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› Meade ETX-125AT (f/15) Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope User Manual

MEADE 0515-03-60

Meade ETX-125AT (f/15) Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope User Manual

Model: 0515-03-60

INTRODUCTION

This manual provides comprehensive instructions for the setup, operation, and maintenance of your Meade ETX-125AT (f/15) Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope. The ETX-125AT is designed for astronomy enthusiasts, offering high-resolution viewing and access to a vast database of celestial objects through its integrated Autostar controller. Please read this manual thoroughly before using your telescope to ensure optimal performance and longevity.

PRODUCT OVERVIEW

The Meade ETX-125AT telescope system includes the optical tube assembly, a motorized fork mount, the Autostar controller, and the #884 Deluxe Field Tripod.





Figure 1: The Meade ETX-125AT Maksutov-Cassegrain Telescope, featuring its blue optical tube, black motorized fork mount, and the #884 Deluxe Field Tripod with stainless steel legs. The telescope is shown fully assembled and ready for use.

Key Components:

- **Optical Tube Assembly:** A 127mm (5.0-inch) Maksutov-Cassegrain design with a focal length of 1900mm and a focal ratio of f/15. Features Ultra High Transmission Coatings (UHTC) for enhanced light gathering and image clarity.
- **Motorized Fork Mount:** Provides stable support and precise tracking of celestial objects.
- **Meade Autostar Controller:** A handheld computer controller with a database of over 30,000 celestial objects, enabling automatic GoTo functionality.

- **#884 Deluxe Field Tripod:** A robust, lightweight tripod with stainless steel legs, adjustable height (25 to 43 inches), and elevation (25 to 90 degrees) for both equatorial and alt-az configurations. Includes a padded carry bag.

FEATURES

- The Meade AutoStar controller facilitates quick location and automatic GoTo functionality for over 30,000 celestial objects.
- Equipped with a Maksutov-Cassegrain optical system for high-resolution and contrast viewing.
- Features Ultra High Transmission Coatings (UHTC) to optimize visual, photographic, and CCD imaging performance.
- Includes the full-length Meade #884 Deluxe Field Tripod, constructed from strong, lightweight steel for stability and portability.

SETUP

1. Tripod Assembly:

1. Remove the #884 Deluxe Field Tripod from its padded carry bag.
2. Extend the stainless steel legs to the desired height. Ensure all leg locks are securely fastened.
3. Adjust the elevation of the tripod head to suit your viewing preference (equatorial or alt-az configuration).
4. Place the tripod on a stable, level surface.

2. Mounting the Telescope:

1. Carefully lift the ETX-125AT optical tube assembly with its integrated fork mount.
2. Align the base of the fork mount with the mounting plate on the tripod.
3. Secure the telescope to the tripod using the provided mounting screws or clamps. Ensure it is firmly attached to prevent accidental dislodgement.

3. Autostar Controller Connection:

1. Locate the Autostar port on the telescope's mount.
2. Connect the Autostar controller cable to this port.
3. Ensure batteries are installed in the Autostar controller or connect an external power source (not included).

4. Initial Alignment:

Upon first power-up, the Autostar controller will guide you through an initial alignment procedure. This typically involves entering your location, date, and time, and then pointing the telescope at one or two bright stars for calibration. Follow the on-screen prompts carefully.

OPERATING THE TELESCOPE

1. Powering On:

Ensure the Autostar controller is connected and powered. Turn on the telescope's main power switch, usually located on the mount.

2. Using the Autostar Controller:

- **Menu Navigation:** Use the arrow keys to navigate through the Autostar's menus. The "ENTER" button confirms

selections, and "MODE" typically acts as a back button.

- **Object Selection:** From the main menu, select "Select Object" to browse categories such as "Messier Objects," "Planets," "Stars," "Galaxies," etc.
- **GoTo Function:** Once an object is selected, press "GO TO" (or "ENTER" depending on the menu context). The telescope will automatically slew to the chosen celestial object.
- **Manual Movement:** Use the arrow keys on the Autostar controller to make fine adjustments to the telescope's position after a GoTo, or for manual tracking.

3. Focusing:

The ETX-125AT features manual focus. Rotate the focus knob, typically located near the eyepiece holder, until the image appears sharp and clear. For best results, focus on a bright star before observing fainter objects.

4. Eyepiece Usage:

Insert the desired eyepiece into the diagonal or directly into the visual back. Start with a lower magnification eyepiece (higher focal length, e.g., 26mm) for a wider field of view, then switch to higher magnification eyepieces for more detailed observations.

MAINTENANCE

- **Optics Cleaning:** Dust on the optical surfaces should be removed with a soft brush or compressed air. For smudges or fingerprints, use a specialized optical cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth designed for optics. *Never touch the optical surfaces with your fingers.*
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the telescope in a dry, dust-free environment. Use the provided dust caps for the optical tube and eyepieces. The #884 Deluxe Field Tripod can be stored in its padded carry bag.
- **Mechanical Parts:** Periodically check all screws and fasteners for tightness. Do not overtighten. Avoid lubricating moving parts unless specifically instructed by Meade.
- **Battery Replacement:** If using internal batteries for the Autostar controller, replace them when the low battery indicator appears or performance degrades.

TROUBLESHOOTING

- **Telescope Not Powering On:**
 - Check all power connections, including the Autostar controller cable.
 - Ensure batteries are correctly installed and have sufficient charge, or that the external power supply is functioning.
- **Autostar Controller Not Responding:**
 - Verify the cable connection between the controller and the mount.
 - Try restarting the telescope system by powering it off and on.
 - Check battery levels in the controller.
- **GoTo Accuracy Issues:**
 - Ensure the initial alignment procedure was completed accurately. Re-align if necessary.
 - Verify that the correct date, time, and location (latitude/longitude) are entered into the Autostar controller.
 - Check that the tripod is stable and level.
- **Fuzzy or Unclear Images:**

- Adjust the focus knob carefully.
- Allow the telescope to equalize to the ambient temperature, especially when moving from indoors to outdoors.
- Ensure eyepieces are clean and free of dust or smudges.
- Atmospheric conditions (seeing) can significantly affect image clarity.

• **Motor Noise or Erratic Movement:**

- Ensure the telescope is not overloaded with heavy accessories.
- Check for any obstructions preventing smooth movement.
- If persistent, contact Meade customer support.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Specification
Optical Design	Maksutov-Cassegrain
Aperture	127mm (5.0-inch)
Focal Length	1900mm
Focal Ratio	f/15
Coatings	Ultra High Transmission Coatings (UHTC)
Mount Type	Motorized Fork Mount
Tripod	#884 Deluxe Field Tripod (Stainless Steel)
Tripod Height Adjustment	25 to 43 inches
Autostar Database	Over 30,000 celestial objects
Item Weight	43.6 pounds
Product Dimensions	25 x 17 x 34 inches
Model Number	0515-03-60

SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Solar Observation Warning:** *NEVER look directly at the Sun through the telescope or its finderscope without a professionally manufactured solar filter specifically designed for your telescope. Permanent eye damage or blindness can result.*
- **Trip Hazard:** Ensure the tripod legs are fully extended and stable to prevent tipping. Be mindful of the tripod in low light conditions to avoid tripping.
- **Electrical Safety:** If using an external power supply, ensure it is compatible with the telescope's requirements. Keep electrical connections dry.
- **Handling:** Always handle the telescope and its components with care to avoid dropping or damaging delicate optical and electronic parts.

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

For information regarding warranty coverage, technical support, or service, please refer to the official Meade Instruments website or contact their customer service department directly. Keep your purchase receipt as proof of purchase.
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