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Telescope Cameras For Astro-Photographers Capture The ‘Best’ Side of the Moon

By [Jose Feroso](#) [✉](#) July 23, 2008 | 3:32 pm | Categories: [Cameras](#)



Sooner or later, you’re going to point your pocket digicam at the moon — and be incredibly disappointed

that the little smear of light in the image doesn't look like this photo.

Why not? Magnification, for one thing. But even if you could rig a pocket cam to a telescope, it wouldn't necessarily turn out well. Cameras designed for astrophotography are designed to maximize exposure times, not megapixels.

The [Imaging Source](#) has come out with a set of cameras for amateur astronomers. While their resolution may not be that impressive (starting at a paltry 640×480, or 0.3 megapixel), they make up for the lack of pixels by adding astro-friendly features.

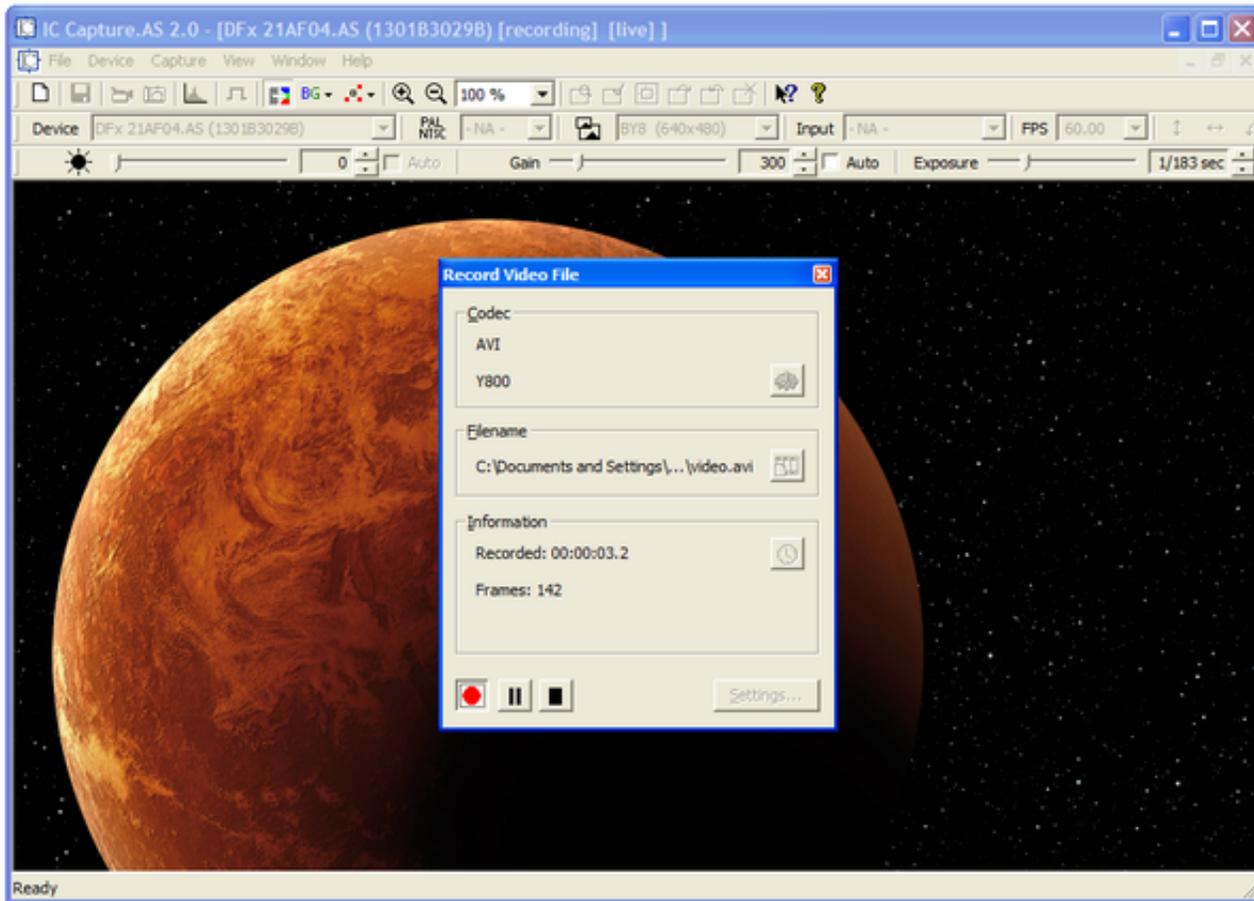


These new low-noise cameras are mounted on the viewfinder of a regular telescope rig (see pics below), and can take pictures with extremely long exposure times (up to 60 minutes) or movies with fast frame rates (up to 60 fps) using CCD chips from Sony. The cameras are made of anodized aluminium and zinc housing for durability and accuracy, and measure 50 mm x 56 mm.



But what's probably best about this camera is what we've already taken for granted with our other ones —

you can immediately move them to a PC through the USB 2.0 or FireWire connector in the back and start playing with them immediately in the software — you can set exposure and frame rate settings through the in-house graphical UI as you watch the moon, live, on your viewfinder.

