

Celestial Mixmaster for AstroPlanner

Celesital Mixmaster is a script for [AstroPlanner astronomical planning software](#). It adds a new feature to AstroPlanner, which allows you to create a new observing plan by selecting entries from existing observing plans. You can compare and filter objects in various ways to produce the new observing list.

Requirements

- You must have AstroPlanner software **version 1.5.4 or later**, on Windows XP or Macintosh. **This script will not work on prior versions of AstroPlanner.**
- You must be a registered (paid) user of AstroPlanner. The free edition does not support add-on scripts such as this one.

Installation

You can download and install the script from within AstroPlanner. This is the recommended way to install the script. Follow these steps:

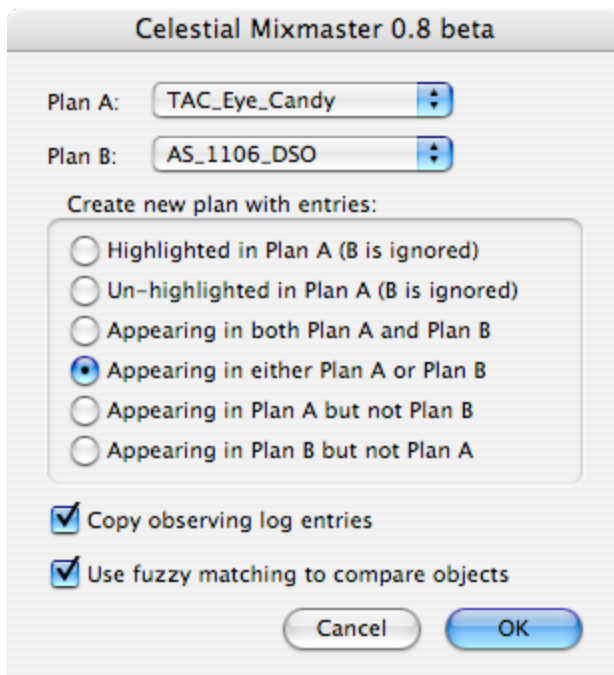
- a. From the AstroPlanner main menu, choose **Script > User Contributed Scripts > Download...**
The **Download** pane appears.
- b. In the Download pane, find and select "Celestial Mixmaster" from the list of user-submitted scripts, then click **Download**.
- c. The Download pane disappears, and the script appears in the **Scripts** pane.
- d. Make sure to check the **Include in Script menu** checkbox, then click **Save**.
- e. Close the **Scripts** pane.
- f. Now you can select *Celestial Mixmaster* from the AstroPlanner **Script** menu.

If you'd like to manually install the script, [you can download it here](#). Consult the *AstroPlanner User's Guide* for detailed instructions to manually install the script.

Usage

First, open one or two plan documents you'd like to mix, filter or combine.

Select **Celestial Mixmaster** from the **Script** menu. The Celestial Mixmaster dialog appears.



Select the first plan document using the **Plan A** menu. If you are combining Plan A with another plan document, select the second plan document using the **Plan B** menu.

Now, choose a radio button to indicate how you would like to combine them.

Highlighted in Plan A (B is ignored)

All objects highlighted in Plan A are copied to the new plan document. Plan B is ignored.

Un-highlighted in Plan A (B is ignored)

All objects not highlighted in Plan A are copied to the new plan document. Plan B is ignored.

Appearing in both Plan A and Plan B

If an object appears in both Plan A and Plan B, it is copied to the new plan document. This is useful when you want to compare two observing lists to see what objects they have in common.

Appearing in either Plan A or Plan B

If an object appears in either Plan A or Plan B, it is copied to the new plan document. This is useful when you want to merge two observing lists into one, with no duplicates in the result.

Appearing in Plan A but not Plan B

If an object appears in Plan A but not in Plan B, it is copied to the new plan document. This is useful if you'd like to "subtract" one list from another - say, you'd like to observe the Herschel 400 but would like to first remove the Messier objects. Select the Herschels as Plan A and the Messiers as Plan B, then choose this option.

Appearing in Plan B but not Plan A

If an object appears in Plan B but not in Plan A, it is copied to the new document. This works just like the previous option, but in converse. It is included for convenience.

Check the **Copy observing log entries** checkbox to include all observing entries in the new list. If an object appears in both Plan A and Plan B, the observing entries from both plans are copied to the object in the new list.

Check the **Use fuzzy matching to compare objects** checkbox to have *Celestial Mixmaster* consider position as well as catalog ID when it compares two objects to see if they are the same. If the catalog ID does not match, *Celestial Mixmaster* will use the Right Ascension and Declination of the objects to see if they are in the same position in the sky. *Celestial Mixmaster* uses the same method for matching by position as AstroPlanner does in its **Lookup Synonyms** command.

Output

Click **OK** to generate the new observing plan, or **Cancel** to abort. *Celestial Mixmaster* prompts you for a file name to save the new document. After you have selected a name for the new file, a new plan document window opens. *Celestial Mixmaster* compares the two lists, and fills the new plan with the matching objects.

Click **Cancel** in the onscreen progress meter to abort processing. If you cancel, the resulting plan document will be incomplete.

Notes and Tips

- Owing to the way AstroPlanner processes scripts, *Celestial Mixmaster* can take a long time to complete. Let it run in the background while you surf the web, or go have a coffee while it runs.
- When the new plan document is complete, make sure you save it to disk!

Known Issues

- None at this time.

Feedback

You can send questions, comments, bug reports, etc. to: mportuesi@yahoo.com, or post them in the [Yahoo! Groups AstroPlanner forum](#). I'd be interested to know if anyone actually uses this script and finds it useful. I created it for my own use, but I would like it to be useful for others too.

Revision History

- Version 0.8, 2006-12-09
 - Initial public beta.