

# Instruction Sheet

## HYPERSTAR LASER COLLIMATOR for HYPERSTAR TELESCOPES

Thank you for purchasing the state-of-the-art patented HOTECH HyperStar Laser Collimator instrument. This instrument uses the most advanced laser and optical technology to enable the user to achieve excellent collimation in a very short distance. Collimation is the process of aligning a telescope's optics. The laser collimator makes the collimation process more efficient and can increase collimation accuracy. Your telescope is aligned at the factory, but harsh handling during shipping can cause misalignment. Some telescopes are not well collimated when shipped. Misaligned collimation can mean lessened of optical efficiency and result in poor image contrast, astigmatism, and blurry images. The following describes how to collimate your Hyperstar telescope with the aid of the HyperStar Laser Collimator.



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### Please read the entire instruction sheet before using your HyperStar Laser Collimator

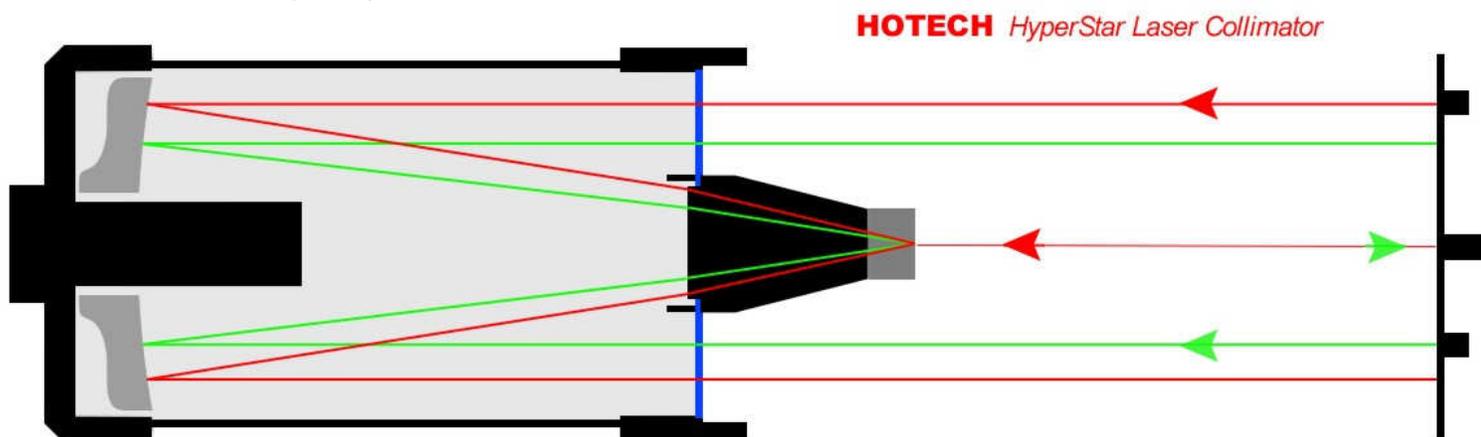
Be aware of the following as you use your Laser Collimator:

Only turn ON your laser(s) when you are going to use it. The laser should only be used with adult supervision, and should only be used for collimating a telescope. Never point the laser or the reflection of the laser collimator at anyone's eyes. These instructions cover collimation of prime focus telescopes namely the Hyperstar configured telescope. All lasers on the collimator are class II (<1mW). For additional information, please visit our website, [www.hotechusa.com](http://www.hotechusa.com), or write us at [info@hotechusa.com](mailto:info@hotechusa.com).

### Collimation Basics You Must Know Before Start

#### What to Adjust:

The accessible collimation adjustment on a Hyperstar is the tilt adjustment. On some telescopes (e.g. Celestron EdgeHD) has additional adjustment on the center positioning of the corrector plate which helps in centering the Hyperstar assembly to further refine and coincide to the primary mirror axis.



### How the Collimator Works:

The HyperStar Laser Collimator samples the entire optical system (the primary mirror, the Hyperstar assembly, and the focal plane) by simulating a large aperture flat-wavefront light source generated by three parallel lasers positioned behind the target plate. The target plate provides a clear view of the optical alignment status in real time when the three lasers are reflected back on the target. This patented technique of parallel laser beams allows near field collimation (one tube length in front of the telescope) at far field (infinity) setting. The center crosshair laser helps you squaring up the collimator to the telescope optical axis from the direct reflection back to the collimator target. It is extremely critical that the lasers are pointed square-on (co-aligned) to the telescope for an accurate reading and adjustment.

### Collimation Angle:

You can collimate your telescope at almost any position (e.g. telescope 10 degrees up) as long as both the collimator and the telescope point square at each other.



