

Introduction

In the years I have been into astronomy I have purchased more telescopes and mounts than I care to admit. Most of the mounts were of the equatorial design. The one thing I have noticed is that not one of them included anything more than very basic assembly instructions.

The lack of directions led to some serious frustration and at least one fifteen year gap in my astronomy pursuit. I just could not understand how to make the telescope go where it was supposed to go.

Today we are thankful to have many great books on astronomy of which many have sections on the use of these types of telescope mounts. In addition we have online videos which can show us even more.

The problem today is that neither of these are good options for use out in the field under the stars. The books contain so much other material that they tend to be large, heavy and have only the basic information regarding the mounts. The online videos are fantastic except getting internet out in the middle of a field at night is problematic at best.

My solution was to develop this guide to do only one thing, help you setup and use an equatorial telescope mount.

The images and instructions included in this book are based primarily on three different equatorial mounts which include the Sirius, SkyView Pro and SkyView Deluxe, all manufactured by Orion Telescopes.

While other mounts will differ, the basics should be roughly the same. The two Celestron mounts I have used in the past (a CG3 and a CG5) are extremely similar as was the Great Polaris.

I will not waste your time telling you the wonderful features you can see on the moon. I have a book called *Getting Started: Visual Astronomy* for that. I also will not waste your money on big colorful images of nebulae and galaxies which have nothing to do with using your mount.

Instead I will attempt to show you everything you could possibly need to know about that strange contraption that supports your telescope.

Enough about what you will find in the book, let's get to it!