

Questar Cases

I am trying to show the four types of cases for Questars that I have encountered to date. Any suggestions or correction would be appreciated.

As far as I can tell there have been 4 major styles of cases for The Questar 3.5" Telescope. Within each type case there are variations. Each of the first 4 cases, from the right, are a little larger than the previous case. The first two cases on the left are two two variations of the currently used case. Below is a picture of the four cases from an overhead view.



The one on the left is the current model and is a Deluxe Leather case vinyl case. This current Deluxe Leather Case uses a 3 number combination lock on each clasp. The next case from the left is a current case using a clasp to secure the cover. It is vinyl that looks like leather. The case in the middle is from 1987 and the next one on the right is from the 1973's. (the white tag has serial number of the enclosed Questar on it and is used to quickly identify each Questar) The last case is from the 1960's

Below is a picture of the same cases with a heads on view.



As you can see from the pictures each newer case looks taller and deeper than it previous version, except for the first two

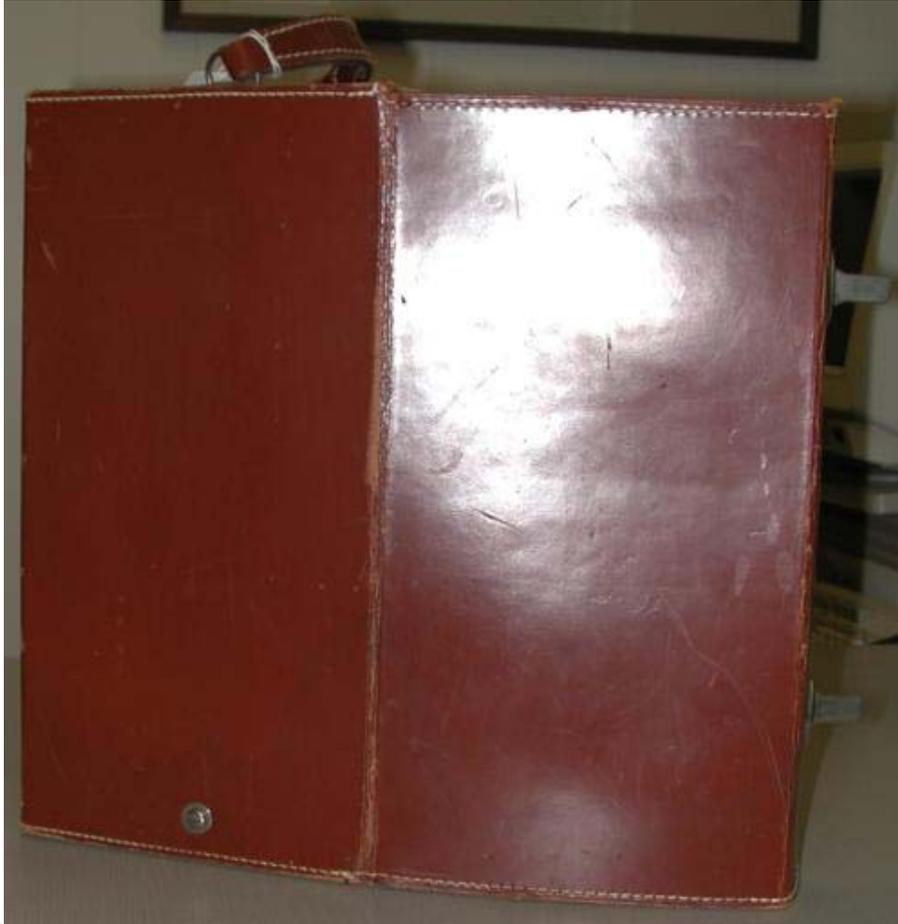
Below is a view showing the locking mechanism of each case.



Each case uses a key to lock the case. A different key is needed for each type of case. The current case is also available in leather and uses a combination lock instead of a key.

I will now offer a brief description each type of case.