### Process Flow Chart:

1. Set collimator distance from the telescope.
2. Install HyperStar reflector mirror at the sensor location with the proper adapter.
3. Co-align the collimator to the telescope optical axis.
4. Adjust Hyperstar assembly tilt.
5. Adjust Hyperstar assembly centering (if adjustment is available).

### Package Content:

- 1 x Advanced CT Laser Collimator
- 1 x HyperStar reflector mirror adapter
- 1 x High accuracy dual-sided reflector mirror with detachable target cap
- 1 x Fine Adjustment Stage
- 1 x CR123 3V battery
- 1 x Premium carrying case with manual



## 1.0. Setting Up the Laser Collimator on the Tripod

### 1.1. Where to setup the telescope and the collimator

Position both collimator and the telescope on solid ground (no carpeted, wooden floor, or other surface that will flex or vibrate). Both telescope and collimator must be on the (same) ground floor.

### 1.2. Setup the collimator on the tripod

- a). Attach the fine-adjuster to your tripod using the tripod's 1/4-20 bolt.
- b). Attach the laser collimator to the recommended fine adjustment stage using the threaded knob on the fine-adjuster and the 1/4-20 screw hole on the bottom of the collimator.
- c). Lock the collimator firmly in place with the lock-knob on the fine-adjuster's 1/4-20 bolt.



## 2.0. Getting Familiar with the HOTECH Advance CT Collimator

### 2.1. Installing the battery

Unthread the battery compartment cap and insert the included CR123 lithium battery with the positive side up (tip side up) and replace the battery cap.



### 2.2. Switching the laser to the proper mode

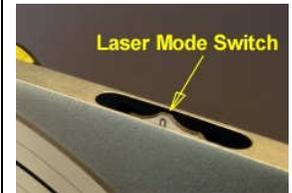
Position the collimator on a tripod about 4 feet from a white wall with the target side facing the wall. Rotate the rotary knob on the top right corner of the collimator to activate different laser modes. You will see the projected laser patterns on the wall at various positions.

**Mode 0:** Unit off.

**Mode 1:** Crosshair laser ON.

**Mode 2:** Crosshair laser and three alignment lasers ON.

**Mode 3:** Crosshair laser, three alignment lasers, and target backlight ON for night use.



Other modes:

**DT:** Three alignment lasers ON.

**BL:** Backlight ON.

**1L:** Crosshair laser and backlight ON.

**CL:** Three alignment lasers and backlight ON.

Please use the recommended mode in each procedure for best result.

### 2.3. Rough adjustment

Switch the laser to Mode 2, lift the tripod and move the collimator with the tripod to various distances from the wall to see how the crosshair expands and contracts in size at different distances.



### 2.4. Fine adjustment stage adjustment

Place the tripod with collimator back on the ground. Adjust the fine-adjustment stage as follows:

#### **Vertical Adjustment:**

- The large knob on right is for rough adjustment in the vertical direction. Loosen the large knob and level the laser before continuing.

- The forward small knob is for fine adjustment in the vertical (up/down) direction. The large knob must be locked in order to make to use this fine adjustment.

#### **Horizontal Adjustment:**

- The left side small knob is for fine adjustment in the horizontal (left/right) direction.



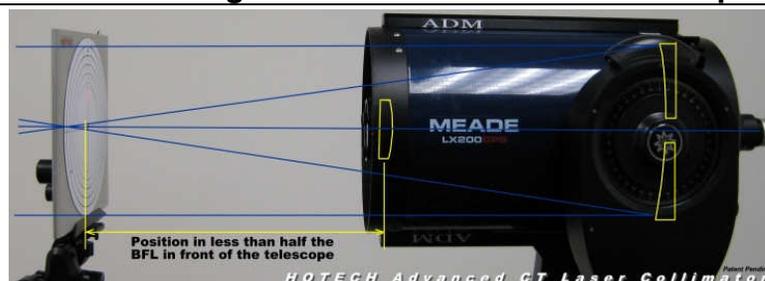
## 3.0. Installing the HyperStar Reflector Mirror Assembly:

### 3.1. Adapting the Dual-Sided Reflector Mirror on the HyperStar

The dual-sided reflector mirror consists of three parts, the adapter ring, the reflector mirror, and the target cap.

- Thread the reflector mirror to the 8", 9.25/11", or 14" adapter ring that comes in a separate box.
- Detach the camera/sensor from the HyperStar.
- Remove the camera attachment ring.
- Thread the reflector mirror assembly onto the HyperStar.

