Installation Instructions

Meade® Equatorial Wedge

For Use With Meade Field Tripods

INSTALLATION

The Meade 8" Equatorial Wedge is for use with Meade 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. The 8" Equatorial Wedge is not designed to support telescope models larger than an 8" Schmidt-Cassegrain.

The Equatorial Wedge attaches directly to the field tripod and permits the telescope to be used in an astronomical or "polar" mode.

NOTE: The Meade Equatorial Wedge is designed solely for use in conjunction with a Meade field tripod.

CAUTION: The telescope, placed onto the Equatorial Wedge alone without the field tripod attached to the wedge may become seriously unbalanced, to the point where it may actually tip over.

The Equatorial Wedge is of modern design, with several important features incorporated to simplify and facilitate telescope operation. After using the wedge, you will find that the functional design features included are of very significant value in routine telescope operations.

Included features:

- Attachment of the wedge to the field tripod by means of only one manual knob.
- Quick azimuth adjustment by loosening the manual knob as described above.
- Etched latitude scale for fast adjustment of the latitude angle.

The wedge consists of two basic parts: the wedge body and the tilt-plate, as shown in **Fig. 1**. Note that all required wedge hardware is shipped within the wedge carton.

To assemble the Equatorial Wedge:

1. Attach the tilt plate (**1, Fig. 1**) to the wedge body (**6, Fig. 1**) by first threading two of the bolts (with the aluminum washers; do not use the nylon washers with these bolts) through the holes at the top of the wedge body (**2, Fig. 1**) into the corresponding holes on the tilt plate. Note that the washers should be on the outside of the wedge body. See **Fig. 1**.
2. Thread another two bolts (with both the aluminum and the nylon washers – place the aluminum washer on the bolt first) through the curved opening on each side of the wedge body and into the lower end of the tilt plate (**3, Fig. 1**). Note that the washers on these bolts should also be on the outside of the wedge body.
3. The latitude adjustment scale (**5, Fig. 1**) is located on only one side of the wedge body. Move the button-head bolt (**3, Fig. 1**) to the number that corresponds with your location's latitude.
4. Slide the remaining bolt (**4, Fig. 1**) through the curved opening on the side of the wedge body marked with the latitude adjustment scale and then into the fine adjustment L-bracket (**1, Fig. 2**). (Place the bolt behind the tilt angle adjustment bolt (**3, Fig. 1.**) Using the provided hex key, tighten all the bolts to a firm feel only.
5. Thread the 1.25" screw (**2, Fig. 2**) into the L-bracket until it makes contact with the back of the tilt plate (**3, Fig. 2**). Turn this screw in either direction as necessary to make fine adjustments in latitude. See the telescope instruction manual for

(1) Tilt-Plate
(2) Button-Head Bolt
(3) Tilt Angle Adjustment
(4) Fine Latitude Adjustment Mechanism
(5) Latitude Scale
(6) Wedge Body
(7) Center Hole

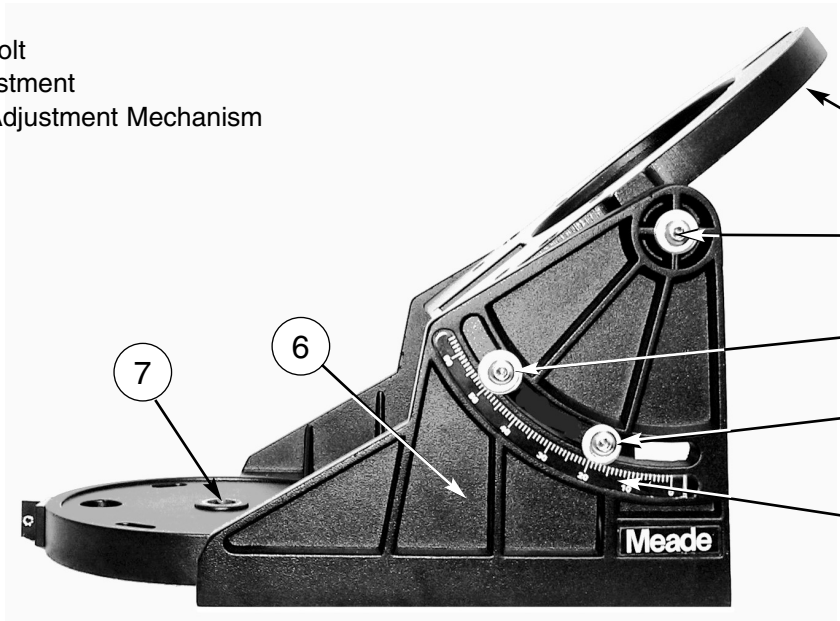

Fig. 1: Equatorial Wedge

information about polar alignment.