The original case used a wrap around cover. The only hinge was provided by the leather it self, and is prone to cracking along this hinge. I have seen few Questars offered for sale on ebay or Astromart of this style case that shows this view. The case is entirely made of leather. Where as newer case have probably have wood or something stiff to form the shape and is then covered by leather or vinyl. Notice how much closer to the bottom of the case the screw used to hold the retaining clip for the Questar is in the prior picture. Also note that this case has nothing to keep the bottom of the case from coming into contact to what ever it is placed on as does the current case.



Opened, with a view of the enclosed Questar there is no indication that the leather itself provides the hinge.



You will also notice the little flap on the base of the case. The cover closed covers this flap up. I am not sure of its exact purpose.



I have seen some reports that it was meant to keep the dust out. This is possible but dust can also get in at the top of the case. Another explanation from Company 7,

<http://www.company7.com/library/questar/que50sleathercase.html>

says the flap is to keep the base in place. Early Questars did not have lens caps and the Questar instruction Books sitting on top of optical tube and below bottom of case was meant to serve as the lens cover. Back of instruction book says - THIS BOOKLET FITS INTO SPACE BETWEEN BARREL AND TOP OF CASE - Because of the tight fit of the Questar into the case sometimes the case seems to bulge upwards. If you are thinking of putting a Powerguide II on a Questar using this type of case you may find it will not fit back in as the modification adds a little height to the unit.

The next case comes with a hinge. I am not sure when this change took place the Questar pictured here is a 1973 Standard.



Note in the upper part of the case holding the Questar that the case flares outward, and the cover flares inward. (There is a picture of another case in an ad In Sky and Telescope magazine in the April 1971 issue of a case that does

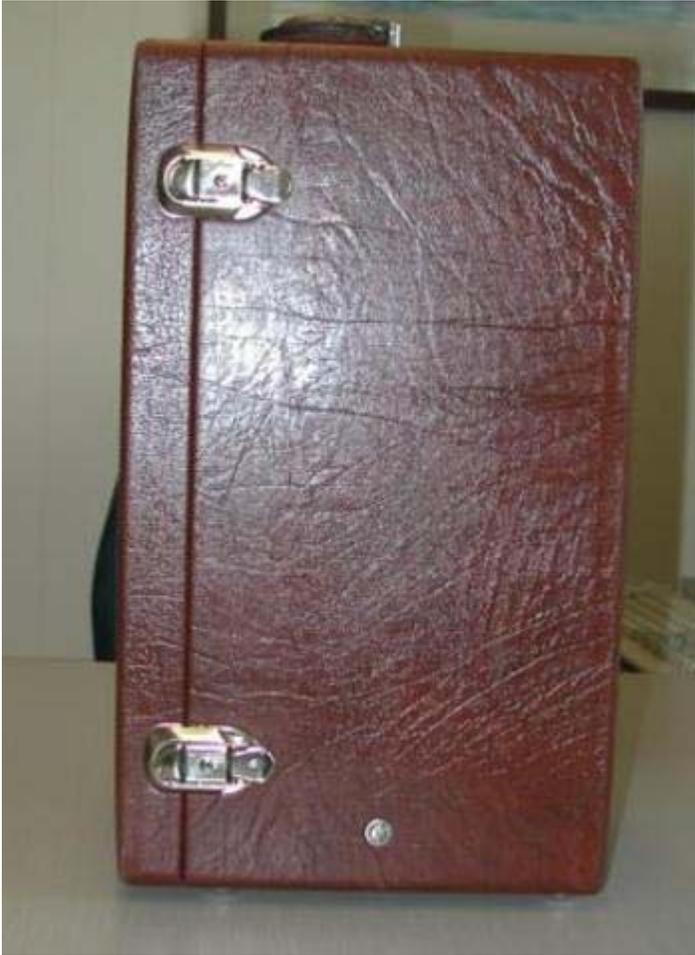
not have this flair, but looks more like the case that came after this one.) The flair is better seen in this next view from the side.