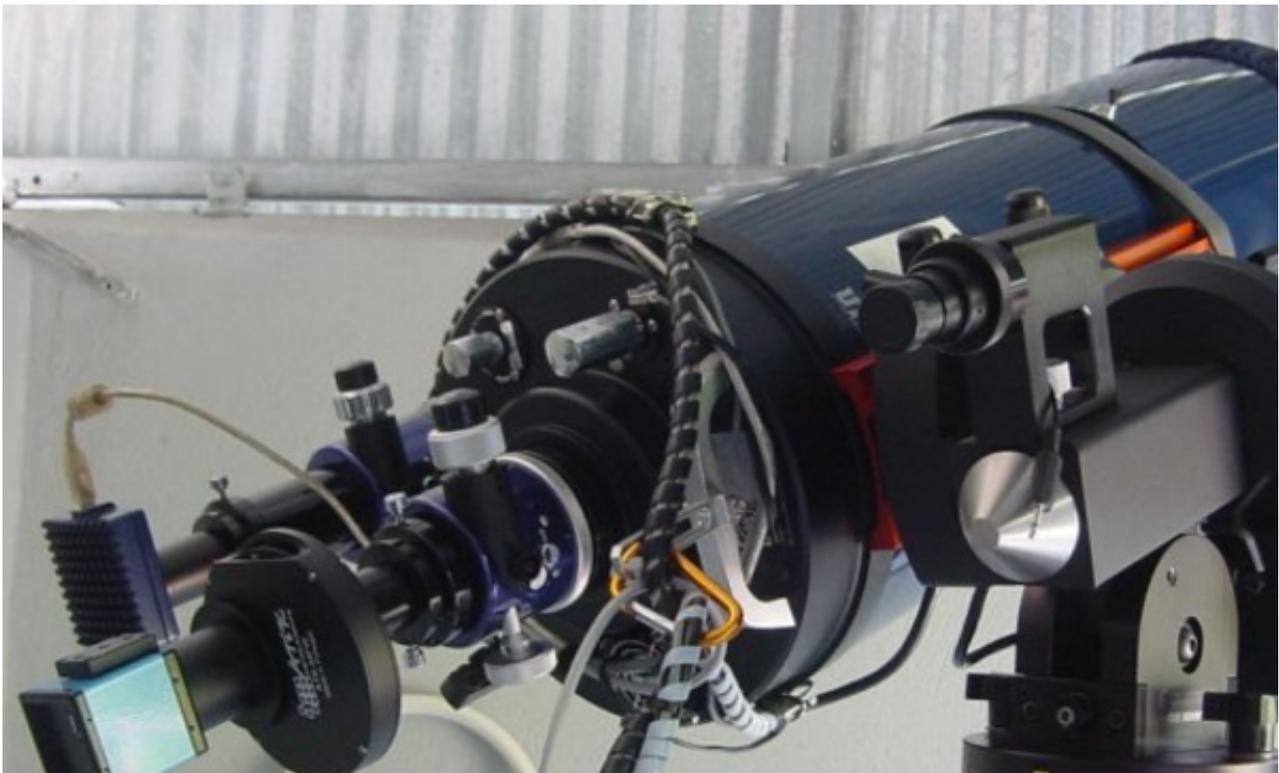


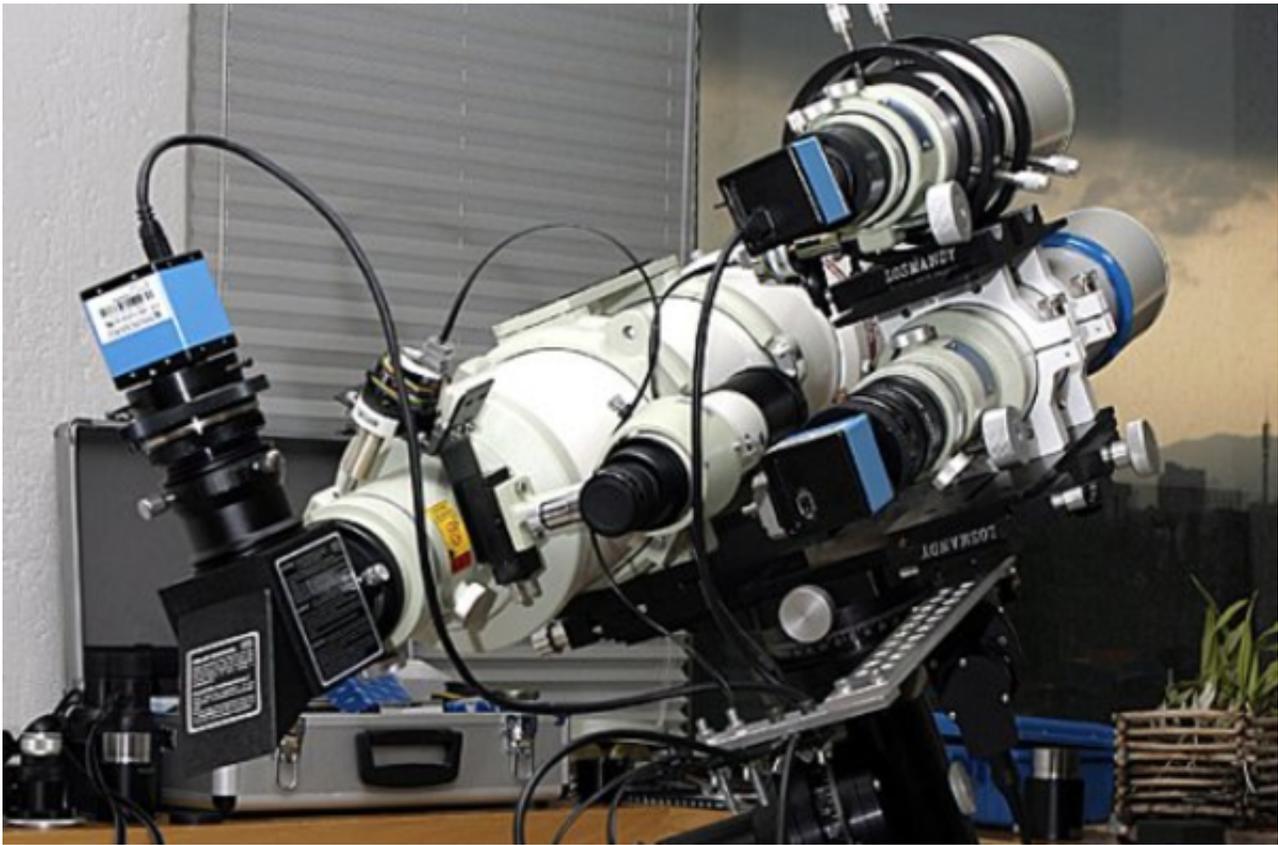
While they don't have all of the options of mainstream cameras, they are available with monochrome and color types (an IR cut filter in three resolutions: 640×480, 1024×768 and 1280×960). The camera starts at around \$350.



Picture above taken by amateur photographer John Kirchhoff, with a DMK 41AF02.AS camera, at $f/10$.







Source: [AstronomyCameras.com](https://www.AstronomyCameras.com)

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