VAMO*traveler*

Alt/Azimutalmount
User manual

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The VAMOtraveler mount

The VAMO is an alt/azimuth mount without a mechanical or electronic drive. The axes are moved exclusively by pushing and/or turning the telescope. Unlike a parallactic mount, the mount is not aligned with the pole, but simply set up on a suitable tripod in a roughly horizontal position.

No alignment of the axes, no cables, no battery, no weights; just set it up and observe. As simple as a Dobsonian, this mount can be used with almost any telescope. Thanks to the Teflon bearings, the axes can be moved smoothly without jerking or oscillation. Experience this new dimension of astronomical observation fun.

The individual parts of the mount

The mount consists of an azimuth axis and a transverse altitude axis built into an altitude arm that can be adjusted slightly in inclination. The base of the mount is designed for mounting directly on a tripod, on which Vixen GP® mounts can also be placed, but it can also be placed directly on a sufficiently stable photo tripod (without a tripod head!). The mount has a handwheel on both axes, which can be used to set the desired clamp or stop for the respective axis.

The structure

Use a sufficiently stable tripod equipped with a head suitable for Vixen GP® mounts. Ensure that the tripod is stable and that none of the legs can fold away or collapse. Fairly level surfaces are best suited, while grassy areas are less suitable (dew tends to make your feet wet and cold). Place the AYO on the tripod and secure the mount with the central screw provided.

Important notice:

The lower base has an M10 thread, but a tripod with a 3/8" thread stub can also be used. However, constantly switching between these two tripod types is not recommended!The lower base has an M10 thread, but a tripod with a 3/8‘ thread stub can also be used. However, constantly switching between these two tripod types is not recommended! This means that if the mount is used on a tripod with a 3/8’ screw, only such a tripod should be used in order to avoid damaging the thread.

The alt axis has a prism saddle for mounting telescopes. It fits the 45 mm / 2 x 15 degree dovetail's (known as the Vixen format). Attach your telescope to the mount and adjust the resistance of the two axes as required. Make sure that the telescope is balanced. If necessary, move the telescope along its longitudinal axis until it is balanced. It is recommended that you clamp the axes tightly so that the telescope does not turn away on its own due to temporary imbalance when changing eyepieces. This also makes observation easier at very high magnifications. It may be necessary to tighten the clamping handwheels very tightly. This is normal and will not cause any damage.

Notice:

The axles are clamped indirectly using clamping sleeves with plastic bearings (Teflon). This means that the clamping handwheel can be turned by more than one full turn to achieve a tighter clamp.

Storage and maintenance:

The mount is very easy to use and does not require any special attention. However, it is recommended that you loosen the clamps on the axes if the mount is not going to be used for a long period of time. If, after prolonged use, the height shaft loosens slightly or bearing play develops, this can be easily readjusted as follows: loosen the counter ring and tighten it as desired to achieve the correct axle restraint. Tighten the grub screw carefully, but not too tightly.

The mount can be equipped with an encoder set on request, which, together with a corresponding

coordinate calculator (e.g. an ArgoNavis or Nexus), allows the position to be displayed and makes it easy to locate difficult objects.

VAMOtraveler with attached encoders.
An encoding set from Astro Devices is also supplied.