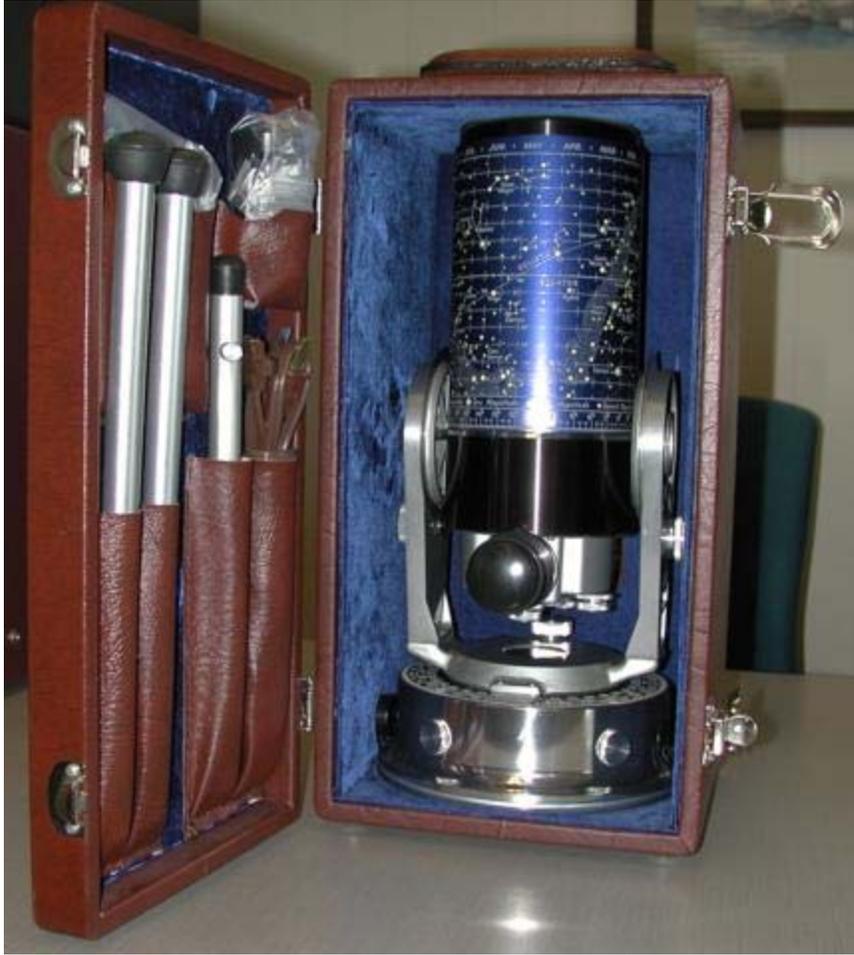
You can also see from this view how the cover is also flared to match it. The next picture shows the case from the hinge side