6. Attach the wedge onto the field tripod by fitting the central threaded rod of the tripod through the top of the center hole of the wedge (**7, Fig. 1**). Thread the 3" diameter manual knob onto the threaded rod underneath the tripod and tighten to a firm feel.

AZIMUTH CONTROL

The azimuth control for the Meade Equatorial Wedge and field tripod is shipped in a plastic bag and includes the following parts:

- Azimuth base (large U shaped piece of aluminum)
- Azimuth arm (small T shaped piece of aluminum)
- 2 - Azimuth knobs
- 2 - 8-32 x 1/2" flat-head machine screws
- 2 - 8-32 x 1" round-head machine screws
- Spacer and two screws (Version 2 mounting only)

To attach the Azimuth Control to the wedge and tripod

Version 1: If the wedge (**1, Fig. 3**) is flush with the edge of the tripod (**2, Fig. 3**), as depicted in Fig 3:

1. If necessary, use a Phillips screwdriver to remove the four set screws (which plug the attachment holes) from the wedge (**1, Fig. 3**) and field tripod (**2, Fig. 3**).
2. Attach the azimuth arm (**5, Fig. 3**) to the wedge body using the two 8-32 x 1/2" flat-head machine screws.
3. Attach the azimuth base (**4, Fig. 3**) to the tripod using the two 8-32 x 1" round-head machine screws.
4. Thread the two azimuth adjustment knobs (**3, Fig. 3**) into the azimuth base, until they just touch the azimuth arm (**5, Fig. 3**).

To attach the Azimuth Control to the wedge and tripod:

Version 2: If the wedge (**1, Fig. 4**) is NOT flush with the edge of the tripod (**2, Fig. 4**), as depicted in **Fig. 4**:

1. As described in Version 1, **Fig. 3**,, remove, if necessary, the four set screws (which plug the attachment holes) from the wedge (**1, Fig. 3**) and field tripod (**2, Fig. 3**).
2. PLace the spacer bar against the wedge body and line up with screw holes. Then line up azimuth arm with the spacer screw holes. Attach spacer (**1, Fig. 5)** and azimuth arm (**2, Fig. 5)** to the wedge using the supplied screws (see **Fig. 5**).
3. Attach the azimuth base (**1, Fig. 6**) to the tripod using the two 8-32 x 1" round-head machine screws.

