



Relaskop Repair FAQ

By Paul Wroe

One question that comes up now and again as a result of repairing Relaskops has to do with the apparent lack of focus after calibration. Below is my response to a customer's question.

Question:

Why are the numbers fuzzy and hard to read through the lens?

Answer:

It may be true that the numbers are less sharp and more difficult to read after calibrating the Relaskop BAF. When the Relaskop was received, it was off by over three quarters of a bar. The stated reason for the repair was to calibrate the BAF, which we did. In the process the focus can become less sharp.

Adjusting the BAF on a Relaskop involves moving the relative position of the focusing lens until the perceived width of the scale on the drum is congruent to the observed width of a calibrated target. Moving the lens is similar to looking through a regular magnifying glass. As one moves the magnifying glass farther or closer to the eye, the image from the magnifying glass appears to get larger or smaller. In doing this, one can also observe that the focus changes. Upon closer examination, one would find that there is one point where the image is the sharpest, but this may not be the desired magnification.

The Relaskop has two lenses, but only one is adjustable. Adjusting the focus also adjusts the magnification. The common misconception is that there should be a 'zoom lens' effect. This would only be possible if both lenses in the Relaskop were adjustable. They are not.

Relaskops are handmade and each one is different. It is not only possible to have a Relaskop that reads correct BAF but looks slightly out of focus, it is extremely common. Being handmade, the Relaskop can have very wide manufacturing tolerances.

You can contact me at pwroe@atterbury.com if you have a Relaskop question or comments about this article.