

# USING THE HAND CONTROLLER

*Note: The most difficult way to control the telescope is with the hand controller, and generally we advise that unless you are familiar with this method you use one of the other methods to control the telescope.*

When you turn on the telescope the hand controller will display the menu.

After about 10 seconds it will display the home menu - "TELESCOPE OBJECT LIBRARY" meaning the system is up and running. The telescope is now tracking.

The Hand Controller is not that intuitive.

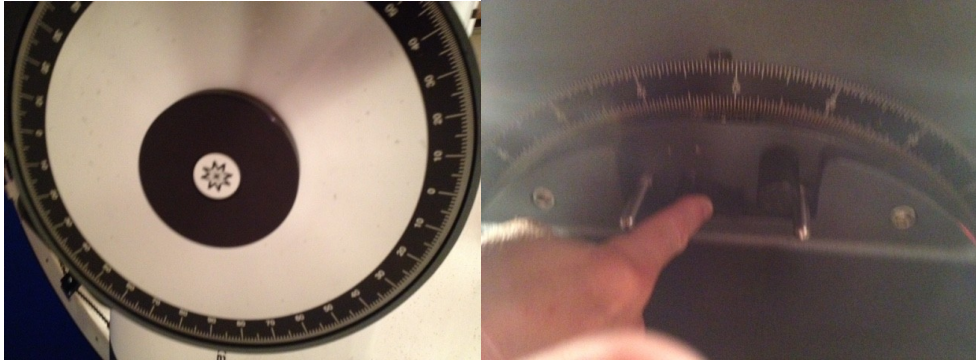


The number keys on the left hand side also have an effect - by pressing 7 the telescope will move quickly, less quickly on 4 and slower on 1. 0 slews at 2x sidereal rate accurate pointing.

## **Synchronise the telescope with a star.**

As the telescope mount is accurately polar aligned, only a one star alignment is required. Line up the Telescope with a good bright star.

1. From the home menu on the Keypad Hand Controller, press the STAR (6) key to select a named star, then Enter. It says 'Name, press Enter again. The screen then presents a list of known stars. Scroll down and choose one you know you can find in the sky.
2. If necessary give the RA and DEC co-ordinates.
3. Press Enter and hold the Enter key to move up and down the list
4. If necessary unlock the RA and DEC locks, while holding the telescope and its fork mount to stop it from turning away uncontrollably, and roughly point the telescope to the chosen star.



5. Lock both axles when done.
6. While looking through the Finderscope, use the Keypad Hand Controller to move the telescope to bring alignment star to the reticle cross in the view. Press and hold the ENTER key on the Keypad Hand Controller until it beeps

The telescope is now aligned and should point accurately.

If you accidentally move the telescope into a dangerous position, for example it rotates so that the eyepiece may hit the supporting fork, use the on/off switch to stop everything. Manually move the telescope clear of the supporting fork by unlocking the Dec drive. This is a 4" disc with the Meade symbol on it, located on the right hand side of the supporting fork. There is a handle to hold on the back of the telescope to help steady it. The RA drive can also be disconnected by unlocking the lever on the lower part of the fork. There is a handle to hold on the left fork of the mount to help steady it.

### **LOOKING FOR OBJECTS WITH THE KEYPAD HAND CONTROLLER**

Messier Objects are listed simply under 'M' e.g. The Globular Cluster M13 is listed as M13!

For the Planets press the STAR button and they are listed in order within our solar system e.g. Mercury is 901, Venus is 902 and the moon is 903.

The MODE button returns you to the main menu ("TELESCOPE OBJECT LIBRARY") by successively pressing it. One of its features is to turn off the display, which may be disconcerting! Just keep pressing the button.

There is also a grub screw on the focuser which enables loosening and tightening of the whole focuser. This allows the focuser to be turned so that the eyepiece becomes more accessible.



If you cannot get focus by turning the focussing knobs, the black mirror focuser knob may need turning to bring focus within the range of the focuser.