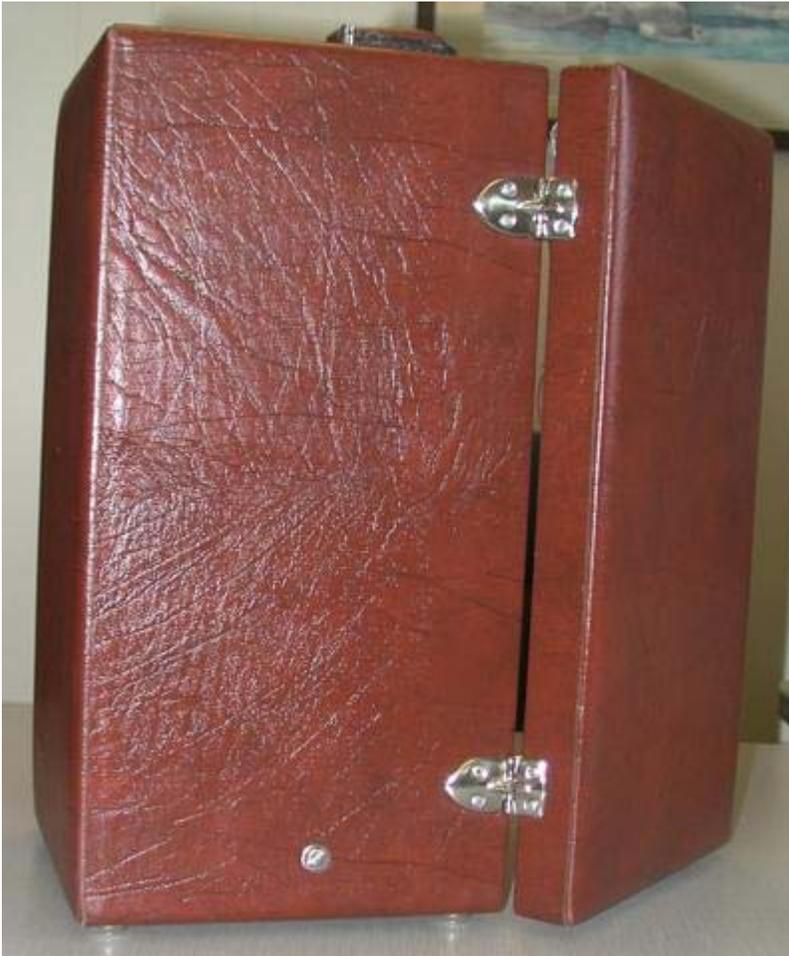
Next is a case from 1987. It is a little taller than the 1973 case. The first view is of the lock mechanism.



The next view is of an open case, Notice that there is no pouch to put a Power Guide control as in the current model. It is still not as tall as the current model and upgrading to a Power Guide unit may mean a new case.



The last view is of the hinge.



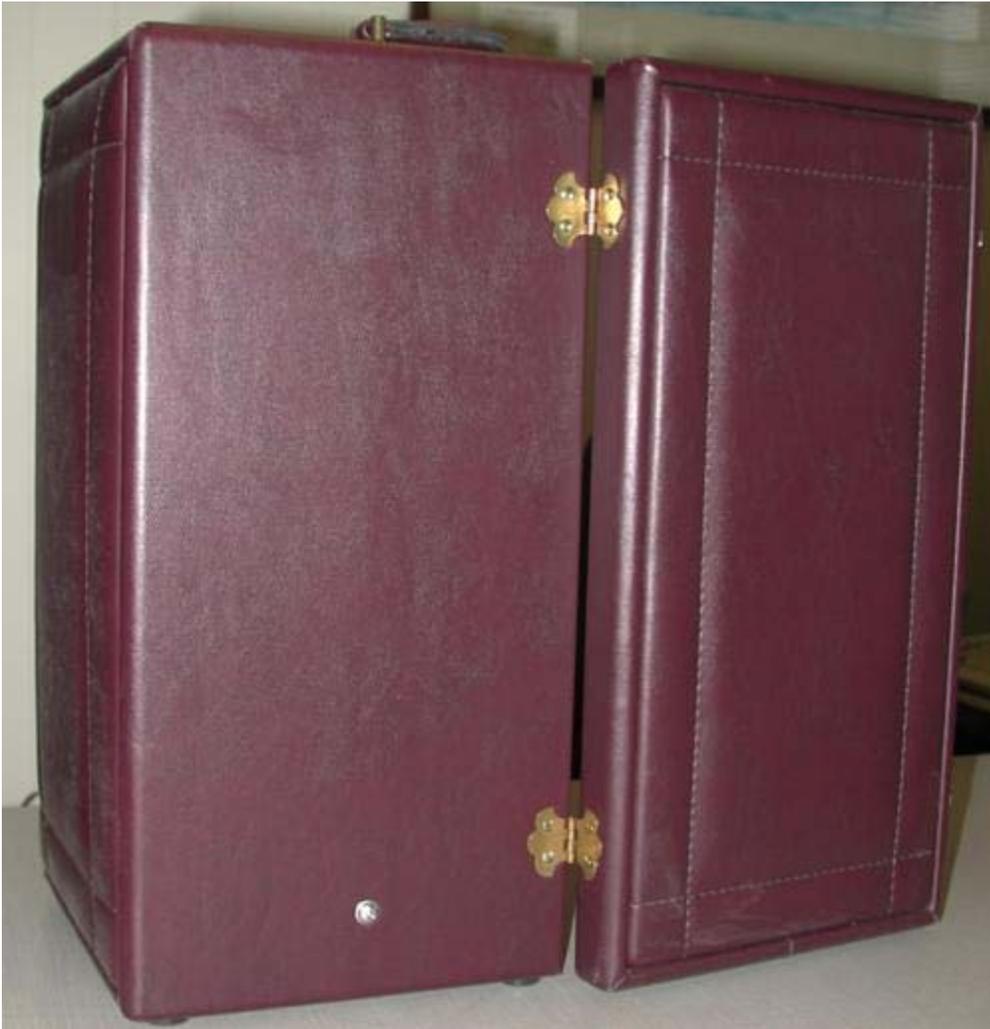
The current case probably first used when the Powerguide I was introduced. It has a pouch for the hand controller. In this picture you can see the hand controller fits in the upper left side of the case.



