DIGITALSKY VOICE

LINK BRIDGE FEATURE

What is a "Link Bridge"?

"Link Bridge" is a feature that allows you to use DigitalSky Voice (DSV) (voice or button control) in conjunction with one of the planetarium (or "bridge") programs below in order to see the movement of your telescope represented on the map screen of these programs. In other words, you can be looking at the display for SkyMap Pro 5 and say "Find the Ring Nebula" or request a DSV tour and watch the cursor move in Sky Map Pro as the DSV commands are given. This feature can be used by all telescope mounts that we support and in Emulation Mode. Only one serial port connection is needed on your computer and mount.

Using Link Bridges

The Link Bridge involves one-way communication between DigitalSky Voice and the bridge program you choose. DSV will link with and communicate directly with the mount, then send RA and Dec position data to the bridge program, which then displays the position on the planetarium map display on your computer screen. The planetarium program does not link directly with the mount; it links with DSV. This is a real plus since you can operate two programs with only one serial port.

You will be able to perform all the functions of the bridged planetarium program except those that involve direct communication with the mount (slewing by clicking on the star map, telescope directional movement, focus control, reticle control, park or unpark commands). All of these direct communication functions will be accomplished by DSV as the host program (DSV is the program that is actually linked to the mount). Please note that since DigitalSky is communicating directly with the mount, the location and time data in the planetarium program will not be active.

Since the DSV Link Bridge invokes additional complex software (the bridge program) to be running in conjunction with DSV, the minimum computer system requirements that we recommend for DSV alone may not be sufficient. We recommend that this feature be used with computers that have at least a Pentium 200 processor. If you use it with a slower computer, voice recognition and overall response speed may be reduced.

In order to use the Link Bridge function of DigitalSky Voice, you must add the drivers listed below to the programs that you plan to use. Follow the directions below.

Software Bisque's TheSky™ Version 5™ software

Setting Up the Link Bridge

Note: This driver works only with TheSky version 5.00.001 or later. You must update to this version before using the new DigitalSky Voice driver for TheSky.

If you upgrade to a newer version of TheSky in the future, you may have to follow this procedure again. This will be necessary if the new download for TheSky contains the TeleAPI.dll file, which will overwrite the file that you substituted below.

1. Verify that you have the required version of TheSky.
   a) Start TheSky and select About TheSky from the Help menu.
   b) Look in the Product Information area. The version number should read 5.00.001 or later.
   c) If you have an earlier version, you can get an update from Software Bisque on their web site
      http://www.bisque.com
2. Using a DOS window or Windows Explorer, rename the original teleAPI.dll supplied with TheSky software:
   Original files: C:\Program Files\Common Files\System\TeleAPI.dll
   Rename to: C:\Program Files\Common Files\System\TeleAPI-orig.dll
3. Insert the DigitalSky Voice CD ROM that you used to install the program.
   a) If the DSV installation starts automatically again, click cancel, then exit setup.

4. Locate your CD ROM drive in Windows Explorer and find the folder called DSV Add-ons.
    a) Go to DSV Add-ons/DSV Link Bridges/ TheSky Software 5.0
    b) Double click teleAPI.exe.
5. This will bring up the WinZip Self-Extractor for teleAPI.exe. The directory path for installation will display as C:\Program Files\Common Files\System (please do not put this file anywhere else, as TheSky will look for it at this location.)
6. Select Unzip. The file will unzip and install itself.
7. Click close. You are done.

