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### **Optical Index and Edge Support**

It is important to correctly edge support the primary mirror in the mirror cell. Small edge support errors have the potential to severely degrade image quality. Please follow the instructions below to maximize the performance of your telescope.

1. **Optical Index Arrow:** There is an optical index arrow on the rear surface of your Galaxy Optics primary mirror. Rotate the primary mirror in the mirror cell so the optical index arrow is placed at zero degrees. The arrow should be pointed straight up when the telescope is horizontal to the horizon. The optical index is the position your primary mirror was tested in to achieve the least amount of flexure in the mirror substrate when observing at angles low to the horizon.
2. The width of the radial support belt is also important. We have found that 1.50" (40mm) width nylon webbing works best on our 2" thickness optical substrates.
3. The 1.50" width nylon webbing supports the lower 180-degree circumference of the optic. The belt should be exactly centered on the 2" sidewall edge of the optic.
4. The sling/belt should hang straight down from the connecting device, clamp, bolt, etc. to the point where it first contacts the sidewall edge of the mirror. The belt may pull slightly outward and away from the 2" sidewall edge of the mirror. The belt should not pull inward or wrap around the mirror above the 180-degree points.
5. The optic must hang straight down with no lateral strain. Adjust the sling/belt clamps, bolts, etc. either forward or backward in conjunction with the collimating bolts so the optic hangs with no forward or twisting lateral forces.
6. Please contact Galaxy Optics for information concerning the edge support design for equatorial telescope mirror cells.