

Meade History

Today, Meade Instruments is commonly acknowledged as one of the most innovative and dynamic companies in the telescope market. Known for its groundbreaking leaps in telescopic design, Meade has introduced dozens of improvements over the years that have made amateur astronomy easier to access and more enjoyable than ever.

Founded in 1972, Meade began business as a one-man, mail-order supplier of small refracting telescopes. As early as 1973 it became apparent there was a large, unmet need for quality telescope accessories, prompting Meade to add lines of Orthoscopic and Kellner eyepieces and, soon after, lines of precision rack and pinion focusers, viewfinders, filters, camera adapters and other accessories. Even then, Meade's products were recognized as having custom touches not generally available on competing models—the focusers, for example, had spring-loaded gearboxes that permitted smoother action throughout the entire travel distance, and the viewfinders included eyepieces with wider fields than had been commonly available.

By 1977, Meade Instruments offered a broad range of telescope accessories and parts for the serious amateur, a range of accessories and parts that, in fact, permitted the company to bring out its first in-house manufactured telescopes, Meade Models 628 and 826 6-inch and 8-inch reflecting telescopes. With Meade reflectors American amateur astronomers found that they had, really for the first time, a telescope manufacturer that provided a quality product at a reasonable price, that continually updated its products technically and, above all, one that stood firmly behind every sale.

Word began to spread among amateurs that Meade Instruments is a company that can be trusted, one that does and means what it says. These values, now so often abused, are still very much at work in the Meade Instruments of the present day.



Model: 0810-03-12

Item: LightSwitch Series 8-Inch (f/10) Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope, AutoStar

The LX3, introduced in 1984, the first SC to include an integrated electronic drive system. This is also widely recognized as the first integrated astrophotography system in the mass market.

The LX6 in 1990, featuring Smart Drive™, the first permanently-programmed Periodic Error Correction software. Considered a luxury model upon its release, many of its features are still found today on the LX200 line.

The LX200® in 1992, the first commercially successful GoTo telescope system. With the launch of the LX200, Meade also introduced a new, heavier fork-arm mount that dampened vibration, establishing the LX200 as the new standard in amateur astrophotography platforms.

The 16-inch LX200® in 1994, the first commercial, fully-computerized, observatory-class SC. With the 16-inch LX200, Meade opened the door for the serious amateur. It was finally possible to get observatory-class optical power at a fraction of the cost of other, similarly powered telescopes — and the only ones available to the general public.

The ETX Series with AutoStar in 1999, the first portable, fully-computerized telescope. Combining lightweight portability and the convenience of GoTo electronics, the ETX became an instant favorite with the astronomical community — a position it still holds today.

Meade's UHTC in 2002, the first ultra-high transmission coatings for commercial telescopes. Precisely designed to improve the performance of a telescope's optics, these advanced multi-coatings increase light transmission — on average across the visual spectrum — by about 15% (for example, Meade UHTC coatings will increase the image brightness of a 10-inch LX200-ACF by the equivalent of about 0.75 inch of aperture), providing much higher performance for observers and astrophotographers alike. Still the industry standard, these coatings are available only from Meade.

Advanced Coma-Free optical system, the first affordable optics delivering Ritchey-Chrétien-like performance, in 2005. A traditional Ritchey-Chrétien (RC) is a type of reflector that delivers a coma-free view via hyperbolic primary and secondary mirrors. Because the mirrors in these telescopes have always been very expensive to make, few amateur astronomers could enjoy them. Suspecting that there was a better way to design this optical system, Meade engineers developed a radical new Advanced Coma-Free design by combining a hyperbolic secondary mirror with a corrector-lens-and-spherical-primary-mirror combination that performs as one hyperbolic element. This ACF design produces a coma-free, flatter field of view that equals traditional RC telescopes at a fraction of the cost. The design also eliminates diffraction spikes and improves astigmatism, both of which are inherent in the traditional RC design. No other optical design delivers both the level of performance and affordability as ACF.

The 20" MAX-ACF in 2005. With the introduction of the 20" MAX-ACF, Meade redefined what a production telescope could be. Featuring a 20-inch, Advanced Coma-Free optical system, the MAX-ACF combined cutting-edge electronics with an unparalleled mount, making it the most advanced, commercially-available telescope anywhere. Producing an observatory-class system that rivaled custom installations — costing three to five times more — it was now possible for schools and universities, and many private individuals, to afford a true, professional-quality system. The MAX-ACF remains as far ahead of the curve today as it was on the day it was debuted.

