

Lynch Observatory Checklist

1 Opening up

1. First, open the slit. This helps air circulate and equalize temperature between the dome and surrounding air, and also may help blow out some of the dust. Make sure and stop the slit's opening before the metal bar reaches the hard-stop. Keep the door closed, to prevent a draft. You have to decide whether you will be looking at objects closer to the horizon or zenith now (or have to close and re-open it later).
 - (a) Zenith: Pull down the handle before you open the slit. It will make a "clunk" sound as it jumps free.
 - (b) Horizon: Leave the handle where it is.
2. Gently pull the blue plastic cover off the telescope. As you are doing this, watch the slit open, and be sure to stop it before it hits the hard stop.
3. Remove three protective covers:
 - (a) Front of the telescope (place it somewhere it won't get stepped on)
 - (b) Front of the finder (place it in the cabinet)
 - (c) Yellow plug from inside the fine-focuser (place it in the cabinet)
4. Get the paddle out of the cabinet and plug it into the slot marked HBX. Make sure the switch is turned off and plug in the line-balancing transformer.
5. Turn on the telescope with the switch. The paddle should beep and light up with a version number, and the fan on the back of the telescope should start blowing air out. The paddle will ask for daylight savings time, the time and date.

2 Closing down

1. Move the scope to the “parked” position: horizontal, facing south. This will help keep water and/or dust from pooling on the corrector plate, and makes it easier to put the covers on.
2. Remove the eyepiece/CCD and return it to its case. If using the CCD, tell the software to let it bring the temperature up slowly, to prevent damage. Some software will do this automatically, when you tell it to disconnect, some requires you to set the temperature to something closer to ambient first. Do not unplug the CCD until its temperature is close to ambient.
3. If you used the right-angle mirror, be sure and replace the two protective covers. The black one goes over the slivered end, and the little yellow plug goes in the 1.25” adapter which should be placed on the other end.
4. Close the dome slit. There is no need to watch it, as it will automatically shut down when it reaches the bottom. Also, rotate the dome so that the slit faces west, to reduce the amount of leakage into the dome.
5. Replace three protective covers:
 - (a) Front of the telescope (Make sure it is uniformly pressed on)
 - (b) Front of the finder (a snug fit)
 - (c) Yellow plug into the fine-focuser (lightly tighten a set-screw to help hold it on)
6. Turn off the base with the switch. Once off, unplug the transformer from the wall.
7. Unplug the paddle from the base and return it to the cabinet on the middle, right side. Lock the cabinet and spin the tumblers.
8. Gently pull the blue tarp over the telescope, to keep dust and water off of it. Make sure you don’t snag the finder or anything else in the process.