Using PHD_Dither

Installation

Just unzip the folder and copy the files to whatever directory you want. The contents are:
1. PHD_Dither.exe – this is the app that lets you configure the dither parameters and actually interacts with PHD2 to accomplish dithering.
2. Dither_script.vbs – this is a basic script that can be launched by another application or interactively. It simply runs PHD2_Dither.exe in batch mode to trigger a dithering operation.
3. PHD_Dither_Timer.exe – this is another app that will start PHD2_Dither.exe on a repeated, time-driven basis. You set the interval in the user interface.
4. Other support files needed by the app – just make sure all files reside in the same folder on your system.

If you've gotten the zipped folder directly from me via e-mail, the .exe files may have been renamed to .bwx. I often need to do that to avoid problems with the e-mail systems. Once they have been copied to your system, change the .bwx suffixes to .exe.

Getting Started
You first need to configure the parameters you want to use for dithering. First, run PHD2 and get it guiding with whatever equipment profile you want to use. You can use the PHD2 simulators if you want to do this before you start imaging. Once it is guiding, run PHD_Dither.exe and click on the 'Config…' button. Fill in the parameters you want to use for maximum dither amount and settling requirements, then click on 'Ok'. If you now want to issue a test dither command, click on 'Test Dither' and watch the results. The dithering parameters are stored in a .ini file (in the 'ProgramData' directory), so you won't need to do this again unless you want to change the parameters. Each set of parameters is associated with the image scale that PHD2 is using at the time you configure the parameters – so you can set up different dithering parameters depending on the image scales you typically use. PHD2 computes the image scales using the focal length and camera pixel size values that are part of the equipment profile. If you have multiple set-ups, use different configuration profiles in PHD2. Then, in PHD2, load the configuration file you want and then run PHD_Dither to set the dither parameters for that profile. All sets of parameters are stored in the .ini file.

At this point, you can also test the script file – just double-click on the Dither_script.vbs file and you'll see a single dithering and settling action occur.

Normal Use
If you have an image capture application that can run script files, configure it to run Dither_Script.vbs whenever you want to execute a dither. If you want to do dithering on a time-driven basis, run PHD_Dither_Timer.exe by double-clicking on it. Enter the interval you want, in minutes, then click on 'Start'. The timer app will run until you click on 'Cancel.'

Contact me via e-mail if you have questions or problems: bw_msg01@earthlink.net