

Check List for the Del Norte Observatory

Upon Arrival

1. Check exterior for damage, vandalism, etc.
2. Unlock and open door.
3. Turn on light using wall switch on the right.
4. If nighttime, get the battery-powered blinking red LED light from the cabinet.
5. Install the battery-powered blinking red LED light on the bracket above the door top exterior to warn attendees of head-bump hazard.
6. Sign the log notebook with name, date, time.

To Open Roof

1. Visually inspect for bats, mice, damage, etc.
2. Remove clamp from hasp above door and hang on peg on right side.
3. Put lock on same peg or nearby so you don't lose it.
4. Pull hasp down out of the way so roof can be opened.
5. Remove rags in corners of roof.

Make sure LX200 is in horizontal position and pointed south.

Note: There is very little clearance between the opening roof and the LX200, so the above is essential to prevent damage.

6. Pull roof open with rope a few feet, then push roof on back until edge is even with back wall. If it sticks, pull back a little and push again.

LX200 Setup

1. Plug the black cord into wall outlet. Use the lower receptacle for the LX200. Plug the white cords into the top receptacle for the red tube lights if so desired. The upper receptacle is controlled by the wall switch.
2. Remove plastic dust cover from the cabinet and use the brush to dust off the table and cabinet.
3. Remove dust cover bag from the LX200.
4. Hold LX200 tube securely and loosen yoke declination knob on right side.
5. Point LX200 up about 45 degrees and tighten declination knob.

WARNING: DO NOT INSTALL THE FOLLOWING TELRAD® OR

**VIEWFINDER TELESCOPE DURING THE DAYTIME
SINCE THE LX200 MIGHT ACCIDENTLY POINT AT
THE SUN AND CAUSE PERMANENT EYE AND /OR
EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.**

6. Remove Viewfinder telescope from cabinet and attach to left top brackets on LX200.
7. Remove battery-powered TELRAD® from cabinet and attach to right top brackets on LX200. The lens end of TELRAD® goes toward the front end of the LX200.
8. Turn battery-powered TELRAD® on.
9. Remove eyepiece case from cabinet and place on table for use.
10. Remove round plastic film canister from eyepiece hole of LX200 and put in eyepiece case.
11. Insert diagonal into eyepiece hole and lightly finger tighten securing screw.
12. Insert lowest power eyepiece, i.e. 32 mm, into diagonal and lightly finger tighten securing screw.

Note: For eyepieces, the lower or smaller the mm number, the higher the power.

13. Plug the declination cord into the “DEC Motor” receptacles on the yoke and base.
14. Hold LX200 tube securely and loosen declination knob on right side.
15. Move tube to level position and still pointing south.
16. Plug the keypad into the keypad receptacle and hang it on the base plate.
17. Plug power cord into the 18vDC receptacle.
18. Check that the switch is on “N” for Northern Hemisphere.
19. Remove cover on front lens of LX200 and place near the eyepieces.

**WARNING: DO NOT REMOVE COVER ON FRONT LENS DURING
THE DAYTIME SINCE THE LX200 MIGHT ACCIDENTLY
POINT AT THE SUN AND CAUSE PERMANENT EYE
AND /OR EQUIPMENT DAMAGE.**

If the cover is removed during daytime, there is a 10 inch solar filter in the cabinet that can be placed over the front lens for observing sun spots, eclipses, planetary solar transits, etc.

20. Hold LX200 tube securely and loosen declination knob on right side.
21. Move LX200 tube until dial on left side reads “O” and re-tighten knob.
22. Loosen the Right Ascension (R.A.) lever on the base and turn the LX200 until the R.A. Vernier pointer and Hour Angle pointer post are lined up. (See photo on Page 3 of the manual.) Yoke arms are now parallel to the power panel.
23. Lightly finger tighten the (R.A.) locking lever.

24. Turn on the LX200. The LX200 can now be pointed using the keypad.

Keypad Setup

1. Do a “Two Star” alignment using instructions on the keypad. Refer to the factory manual Page 12 for additional information and Appendix C for available stars for the time of year. Note: Alignment is better if you use two bright stars fairly far apart. Don’t use Polaris or stars that are exactly overhead.
2. Center objects in the field of view. If they drift off-center during the night, re-center and key “Enter” until you hear a “beep.” This recalculates the computer for a more accurate tracking alignment.

Planets

Key the “Star” button and enter 901 to 909 for planets moving out from sun. The Moon is included as 904.

Deep Sky

Messier Objects: See manual Appendix C. Enter “M” then the Messier Number and then key “Go To”.

Closing the Observatory

1. Turn on the lights
2. Turn off the LX200.
3. Loosen the (R.A.) locking lever and point the LX200 south.
4. Hold LX200 tube securely and loosen declination knob on right side.
5. Point LX200 up about 45 degrees and retighten declination knob.
6. Turn off the battery powered TELRAD®.
7. Remove the TELRAD®, put it in its case and then in the cabinet.
8. Remove Viewfinder telescope and place in cabinet.
9. Remove eyepiece and diagonal and put back in case with other eyepieces.
10. Insert round plastic film canister into eyepiece hole.
11. Hold LX200 tube securely and loosen declination knob on right side.
12. Move LX200 tube to horizontal position.
13. Place cover on front of LX200 lens.
14. Remove declination cord and keypad and place in the cabinet.
15. Unplug power cords at LX200 and at the wall outlet.

Make sure LX200 is in horizontal position,

pointed south, and that the TELRAD® and Viewfinder telescope have been removed.

16. Cover LX200 with bag and strap, and cover cabinet with dust cover.
17. Visually inspect and make sure everything is put away and LX200 is in proper position.
18. Pull roof closed, insert clamp into the lock latch above the door, and stuff rags back in holes in corners.
19. Turn off battery-powered red LED light above the exterior doorway and place in cabinet.
20. Unplug all cords from outlets and turn off lights.
21. Close and lock the door.

Additional Precautions:

Move slowly, double check everything, especially when opening and closing roof.

Do not allow any touching of the LX200 (except the focus knob) and any glass surfaces or lenses. Only lightly finger tighten all knobs. People have a tendency to point and touch, so always be close to the LX200 when others are near it.

Use ladder steps when needed and allow people to steady themselves on the steps or the pedestal base disk supporting the LX200, not the LX200 itself. If the LX200 becomes misaligned, you will need to start the alignment process over again.

This check list is a work in progress. Please e-mail ahibbs@ieee.org or call 657-3718 if you see errors or recommend improvements. Check that you have the latest version as printed in the upper right-hand corner of Page 1.

Alva Hibbs, Secretary