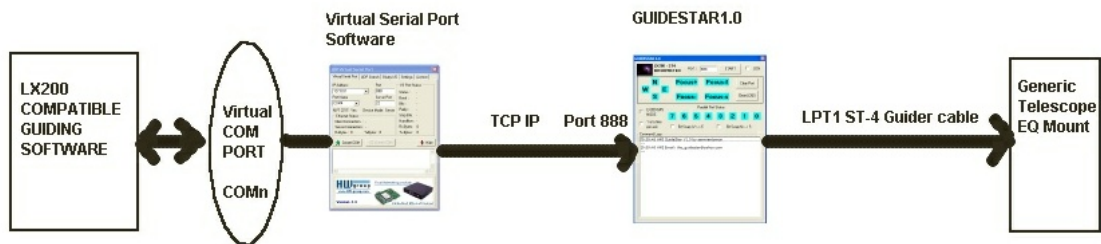


## Autoguiding Using LX200 commands on a ST4 compatible Mount by Gord Tulloch, RASC Winnipeg Centre

I had the chance to borrow a Skywatcher EQ6 not long ago as a probable replacement for my CG5 based setup that would allow for more weight to be reliably carried on the mount plus better GOTO performance. One of my main interests for a new mount is to finally make some use my Meade Deep Sky Imager and integrated Autostar Suite after a lengthy hiatus from imaging, I wanted something that I could use some of the features of that software, including autoguiding. However, since the software is primarily aimed at LX200 telescopes, this would prove to be a problem with the EQ6. Or would it?

Enter the Internet – some surfing and I had a solution. Initially because the autoguider port on the EQ6 is compatible with the SBIG ST-4 autoguider I was looking at an ST-4 setup for autoguiding but still wanted to use the Autostar Suite for autoguiding, not to mention the cost of an ST4! Sure enough, a little surfing provided the answer – a free application called Guidestar. Since the Autostar program that runs the Meade DeepSky Imager autoguiding function outputs a stream of guiding data to the serial port, this software (using HW-Groups's HW Virtual Serial Port) redirects this stream to a socket on the computer. The Guidestar program listens to this stream and picks out any autoguiding commands, translates them into printer port guide pulses that can be fed out of the PC parallel port directly into the ST-4 port on the mount using a \$40 Guide Port interface cable from Shoestring Astronomy Products.



### Links:

Guidestar [http://www.skyinsight.net/wiki/index.php/GuideStar\\_LX200\\_Software\\_Emulator](http://www.skyinsight.net/wiki/index.php/GuideStar_LX200_Software_Emulator)  
 Serial Port [http://www.hw-group.com/products/hw\\_vsp/index\\_en.html](http://www.hw-group.com/products/hw_vsp/index_en.html)  
 Interface [http://www.store.shoestringastronomy.com/gpint\\_pt.htm](http://www.store.shoestringastronomy.com/gpint_pt.htm)