Cleaning Baader Planetarium AstroSolar™ Material

We strongly recommend that you store your completed filter in a container to protect it from dust and damage when you are not using it. Similarly, protect any unused filter material so that it is in new condition when you need it. Fingerprints on a metallized surface are to be avoided under all circumstances. It has the same consequence as putting fingerprints onto a telescope mirror.

Since your AstroSolar filter will be open to dirt and dust, the coating may require cleaning after extended exposure. If the dust is loose, you may be able to blow it off with compressed air or an air bulb, both available in camera stores. Since the coating is harder than regular aluminum coatings applied on mirror surfaces, it can be cleaned with a solution of dishwater detergent and distilled water. Obtain sterilized cotton wool (as used for eye application), available in pharmacies. Normal cotton wool as used for cosmetic purposes should NOT be used!

Use careful, gentle strokes. For each stroke, a new portion of cotton is to be used, soaked with the cleaning solution. This helps to avoid scratches in the metal surface due to dust grains picked up by the cotton.

Check the cleaning result by holding the cleaned filter up to the Sun. If scratches or pinholes show up, exceeding a combined uncoated area of 10 square mm, the film is regarded as unsafe and must be destroyed. Tiny pinholes can be covered with a black felt-tip marker. We recommend using the marker on the inside surface of the film in order to preserve the esthetic appearance of your filter.

We are pleased to offer a diffraction-limited film product at a reasonable price. If the filter becomes very dirty, we encourage you to replace it, rather than risk damage in the cleaning process.

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