Below is the current Deluxe Leather case with Questar and Power Guide hand control.



Below is the view of the case from the hinge side.



Here is picture of combination lock for the Deluxe Leather Case. Followed by a close up of the combination lock.

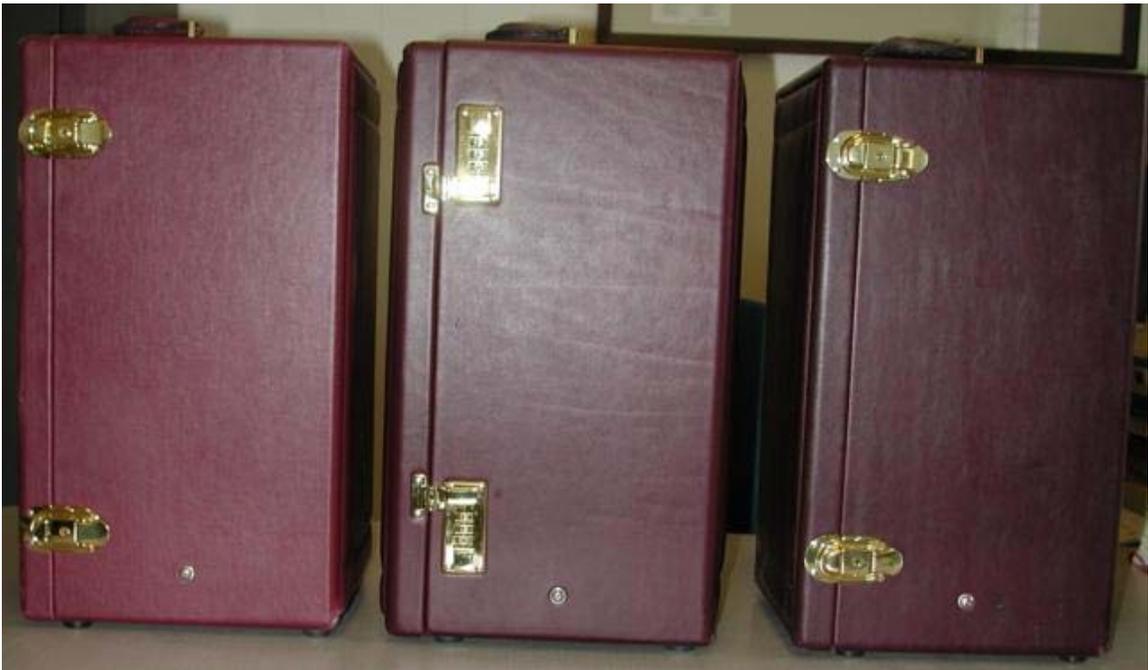




Below is picture of the current case. Two are vinyl and one is the Deluxe Leather Case. Can you tell the difference head on.



Maybe if I turn them sideways.



In my opinion it is difficult to tell the difference except when looking at locks.

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