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Model: Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope (216006)

INTRODUCTION

The Meade Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope is designed for beginner and amateur astronomers, offering a gateway to observing celestial objects. With a 130mm (5.1") aperture, this reflecting telescope delivers bright and detailed images of the Moon, planets, nebulae, galaxies, and star clusters. Its stable German Equatorial Mount (GEM) allows for easy tracking of objects across the night sky, making it an ideal choice for those new to stargazing.

This manual provides essential information for setting up, operating, and maintaining your telescope to ensure optimal viewing experiences.

WHAT'S IN THE BOX

- Meade Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope Optical Tube
- German Equatorial Mount with Slow Motion Controls
- Adjustable Tripod
- Accessory Tray
- Three Eyepieces: Low (26mm), Medium (9mm), and High (6.3mm) magnification
- 2x Barlow Lens
- Red-Dot Viewfinder
- Autostar Suite Astronomy Planetarium DVD (Windows PC only)

SETUP

Follow these steps to assemble your Meade Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope:

1. **Assemble the Tripod:** Extend the tripod legs to a suitable height and secure them. Attach the accessory tray to the tripod for convenient storage of eyepieces and other small items.
2. **Attach the German Equatorial Mount:** Securely fasten the German Equatorial Mount to the top of the tripod. Ensure all locking knobs are tightened.

3. **Mount the Optical Tube:** Place the telescope's optical tube onto the mount's cradle rings. Adjust the rings to balance the telescope and tighten them firmly.
4. **Install the Red-Dot Viewfinder:** Attach the red-dot viewfinder to its designated slot on the optical tube. This will assist in locating objects in the night sky.
5. **Insert an Eyepiece:** Loosen the thumbscrew on the focuser and insert the desired eyepiece (e.g., the 26mm for lowest magnification and widest field of view). Tighten the thumbscrew to secure it.
6. **Attach Counterweight:** Secure the counterweight to the counterweight shaft on the equatorial mount. Adjust its position to balance the telescope for smooth movement.





Figure 1: The Meade Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope fully assembled.



Figure 2: Optical tube secured in mounting rings.



Figure 3: German Equatorial Mount with slow motion controls.

OPERATING THE TELESCOPE

To achieve the best viewing experience, familiarize yourself with the following operational aspects:

Eyepieces and Magnification

- **Low Magnification (26mm eyepiece):** Provides the widest field of view, ideal for locating objects and observing large celestial bodies like the Moon or star clusters.
- **Medium Magnification (9mm eyepiece):** Offers a closer view, suitable for planets and brighter deep-sky objects.
- **High Magnification (6.3mm eyepiece):** Delivers the most detailed views of planets and lunar features. Use this after locating the object with a lower power eyepiece.
- **2x Barlow Lens:** Doubles the magnification of any eyepiece. Insert the Barlow lens into the focuser first, then insert an eyepiece into the Barlow.



Figure 4: Eyepiece inserted into the focuser.

Using the Red-Dot Viewfinder

The red-dot viewfinder projects a small red dot onto a viewing window, allowing you to quickly point your telescope at the desired object. Align the red dot with the object you wish to observe, then look through the main telescope eyepiece for a magnified view.

Tracking with the German Equatorial Mount

The German Equatorial Mount is designed to track celestial objects as they move across the night sky due to Earth's rotation. Once the mount is polar aligned (aligned with the celestial pole), you can use the slow-motion controls to smoothly follow objects, keeping them centered in your eyepiece for extended viewing.

Astronomical Software

The included Autostar Suite Astronomy planetarium DVD (Windows PC only) provides a database of over 10,000 celestial objects, helping you plan your observing sessions and identify what you see in the sky.

Video 1: An overview of the Meade Polaris series telescopes, demonstrating eyepiece and Barlow lens usage, red-dot viewfinder, and the equatorial mount's tracking capabilities.

MAINTENANCE

Proper maintenance ensures the longevity and performance of your telescope:

- **Cleaning Optics:** Use a soft, lint-free cloth and specialized optical cleaning solution to gently clean the telescope's lenses and mirrors. Avoid touching optical surfaces with bare hands.
- **Dust Protection:** Always keep dust caps on the telescope when not in use to prevent dust accumulation on optical

surfaces.

- **Storage:** Store the telescope in a dry, dust-free environment. If possible, store it in its original packaging or a padded case.
- **Collimation:** As a reflector telescope, the Polaris 130 may occasionally require collimation (alignment of its mirrors) to maintain optimal image quality. Refer to advanced astronomy resources or the included DVD for detailed collimation instructions.

SPECIFICATIONS

Brand	MEADE
Model Name	Polaris
Model Number	216006
Objective Lens Diameter	130 Millimeters (5.1")
Focal Length	650 Millimeters
Focal Ratio	f/5.0
Telescope Mount	German Equatorial Mount
Focus Type	Manual Focus (Rack-and-Pinion)
Eyepieces Included	26mm, 9mm, 6.3mm
Barlow Lens	2x
Finderscope	Red-Dot Reflex
Item Weight	26.8 Pounds
Product Dimensions	34"D x 34"W x 61.7"H
Additional Features	Setting Circles, Latitude Control

WARRANTY AND SUPPORT

The Meade Polaris 130 EQ Reflector Telescope comes with a **One Year Warranty**. For warranty claims or technical support, please refer to the contact information provided in your product packaging or visit the official Meade Instruments website.

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