-in your Product to FLI, you are required to contact FLI at the e-mail address or telephone number provided in the “Directory Information” Section of this Limited Warranty to receive a warranty service identifier code (and any other reasonably required identifiers, as directed by FLI) that you must provide in legible writing included within the package in which you mail FLI your Product.

The Limited Warranty does not include costs of shipping your Product, installation or re-installation of your Product, insurance relating to shipping your Product, or travel to carry your Product to FLI, except that FLI shall bear the costs of shipping your Product to and from FLI’s service center (but not insurance or travel) for Product Internal Environment Limited Warranty service claims made within one (1) year from the date of original purchase when shipped within the continental United States.

All products and services are FCA FLI, Rochester NY USA.

Finger Lakes Instrumentation LLC  
200 Tech Park Drive  
Rochester NY 14623 USA  
Tel USA 585-624-3760  
<https://www.flicamera.com>



### **Product Software**

As noted in the chart in the section of this Limited Warranty titled “Limited Warranty Coverage,” the Limited Warranty does not apply to your Product software. Software supplied with your Product is for demonstration purposes only. FLI supplies the necessary information, drivers, and libraries, for users and third party vendors to develop software for their specific purposes. FLI seeks to maintain compatibility with many third party software vendors, but does not, and cannot, warrant or guarantee operation with non-FLI software. FLI is not responsible for changes, upgrades, or errors in third party programs.

### **Important Limited Warranty Information**

This limited warranty ONLY COVERS failures due to defects in materials and workmanship, and DOES NOT COVER normal wear and tear or cosmetic damage. This limited warranty ALSO DOES NOT COVER damages which occurred in shipment, or failures which are caused by or to products not supplied by FLI, or failures which result from accidents, misuse, abuse, neglect, mishandling, misapplication, alteration, improper maintenance, power supplied to your Product (including, without limitation, over-voltage, mechanical shock, reverse polarity, or power surges), electrostatic discharge, modification, or commercial use, rental use of your Product, service to your Product by anyone other than FLI at an authorized service center, damage due to environmental conditions (including, without limitation, extreme temperatures, exposure to excessive moisture or humidity, radiation, or electromagnetic fields), damage occurring after condensation or moisture has appeared in the Product inner (sealed) chamber, or damage attributable to acts of God (including, without limitation, lightning).

➤ THERE ARE NO EXPRESS WARRANTIES EXCEPT AS LIMITED UNDER “LIMITED WARRANTY COVERAGE.” FLI IS NOT LIABLE FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES RESULTING FROM THE USE OF THIS PRODUCT, OR ARISING UNDER ANY BREACH OF THIS WARRANTY.

➤ ALL EXPRESS WARRANTIES MADE IN THIS LIMITED WARRANTY ARE LIMITED TO THE WARRANTY PERIOD OF THE LIMITED WARRANTY, AND ARE OTHERWISE HEREBY DISCLAIMED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW.

➤ ALL IMPLIED WARRANTIES, INCLUDING THE WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY, ARE HEREBY DISCLAIMED TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PROVIDED BY LAW.

➤ PARTS AND SERVICE WHICH ARE NOT COVERED BY THIS LIMITED WARRANTY ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

If your locality does not permit all or a portion of this Limited Warranty, this Limited Warranty may not apply to you. Please consult your local laws, rules, and regulations for any differences that may be present in your jurisdiction and apply to you. If you do not meet all of the criteria for this Limited Warranty or are outside of the Warranty Period, please be advised that you are not covered by this Limited Warranty and there may be a charge for any servicing and parts for your Product – please contact FLI using the directory information in this Limited Warranty for more information.

The Product is not authorized for use as critical components in life support or medical diagnostic applications where failure to perform could result in injury, faulty diagnosis, or other risk to patients or personnel.

The Product is not authorized for use in robotic control systems where malfunction or failure could cause system motions hazardous to personnel.

## **APPENDIX C - FLI RETURN PROCEDURE**

If you need to return a product, please follow the instructions outlined below.

1. Contact FLI by phone or email to obtain a Return Material Authorization (RMA) number to return the camera/product and:
  - a. If you are outside the United States, contact your Customs Authority to register the merchandise to be returned to the United States for warranty repair or refund. Use the Harmonized Code number 9801.00.1012 on your shipping documentation. The monetary value you place on the item should be stated for insurance purposes. Clearly state that the “Value is for Customs purposes ONLY.” When FLI returns the repair item to you, we will use the same monetary value.
  - b. If you are outside the United States, prepare a ProForma invoice to accompany the shipment with the following statement:  
For Equipment not covered under warranty: “American goods returned for repair only with NO Commercial Value. Temporary return only”  
For Equipment covered under warranty: “American goods returned for Warranty Repair only with NO Commercial Value. Temporary return only”
  - c. For all customers, if you are requesting service under warranty or a return, a copy of your original receipt.
  - d. For you records, make a copy of these documents.
  - e. Prepare a large shipping label with the appropriate return address (FLI or distributor) and for shipments from outside the U.S., include the Harmonized Code number.
2. Locate the original shipping boxes in which your item(s) was packaged. These boxes are designed to protect the products.

Notice: If you do not have the original shipping boxes, obtain a rigid box that is at least 3” (7.5 cm) larger in all dimensions than the items. A smaller box will not allow appropriate cushioning. Tape the side and bottom seams to secure the box.

3. If you have the original packing materials, place the item(s) in the original plastic bag(s) and place the bagged item in the appropriate foam cutout in the proper orientation. Insert other items into their appropriate compartments.

Notice: If you do not have the original bag, place the item(s) in a plastic bag and seal it. Wrap the bagged item(s) with at least two layers of bubble wrap or two bubble wrap bags. Wrap other items in the same manner. At the bottom of the box, place two inches of packing material (Styrofoam peanuts or additional bubble wrap). Place the item(s) on the

bottom layer with space around each. Surround each item completely with additional packing material.

4. Write a letter that includes the following:
  - a. Reason the item is being returned to FLI or distributor
  - b. Your complete contact information (name, phone number(s), email address, return shipping address)
  - c. If appropriate, payment method and information. On top of the item(s) in the box, add the required paperwork described in step 1 and the letter described in step 4. Seal the box with packing tape. Tape the top flaps and label the box with the shipping label prepared in step 1.

Contact a shipper for pickup or bring it to a reliable carrier. As noted in step 1, use the appropriate value on shipping forms. FLI is not responsible for damage to any item or items when they are in the possession of a carrier.