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> [Sky-Watcher](#) /

> Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian 8-inch Collapsible Large Aperture Telescope User Manual

Sky-Watcher S11700

Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian Telescope User Manual

Model: S11700

INTRODUCTION

The Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian is an 8-inch collapsible large aperture telescope designed for ease of use and portability, making it suitable for both beginners and experienced astronomers. This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, maintaining, and troubleshooting your telescope to ensure optimal viewing experiences.





Image: The Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian Telescope, fully assembled and ready for observation. It features a white optical tube and a white Dobsonian mount.

SAFETY INFORMATION

- **Never look directly at the sun through your telescope or its finderscope without a professionally manufactured solar filter.** Permanent and irreversible eye damage may result.
- Do not leave the telescope unsupervised, especially when children are present.
- Handle optical components with care to avoid scratches or damage.
- Ensure the telescope is placed on a stable, level surface to prevent tipping.
- Keep all accessories and small parts out of reach of small children.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

Your Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian package includes the following components:

- Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Optical Tube Assembly
- Dobsonian Mount Base

- 8x50 RACI (Right-Angle Correct Image) Finder Scope
- 25mm Plossl Eyepiece (1.25-inch)
- 10mm Plossl Eyepiece (1.25-inch)
- 2-inch Crayford-style Focuser with 1.25-inch Adapter
- Eyepiece Tray
- Assembly Hardware and Tools

SETUP AND ASSEMBLY

The Sky-Watcher Flextube Dobsonian is designed for quick and easy setup. The optical tube and base separate for convenient transport and storage.



Image: The Sky-Watcher Flextube 200 Dobsonian Telescope shown separated into its two main components: the optical tube and the Dobsonian mount base, highlighting its portability.

1. Assembling the Mount Base

Follow the included assembly instructions for the Dobsonian mount base. Ensure all screws are tightened securely for stability. The base provides smooth azimuth (horizontal) movement.

2. Attaching the Optical Tube

Carefully place the optical tube assembly onto the mount base. Secure it using the provided tension control handles. These patented handles allow for precise slewing and aiming, ensuring smooth altitude (vertical) movement.



Image: A close-up view of the black tension control handles on the white Dobsonian mount, designed for precise movement of the telescope.

3. Extending the Flextube

The Flextube design uses three retractable steel struts. Gently extend the upper section of the optical tube until the struts lock into their preset indentations. This design maintains collimation and provides a rigid optical path.

4. Installing the Focuser and Eyepieces

Insert the 2-inch Crayford-style focuser into the optical tube. If using 1.25-inch eyepieces, insert the 1.25-inch adapter into the focuser. Then, insert your desired eyepiece (e.g., 25mm or 10mm Plossl) into the focuser/adapter and secure it with the thumbscrew.

2 INCH CRAYFORD-STYLE FOCUSER
WITH ALL-METAL BEARINGS ENSURES
SMOOTH, ACCURATE PERFORMANCE



Image: A detailed view of the 2-inch Crayford-style focuser with an eyepiece, showing the smooth, accurate performance provided by its all-metal bearings.

5. Attaching the Finderscope

Mount the 8x50 RACI finderscope onto its bracket on the optical tube. Align the finderscope with the main telescope during daylight hours by pointing the main telescope at a distant, stationary object (e.g., a telephone pole) and then adjusting the finderscope's alignment screws until the object is centered in both the finderscope and the main telescope's eyepiece.

THE SKY-WATCHER FLEXTUBE DOBSONIAN
COMES WITH TWO EYEPIECES,
A 2 INCH TO 1 ¼ INCH ADAPTER
AND 8x50 RIGHT-ANGLE FINDERSCOPE



Image: A collection of accessories for the Sky-Watcher Flextube Dobsonian, including two eyepieces (25mm and 10mm), a 2-inch to 1.25-inch adapter, and an 8x50 right-angle finderscope.

6. Using the Eyepiece Tray

The convenient eyepiece tray attaches to the mount base, providing a secure place to store your eyepieces and other small accessories during observation.