Linking DigitalSky Voice with TheSky – Windows 95/98/NT

1. Follow the instructions above to install the teleAPI.dll into the appropriate directory so that TheSky can find it.
2. Start DigitalSky Voice.
3. Click the Preferences command button. Select Hardware Settings, and choose TheSky Ver 5 from the drop down listbox.
4. Set your Emulation button to ON or OFF, as you choose. If you are using your mount, emulation is set to OFF and your mount and cables should be connected.
5. Click Link to Telescope Mount as you normally do and follow the usual procedures. This will take you to Objects Mode.
6. Establish the Link Bridge
    a) Voice Command: "Link Bridge" You must be in Objects Mode to issue the voice command.
    b) Button Command: Click on the Link Bridge button. You can use this method in any mode.
7. TheSky program will start.
8. From the menu at the top of the main window of TheSky, click on Telescope. The Telescope Setup dialog box appears.
9. Select Telescope API from the Control System drop-down list (it is at or near the bottom if the list).
10. Click the Settings … button. You should see an alert box containing "DigitalSky Voice Link". If these words don't display, review the previous steps.
11. Click OK in the alert box and close the Telescope Setup dialog box.
12. Select Telescope from the menu bar again.
13. Select Link > Establish. A crosshair will display on TheSky display showing where your telescope is currently pointing.
14. Now you are ready to issue verbal commands and watch the cross hair cursor move to the requested object immediately after your telescope has completed its slew. DigitalSky will provide all the same verbal responses as usual. You can switch back and forth from the DSV and TheSky screens whenever you wish.
15. Subsequent sessions: Assuming that you do not change the telescope selection in TheSky or the Hardware Setting in DSV, the startup procedure in your next session will be very simple.
    a) Begin DSV as usual and link to the telescope mount.
    b) Establish the Link Bridge to open TheSky.
    c) Select Telescope from TheSky menu bar.
    d) Select Link > Establish.
    e) That's it.

Linking DigitalSky Voice with TheSky – Windows 2000

Windows 2000 is missing a file that is necessary to use the "link bridge" button on the DigitalSky Voice screen. As a result, you cannot auto-start your planetarium program, you must open the planetarium program separately in the normal fashion.
1. Follow steps 1-5 above.
2. Start TheSky program separately in your normal manner (desktop icon or start button, etc).
3. From the menu at the top of the main window of TheSky, click on Telescope. The Telescope Setup dialog box appears.
4. Select Telescope API from the Control System drop-down list (it is at or near the bottom if the list).
5. Click the Settings … button. You should see an alert box containing "DigitalSky Voice Link". If these words don't display, review the previous steps for setting up the link bridge.
6. Click OK in the alert box and close the Telescope Setup dialog box.
7. Select Telescope from the menu bar again.

8. Select Link > Establish. A crosshair will display on TheSky display showing where your telescope is currently pointing.
9. Now you are ready to issue verbal commands and watch the cross hair cursor move to the requested object immediately after your telescope has completed its slew. DigitalSky will provide all the same verbal responses as usual. You can switch back and forth from the DSV and TheSky screens whenever you wish.
10. Subsequent sessions: Assuming that you do not change the telescope selection in TheSky or the Hardware Setting in DSV, the startup procedure in your next session will be very simple.
    a) Begin DSV as usual and link to the telescope mount.
    b) Begin TheSky.
    c) Select Telescope from TheSky menu bar.
    d) Select Link > Establish.
    e) You are ready to go..

Chris Marriott's SkyMap Pro 5™ SkyMap Pro 6™

At the present time, the link bridge feature does not work with SkyMap Pro 7. . Please check the website periodically for update information www.astro-physics.com or www.digitalskyvoice.com.

Setting Up the Link Bridge

1. Insert the DigitalSky Voice CD-ROM that you used to install the program.
    a) If the DSV installation starts automatically again, click cancel, then exit setup.
2. Locate your CD-ROM drive in Windows Explorer and find the folder called DSV Add-ons.
    a) Go to DSV Add-ons/DSV Link Bridges/Sky Map Pro 5.0 or Sky Map Pro 6.0
    b) Double click dsv5.exe (SkyMap Pro 5) or dsv6.exe (SkyMap Pro 6).
3. This will bring up the WinZip Self-Extractor for the file you chose. Please use the default file location.
4. Click Unzip.
5. The file will unzip and install dsv.drv into the SkyMap Drivers subdirectory. Click close.
6. For SkyMap Pro 5 only: Using Windows Explorer, check the version number of the scope.dll file in the Sky Map Pro 5 (Program Files\Sky Map Pro 5) subdirectory.
    a) Find and select scope.dll, right click, then select Properties.
    b) Click on the version tab and look at the version number.
    c) If it is 1,0,0,0 then copy the updated self-extracting scope.exe (on the CD ROM drive) file the same way that you extracted the file above.