3. Thread the two azimuth adjustment knobs (**1, Fig. 6**) into the azimuth base, until they just touch the azimuth arm.

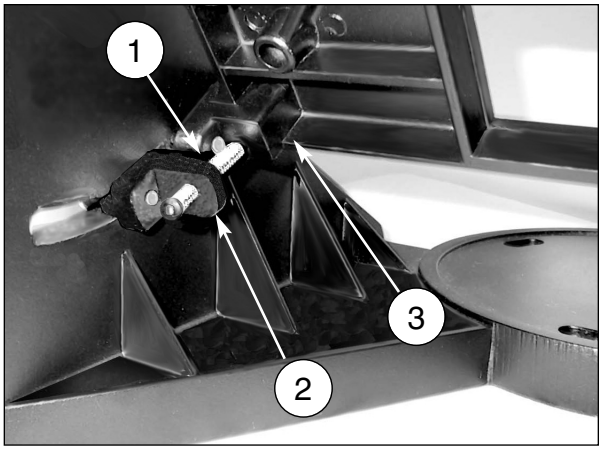

Fig. 2: Latitude Adjustment Control

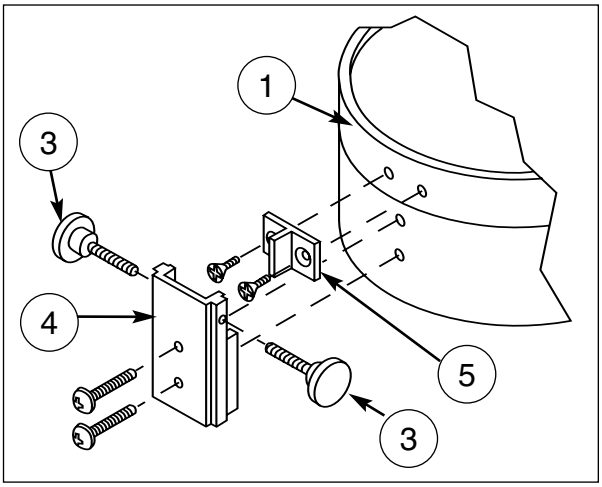

Fig. 3: Azimuth Control

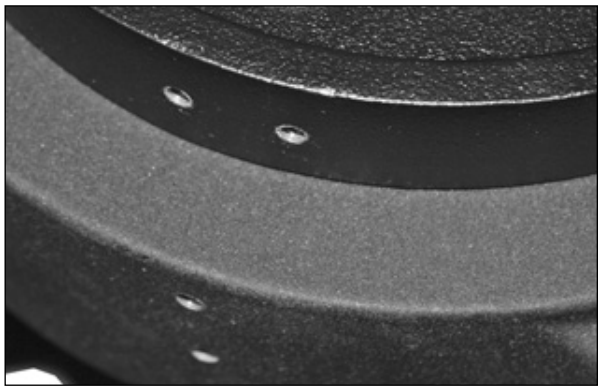

Fig. 4: Wedge is not flush with tripod's edge.

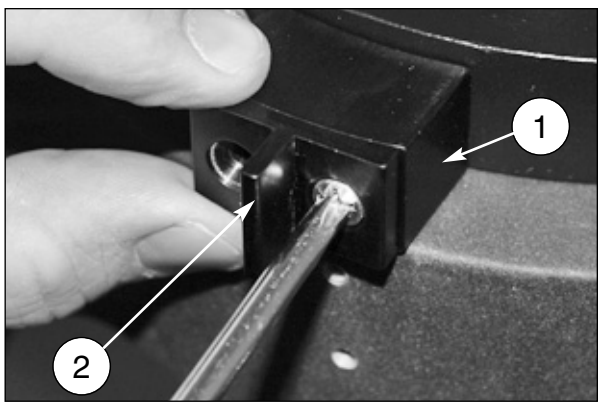

Fig. 5: Attach azimuth arm.

4. Thread the two azimuth adjustment knobs (**2, Fig. 6**) into the azimuth base, until they just touch the azimuth arm (**2, Fig. 5**).
6. Thread the 1.25" screw (**2, Fig. 2**) into the L-bracket until it makes contact with the back of the tilt plate (**3, Fig. 2**). Turn this screw in either direction as necessary to make fine adjustments in latitude. See the telescope instruction manual for information about polar alignment.
7. Attach the wedge onto the field tripod by fitting the central threaded rod of the tripod through the top of the center hole of the wedge (**7, Fig. 1**). Thread the 3" diameter manual knob onto the threaded rod underneath the tripod and tighten to a firm feel.

The azimuth control is now ready to use. To adjust in azimuth, loosen the 3" central wedge knob. Rotate the wedge by using the two azimuth knobs in a push-pull manner. After positioning the wedge, tighten the central wedge knob.

If you have any questions regarding the use of the Equatorial Wedge, please call Meade Customer Service at 1-800-626-3233. Consumer Solutions hours are from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Pacific Time, Monday through Friday.

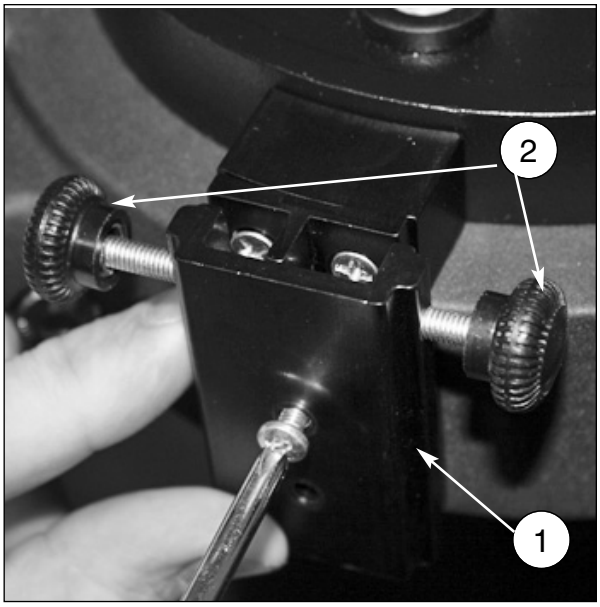

Fig. 6: Attach azimuth base and thread in two adjustment

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