LightSwitch Technology, the first one-touch, fully-automatic alignment system, introduced in 2009. Meade's revolutionary LS LightSwitch series of telescopes use advanced technologies like GPS, LNT and ECLIPS CCD imaging to do what no other consumer telescopes have done before: take all the hassle out of using a telescope. Simply flip the switch and the LS automatically aligns itself without any input from the user. Quite simply, it is the most sophisticated, easiest to use telescope ever produced.

Astronomer Inside, the first integrated, multi-media content, introduced in 2009. As an integral part of the development of the LS line of telescopes, Meade produced audio and video content to allow users to experience the Universe like they never had before. Culminating in over five hours of fascinating facts and history, it was decided the content was too good not to include with other products. A decision that led to the: AudioStar, the first audio-enabled, computer control handbox, in 2010. With all the content and no delivery system, the next step was obvious: design a handbox with all of the features of our ground-breaking AutoStar, with the added ability to deliver audio content. First included with the StarNavigator line of introductory telescopes, AudioStars are now standard equipment with almost all Meade telescopes.

MEADE CONSUMER SOLUTIONS

If you have a question concerning your telescope, call Meade Instruments Consumer Solutions Department at (800) 626-3233. Consumer Solutions Department hours are 7:00AM to 5:00PM, Pacific Time, Monday through Friday. Call the Meade Consumer Solutions Department first, before returning the telescope to the factory, giving full particulars as to the nature of the problem, as well as your name, address, and daytime telephone number. The great majority of servicing issues can be resolved by telephone, avoiding return of the telescope to the factory.

MEADE LIMITED WARRANTY

Every Meade telescope and telescope accessory is warranted by Meade Instruments Corporation ("Meade") to be free of defects in materials and workmanship for a period of ONE YEAR from the date of original purchase in the U.S.A. Meade will repair or replace a

product, or part thereof, found by Meade to be defective, provided the defective part is returned to Meade, freight-prepaid, with proof of purchase. This warranty applies to the original purchaser only and is non-transferable. Meade products purchased outside North America are not included in this warranty, but are covered under separate warranties issued by Meade international distributors.

RGA Number Required: Prior to the return of any product or part, a Return Goods Authorization (RGA) number **must** be obtained from Meade by calling (800) 626-3233. Each returned part or product must include a written statement detailing the nature of the claimed defect, as well as the owner's name, address, and phone number.

This warranty is not valid in cases where the product has been abused or mishandled, where unauthorized repairs have been attempted or performed, or where depreciation of the product is due to normal wear-and-tear. Meade specifically disclaims special, indirect, or consequential

damages or lost profit which may result from a breach of this warranty. Any implied warranties which cannot be disclaimed are hereby limited to a term of one year from the date of original retail purchase.

This warranty gives you specific rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state.

Meade reserves the right to change product specifications or to discontinue products without notice.

This warranty supersedes all previous Meade product warranties.

©2011 MEADE INSTRUMENTS CORP



Looking at or near the **Sun** will cause **irreversible** damage to your eye. Do not point this telescope at or near the Sun. Do not look through the telescope as it is moving.

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER: _____

OBJECT NAME: _____

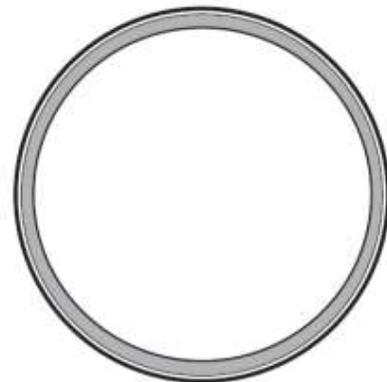
DATE & TIME OBSERVED: _____

CONSTELLATION: _____

EYEPIECE SIZE: _____

SEEING CONDITIONS: EXCELLENT GOOD POOR

NOTES: _____



DRAWING OF IMAGE

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER: _____

OBJECT NAME: _____

DATE & TIME OBSERVED: _____

CONSTELLATION: _____

EYEPIECE SIZE: _____

SEEING CONDITIONS: EXCELLENT GOOD POOR

NOTES: _____





DRAWING OF IMAGE

OBSERVATION LOG

OBSERVER: _____

OBJECT NAME: _____

DATE & TIME OBSERVED: _____

CONSTELLATION: _____

EYEPIECE SIZE: _____

SEEING CONDITIONS: EXCELLENT GOOD POOR

NOTES: _____





DRAWING OF IMAGE