THE CONVENIENT EYEPIECE TRAY
MAKES SURE YOU ALWAYS KNOW
WHERE YOUR ACCESSORIES ARE



Image: A close-up of the eyepiece tray integrated into the Dobsonian mount, showing eyepieces securely stored, ensuring accessories are always within reach.

OPERATING YOUR TELESCOPE

Observing Basics

- **Choosing an Eyepiece:** Start with the 25mm eyepiece for a wider field of view and easier object location. Once an object is centered, switch to the 10mm eyepiece for higher magnification.
- **Focusing:** Use the focuser knobs to achieve a sharp image. Turn the knobs slowly and carefully until the image is clear. The Crayford-style focuser provides smooth and precise focusing.
- **Locating Objects:** Use the 8x50 finderscope to locate celestial objects. Once an object is visible in the finderscope, it should be within the field of view of your main telescope's low-power eyepiece.
- **Tracking:** Dobsonian telescopes require manual tracking. Gently nudge the telescope to follow the movement of celestial objects across the sky due to Earth's rotation. The Teflon bearings ensure smooth azimuth movement.

Optical Care

The mirrors of your Sky-Watcher telescope are constructed with borosilicate glass and coated with quartz, titanium, and silicon dioxide for 94%+ reflectivity. Proper care ensures their longevity and performance.



Image: A close-up view of the parabolic borosilicate primary mirror, highlighting its highly reflective surface with 94%+ reflectivity coatings made of quartz, titanium, and silicon dioxide.

- **Cleaning Mirrors:** Avoid frequent cleaning of the primary and secondary mirrors. Dust can be gently removed with a soft camel hair brush or a can of compressed air (use short bursts, hold upright). For stubborn smudges, consult a specialized telescope cleaning kit or professional.
- **Eyepiece Cleaning:** Eyepieces can be cleaned with a lens cleaning solution and a microfiber cloth designed for optics.
- **Storage:** When not in use, store the telescope in a dry, dust-free environment. Use the provided dust caps for the optical tube and focuser. The collapsible design allows for easier storage.

Collimation

Collimation is the alignment of the telescope's mirrors. While the Flextube design holds collimation well, occasional checks and adjustments may be necessary for optimal performance, especially after transport. Refer to online resources or specialized guides for detailed collimation procedures using a laser collimator or Cheshire eyepiece.

TROUBLESHOOTING

Problem	Possible Cause	Solution
Image is blurry or out of focus.	Incorrect focus; poor seeing conditions; misaligned mirrors (collimation).	Adjust focuser slowly. Wait for stable atmospheric conditions. Check and adjust collimation.
Cannot find objects.	Finderscope not aligned; unfamiliarity with sky.	Align finderscope with main telescope during daylight. Use star charts or astronomy apps.
Image appears dim or faint.	Light pollution; high magnification eyepiece; object too faint.	Observe from darker locations. Use lower magnification eyepieces. Some objects are inherently faint.
Telescope movement is stiff or jerky.	Tension handles too tight/loose; dust/debris on bearings.	Adjust tension control handles. Clean bearing surfaces if necessary.

SPECIFICATIONS

Feature	Detail
Optical Design	Newtonian Reflector
Aperture	203 mm (8 inches)
Focal Length	1200 mm
Focal Ratio	f/5.9
Primary Mirror Material	Borosilicate Glass
Mirror Coatings	94%+ Reflectivity (Quartz, Titanium, Silicon Dioxide)
Focuser	2-inch Crayford-style with 1.25-inch Adapter
Mount Type	Dobsonian (Altazimuth)
Bearings	Teflon (Azimuth)
Finderscope	8x50 RACI
Included Eyepieces	25mm Plossl (1.25"), 10mm Plossl (1.25")
Product Dimensions (Assembled)	29.5 x 20 x 36 inches
Item Weight	27 pounds
Model Number	S11700

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

Sky-Watcher products are designed for durability and performance. For specific warranty details and technical support, please refer to the official Sky-Watcher website or contact their customer service department. You can find more information and contact options by visiting the [Sky-Watcher Store on Amazon](#).

