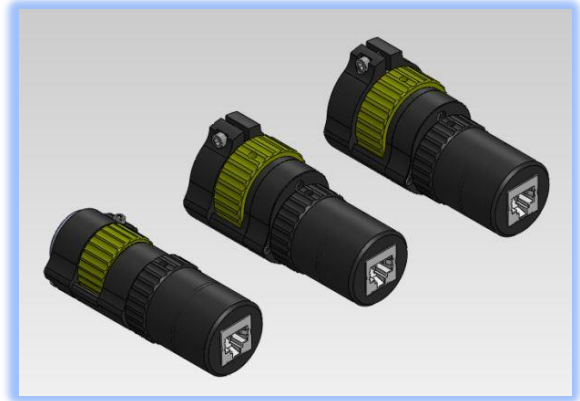




# QuickSync and FocusLynx – 10 Years Later

It's hard to believe it's been 10 years since we introduced our FocusLynx FT and the QuickSync motors for FeatherTouch focusers. Originally billed as "**Smart Automation for the FeatherTouch Focuser**" our [white paper](#) detailed the design goals and reasons for developing this line of add-on focus motors. The most important reason was our admiration for the "*FeatherTouch Feel*", that smooth "buttery" motion you get when manually focusing a FeatherTouch. Many import focusers have attempted to duplicate the FeatherTouch Feel and they are getting better, but none have surpassed this original outstanding design.



Sold through Starlight Instruments as the **Handy Stepper Motor** or **HSM**, our **QuickSync** motor and clutch design work hand-in-glove with our **FocusLynx** dual control hub. The beauty of QuickSync was that we could replace the fine and coarse focus knobs on the right side of the FeatherTouch with a single piece containing motor and a connection back to the FocusLynx hub. We took advantage of the uncompromising quality of the 10:1 reduction assembly that Jon Joseph had perfected.

## Customer Requests Drive Expansion

As customers began to appreciate the elegance of the Optec clutch and FocusLynx control, we started receiving requests to expand our motor line to include other focusers – the TEC focuser, Takahashi and Stellarvue's native focusers, as well as import focusers from SharpStar, Kunming United Optics, and other Chinese manufacturers. We quickly discovered the QuickSync model of replacing the fine focus knob was leading to slippage with even moderate camera payloads. The import reduction assemblies simply did not perform as well as the FeatherTouch, so we switched gears (so to speak) and shifted our motors to the single coarse knob on the left side of the focuser.

With the introduction of our DirectSync line, we added a gear directly to the pinion shaft which in turn translated to the drawtube rack. Thus, we had a true direct geared connection to the focuser drawtube. Our DirectSync motors maintained that outstanding clutch mechanism allowing manual focus while at the telescope.

## One Size Does NOT Fit All

Many focus motor suppliers have taken the approach that simply using a belt or coupler with brackets to attach is an easier "one size fits all" solution to automating telescope focus. Our approach has been the opposite- we design each motor specifically to best fit a given focuser. Currently, we have 15 specific motor designs to fit most any focuser on the market today, and we are always looking to help with new designs.



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## Introducing ThirdLynx

As the popularity of small, well-corrected apochromatic scopes increased which were allowing wide field astrophotography, smaller portable mounts were being used. The FocusLynx hub became a bit more cumbersome on these smaller mounts and rigs, so we re-visited our electronic design and came up with the ThirdLynx controllers. These dual-stacked boards are inserted into the motor endcap and provide USB connectivity to a control computer yet remain fully compatible with all the existing FocusLynx drivers and commands. ThirdLynx now allows the imager to have a single, self-contained focus motor to be added to a portable telescope configuration.

DirectSync SVX30  
includes ThirdLynx control circuit



DirectSync SV30  
requires FocusLynx control hub



## Look for the "X"

Differentiated from the original QuickSync and DirectSync motors, look for the "X" in the model number to know you're getting the complete ThirdLynx focus motor.



*QuickSync FTX20 motor on Takahashi TOA130 with FeatherTouch Microfocuser.*



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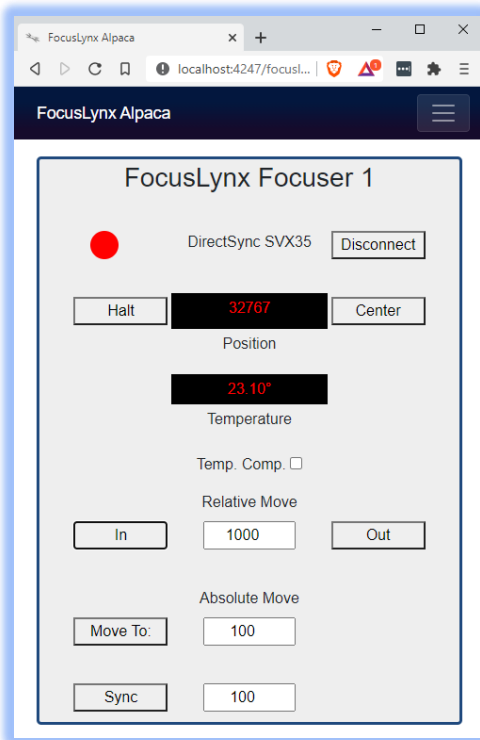
## ASCOM and Alpaca, too

For true cross-platform compatibility, Optec software engineers have been at the forefront of the development of Alpaca. Whether you're running a Windows PC, Mac notebook, or Raspberry PI our Alpaca drivers work.



ASCOM and Alpaca compliance ensure that our focusers work with any auto-focus and image capture software package available. Whether you're using SGP, Maxim D/L, N.I.N.A. or any ASCOM compliant software you can rest assured the auto-focus will work for you every time you focus.

Our goal has always been to make **Imaging the Sky** easier for all astronomers whether your scope is your backyard or halfway around the world.



## Our Commitment to You

Like most manufacturers, Optec has struggled with supply chain issues and component shortages over the past two years. However, with a full machine shop, electronics pick-and-place and SMT capabilities, and an in-house optics lab, our commitment to you is to maintain all focus motor inventory available for immediate shipment.

And remember, everything we offer is **AMERICAN MADE**.

Call or email us today with any requirements you may have.

*Jeff, Tina, Lee, Dan and the entire Optec Crew*



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