Linking DigitalSky Voice with SkyMap Pro 5 or 6 – Windows 95/98/NT

1. Follow the instructions above to install the dsv.dll and scope.dll (if needed) into the appropriate directories of Sky Map Pro 5 and 6.
2. Start DigitalSky Voice.
3. Click the Preferences command button. Select Hardware Settings, and choose Sky Map Pro 5 from the drop down listbox.
4. Set your Emulation button to ON or OFF as you choose. If you are using your mount, emulation is set to OFF and your mount and cables should be connected.
5. Click Link to Telescope Mount as you normally do and follow the usual procedures. This will take you to Objects Mode.
6. Establish the Link Bridge
    a) Voice Command: "Link Bridge" You must be in objects mode to issue the voice command.
    b) Button Command: Click on the Link Bridge button. You can use this method in any mode.
7. The Sky Map Pro 5 program will start.
8. From the menu at the top of the main window of Sky Map Pro, select Telescope, then Configure… The Configure Telescope dialog box will appear.
9. Select DigitalSky Voice Link and press OK.
10. Click on Telescope in the menu bar and select Open Connection. A message box will appear that states "The telescope is now under computer control" and offer other reminders. Click OK.
11. Click on Telescope in menu bar a third time and click on Auto-Track. The cross-hair will appear on the map screen to mark the position where your telescope is pointed.
12. Now you are ready to issue verbal commands and watch the cross hair cursor move to the requested object immediately after your telescope has completed its slew. DigitalSky will provide all the same verbal

responses as usual. You can switch back and forth from the DSV and Sky Map Pro screens whenever you wish.

13. Subsequent sessions: Assuming that you do not change the telescope selection in Sky Map Pro or the Hardware Setting in DSV, the startup procedure in your next session will be very simple.
    a) Begin DSV as usual and link to the telescope mount.
    b) Establish the Link Bridge to open SkyMap Pro.
    c) Select Telescope from the Sky Map Pro menu bar.
    d) Select Open Connection.
    e) Select Telescope again and select Auto-Track.
    f) That's all there is to it.

Linking DigitalSky Voice with SkyMap Pro 5 or 6 – Windows 2000

Windows 2000 is missing a file that is necessary to use the "link bridge" button on the DigitalSky Voice screen. As a result, you cannot auto-start your planetarium program, you must open the planetarium program separately in the normal fashion.

1. Follow steps 1-5 in the previous Windows 95/98/NT section.
2. Start SkyMap Pro separately in your normal manner. (desktop icon or start button, etc).
3. From the menu at the top of the main window of Sky Map Pro, select Telescope, then Configure… The Configure Telescope dialog box will appear.
4. Select DigitalSky Voice Link and press OK.
5. Click on Telescope in the menu bar and select Open Connection. A message box will appear that states "The telescope is now under computer control" and offer other reminders. Click OK.
6. Click on Telescope in menu bar a third time and click on Auto-Track. The cross-hair will appear on the map screen to mark the position where your telescope is pointed.
7. Now you are ready to issue verbal commands and watch the cross hair cursor move to the requested object immediately after your telescope has completed its slew. DigitalSky will provide all the same verbal responses as usual. You can switch back and forth from the DSV and Sky Map Pro screens whenever you wish.
8. Subsequent sessions: Assuming that you do not change the telescope selection in Sky Map Pro or the Hardware Setting in DSV, the startup procedure in your next session will be very simple.
    a) Begin DSV as usual and link to the telescope mount.
    b) Open the SkyMap Pro program, as usual.
    c) Select Telescope from the Sky Map Pro menu bar.
    d) Select Open Connection.
    e) Select Telescope again and select Auto-Track.
    f) That's it.

Starry Night Deluxe and Starry Night Pro

The plug-in to activate the link bridge with Starry Night Deluxe and Starry Night Pro does not work properly at this time. We apologize for this inconvenience. Please check the website periodically for update information www.astro-physics.com or www.digitalskyvoice.com.

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