

Handpad holder from S&S Optika for the NexStar telescopes

The Celestron NexStar Telescopes feature a hand-controller which is normally seated in a cavity in one of the fork arms. When the hand-controller is not used it is stored in this cavity. However it is then oriented as such to the observer, that he cannot read the LCD display and labels on the buttons of the hand-controller when standing behind the telescope looking through the eyepiece. Thus it is almost impossible to control the telescope with the hand-controller seated in the cavity. Therefore I was looking for a solution to store the hand-controller in a convenient position such that I could read it all the time and also press the buttons.



Frank Dilatush found a solution in the Astroshop "S&S Optika" in Colorado. It is a holder for the hand-controller which can be attached to the fork arm without altering it in any way. The bracket is clamped in a clever way in the cavity where the hand-controller is usually placed. The hand-controller is placed on the bracket and is now turned 90° versus its original position. The vertical angle of the bracket can be freely adjusted depending on the taste of the user.



This hand-controller holder is fabricated from a nice black plexiglass. Apparently they use CNC-machines to achieve the very precise shape. Below please find some more pictures of the bracket while removed from my N11GPS. Please note that the black plastic box is not part of the bracket. It is the radio transceiver I use to connect my telescope wirelessly to my PC. It is connected with a spiral cable to the jack in the base of the hand-controller and transmits/receives the signals to the PC. More information on this wireless link can be found elsewhere on my homepage.



Here is the address of S&S Optika where you can get this very useful accessory:

S & S Optika
5174 South Broadway
Englewood, CO 80110
USA
Tel. 303-789-1089 domestic
Tel. 001-303-789-1089 internatioal

The price as of February 2005 is US\$ 29.95 plus shipping. I am not sure whether they will ship internationally. However you may ask for the owner "Cathy" – she is a very nice person.

Questions are always very welcome.

Best regards

Matthias

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