PARK POSITIONS - NORTHERN & SOUTHERN HEMISPHERES

Park Your Telescope

The Keypad, AP V2 ASCOM driver and APCC allow you to park the telescope at the end of your observing session. You can then turn off the power and the mount will retain this position for the next session. When the park command is cancelled, you are ready to resume without going through the calibration routine. Once the telescope is parked, it cannot be moved by hand or the calibration will be lost and you will have to repeat the startup sequence at the beginning of your next observing session.

In January 2016, Astro-Physics added new park positions to the Keypad: Park 4 and Park 0. These are now offered in addition to Park 1, 2 and 3. Please read the descriptions of each below and determine which best suits your needs.

It is important to understand that parking is a state of being. When the mount is next powered up, it will not begin tracking until it is told to do so. This is a very safe state.

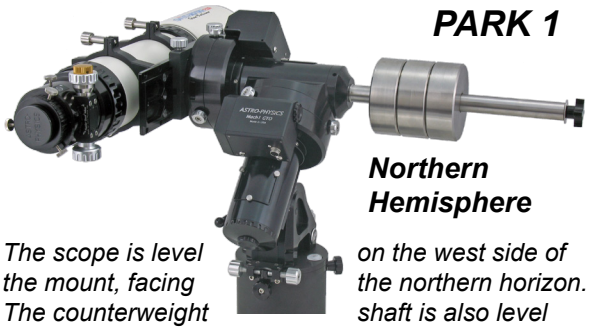
Park 0 ("Park to Current Position") was created to allow the Keypad to park the mount in its current position, wherever that might be, and to remain parked when next powered up. This is an important distinction from simply powering off the mount as described below.

There are six options to parking. You may choose one of four pre-determined park positions, plus the "Park to Current Position", or you may simply remove the power and the drive electronics will store the information regarding the last position in its memory (though it will immediately begin tracking when next powered up).

WARNING!

If you want a park position that can be accurately leveled, we recommend Park 4.

PARK 1



Northern Hemisphere

The scope is level on the west side of the mount, facing the northern horizon. The counterweight shaft is also level and pointing due east.

Both Hemispheres: RA is horizontal,
North: Dec = (90-Latitude) South: Dec = (-90-Latitude)

The southern hemisphere is mirror reversed. The scope is still level on the west side of the mount, but is facing the southern horizon. The counterweight shaft is also still level and pointing due east.

Southern Hemisphere

Park – 5 Positions

1. **Go to Mount Menu.** Main Menu → "2=Setup" → "4=Park / Mount Opt".

PARK 2

Northern Hemisphere

The scope is level on top of the mount facing the eastern horizon. The counterweight shaft is pointing down.

Both Hemispheres: RA axis is vertical, Dec = 0

The southern hemisphere is mirror reversed. The scope still points to the eastern horizon, but east is to the left when facing the southern pole.

Southern Hemisphere

2. Choose either 1, 2, 3, 4 or 0 (Current Position) with the buttons or software menu. Depending on which number you choose, the scope will slew to one of the park positions shown in the photos. The screen will state, "Pls wait till scope reaches park point before power off". **Note:** If you press MENU, the mount will unpark and start tracking.

3. Remove the power to avoid potential damage by lightning. Disconnect the power supply from the wall for optimal protection.

4. Turn the power on when you are ready to begin your next observing session.

a) AP V2 ASCOM driver allows choice to begin tracking or not upon start up initialization.

b) If Keypad Auto-connect is set to "YES", the mount will initialize and begin tracking in R.A. when you apply power.

c) If Keypad Auto-connect is set to "NO", the mount will not begin tracking in R.A. until you choose your location from the Site Menu, then select "ResumeLastPosition".

d) If Keypad Auto-connect is set to "EXT", the mount will not begin tracking in R.A. until it receives location and time data from an external computer.

Parking the mount in an established position (Park 1, 2, 3, 4 or 0) avoids timing errors since the mount will remain parked after power up until initialized. If you must park in a custom location, we recommend Park 0 ("Park to Current Position").

PARK 3

Northern Hemisphere & Southern Hemisphere

The scope is pointing to the pole. The counterweight shaft is pointing down.

RA axis is vertical, Dec = 90

PARK 4

Northern Hemisphere

The scope is level on the east side of the mount, facing the southern horizon. The counterweight shaft is also level and pointing due west.

Both Hemispheres: RA is horizontal,
North: Dec = (-90+Latitude) South: Dec = (90+Latitude)

The southern hemisphere is mirror reversed. The scope is still level on the east side of the mount, but is facing the northern horizon. The counter-weight shaft is also still level and pointing due west.

Southern Hemisphere

Park 0 (Park to Current Position)

Northern Hemisphere and Southern Hemisphere

Park 0 is used to put the mount into a parked state at your current position. "Park" is more than just a position. It is a state-of-being in which motors are de-energized. The mount will remain in a parked state when it is powered up the next time. It will await initialization from the control program, whether it be the Keypad or a computer program. If the mount is not parked before power down, it may begin tracking when next powered up.