

TELESCOPE SAFETY

Setting up:

1. Move the telescopes VERY SLOWLY, especially over the ramp, from their storage location to your lab area.
2. When going over the ramp, lift the black wheel base, not the telescope legs.
3. Immediately put on the dew cap after uncovering the Schmidt Corrector Plate.

Initial pointing:

1. Only turn one azimuth knob on the tripod base at a time. If one knob feels tight, loosen the other instead of turning the first knob harder.
2. Do not move the finder or Telrad by adjusting the thumbscrews unless explicitly told to do so by the instructor or the TA.

Pointing the telescope:

1. To move the telescope by hand: unlock the declination (dec) and/or the Right Ascension lock. The dec lock is located at the end of one of the fork arms. The RA lock is located near the RA fine adjust knob.
2. When unlocked, steer the telescope by pushing or pulling the fork arms or the telescope tube directly. Do not steer by holding onto the elbow, eyepiece, or finderscope!
3. To make minor adjustments to the pointing, use the fine adjust knobs.
 - a. The declination fine adjust knob is at the bottom of the same fork arm as the lock knob. If it resists motion, do not turn harder. Look inside the fork arm to see if the lever is all the way against one side.
 - b. To use the RA fine adjust knob, you MUST UNLOCK the RA lock first. Then you may turn the RA fine adjust knob. Lock it when done.

In general:

1. Always make sure the eyepiece and the elbow are secured tightly.
2. If the telescope isn't moving when you push/pull/turn it, don't try harder! Look for another way to accomplish your task or ask for assistance.