

## CELESTRON

### To Introduce New CGE Pro Mount

Celestron has announced its plans to introduce a new member to the CGE mount family, the CGE Pro. The massive mount boasts a maximum payload capacity of 90 pounds – it will easily handle Celestron's heralded 14-inch SCT – and its large hand knobs provide no-tool adjustment of both altitude and azimuth alignment.

The new computerized equatorial mount incorporates Celestron's proven *NexStar* computer control technology with 40,000 object database. The system will also include Celestron's new *All-Star Polar Alignment* routine for ease of setup in both Northern and Southern Hemispheres. Choose any bright star for a software assisted alignment of the polar axis – you'll be ready for imaging even if you can't see Polaris. Software features also include database filter limits, hibernate, five alignment methods, and user-defined slew limits.

The hand control includes built-in mount modeling features that are essential for accurate placement of small objects in the center of a CCD sensor or high-magnification eyepiece. Alignment on multiple calibration stars creates a mathematical model of any opto-mechanical inaccuracies in the system. This model is stored in the hand control and used to compensate for any such inaccuracies for improved pointing precision.

The new mount is compatible with Celestron's CN-16 GPS accessory which, when combined with the mount's built-in real time clock, retains and tracks location and time without requirement of reenter-

ing that information into the hand control.

The CGE Pro is capable of a slew rate of more than 5 degrees per second and pointing accuracy within 5 arc minutes. Its large 0.75-inch diameter worm, precision machined gears and gear boxes, and seven-slot skewed armature motors deliver typical tracking performance of  $\pm 9$  arc-seconds, which can be further improved using

the permanent periodic error correction (PPEC) routine. The

new CGE Pro is fully *T-Point* (Software Bisque) compatible for ultra-precise pointing across the entire sky.

Despite its large payload capacity, the mount breaks down into compact, separate components for ease of transport and set up. An improved, fully-extendable Super HD Tripod supports the CGE with 2.75-inch stainless steel legs that can be raised to a height of 55 inches. The tripod incorporates dual-leg support for maximum rigidity with an upper brace for outward preload and a lower brace for inward tension. Latitude range is a generous 10 to 65 degrees.

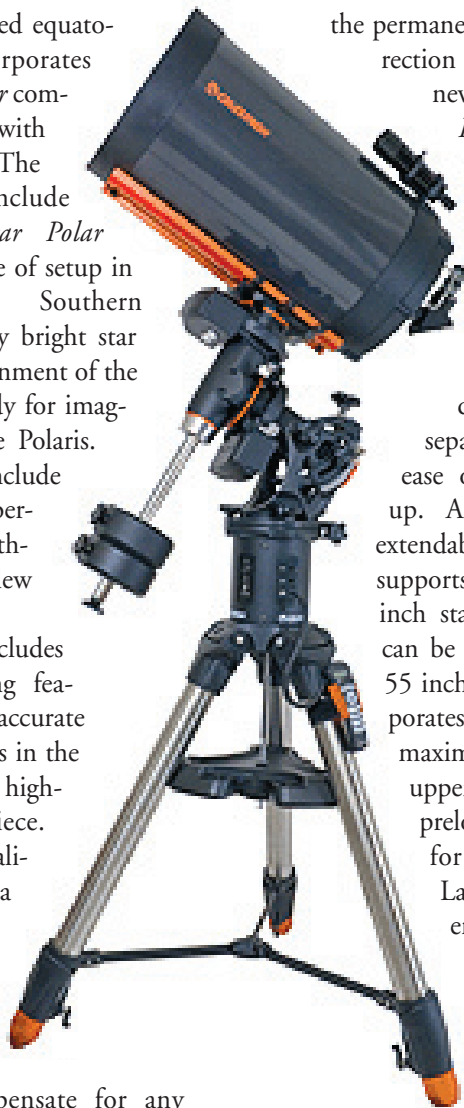
Mount loads are easily balanced in both axes. Main shafts are crafted from 1.57-inch diameter steel tubing with 0.40-inch wall thickness and two preloaded 2.68-inch OD tapered roller bearings per axis. The 0.75-inch worm is supported by two 0.87-inch ball bearings and is precision mated to the 6-inch pitch diameter gear's enveloping brass teeth. Both RA and Dec feature 4-

point clutch systems and 4.72-inch and 4.13-inch thrust bearings stabilize each axis.

Other refinements include rugged 9-pin, thread-on motor cables and an RS-232 communication port on the hand control to support control of the mount via PC.

Other specifications include DC Servo motors with encoders, both axes; a computer hand control featuring double line, 16-character LCD and 19 backlit LED buttons; slew speeds of nine – 5.5°, 2° and 0.5°/second, 64x, 16x, 8x, 4x, 1x, and 0.5x; Sidereal, Solar and Lunar tracking rates and North and EQ South tracking modes; 2-Star, Solar System Align, Last Alignment, Quick Align, and 1-Star procedures; and a database of 40,000+ objects with enhance information of 200+; 100 user defined.

Introductory dealer pricing for the CGE Pro mount is \$4999 US, with initial deliveries scheduled for spring 2009.



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