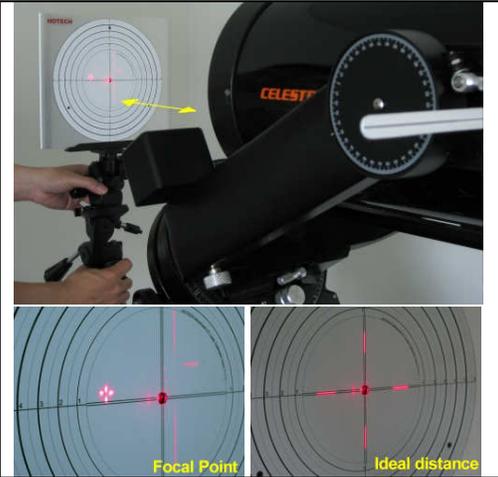
## 4.0. Positioning the Laser Collimator at the Proper Distance



The distance between the laser collimator and your telescope varies depending on the diameter and focal length of your telescope. In general, the greater the distance from the telescope, the higher accuracy you will achieve. In practice, any distance beyond the focal distance will be sufficient. In this procedure, we will identify the best collimating distance for the telescope.

#### 4.1. Determine the distance between the laser collimator and your telescope

- Position the collimator one tube length's distance in front of the telescope with the target display facing the telescope (photo above).
- Switch the collimator to Mode 1 (crosshair laser only).
- Roughly aim the crosshair toward the telescope.
- Experiment with the proper distance by lifting the tripod with the collimator and move the collimator slowly toward and away from the telescope while keeping the reflected crosshair on the target plate. Don't worry about getting the crosshair perfectly centered on the target at this point. In this step, you'll feel how the crosshair contract and expands in size on the target plate in relation between the scope and the collimator.
- Move the collimator to the distance where the crosshair is its smallest. This is the back focal point of the primary mirror. Now, move the target away from the telescope until the crosshair expands to the ring 6.5.
- Firmly position the tripod at this distance. This will be your collimating distance.



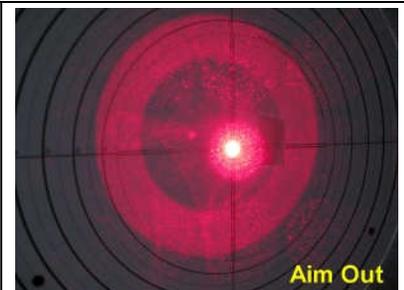
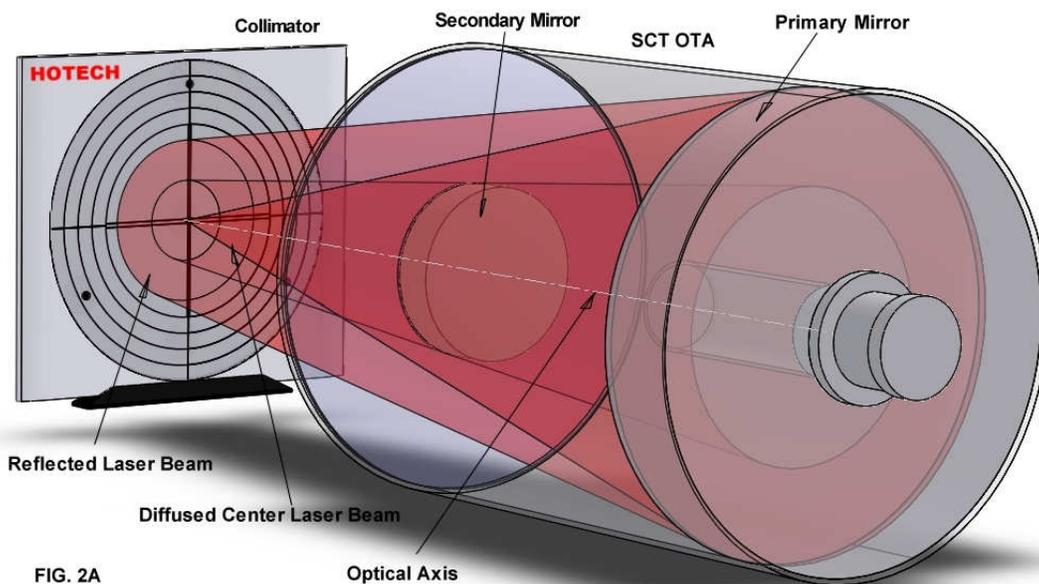
### 5.0. Achieving Co-Alignment on the Collimator and Your Telescope

This is the critical stage where you must co-align the collimator and your telescope on the same axis for an accurate reading of your optical alignment. DO NOT solely rely on centering the crosshair laser on the HyperStar reflector mirror target as the aiming reference since the Hyperstar assembly may be grossly tilted or not positioned in coincident with the telescope optical axis in the initial co-alignment stage.

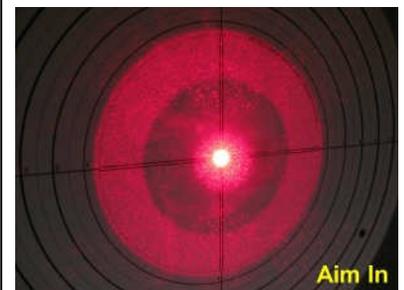
#### 5.1. Center Aim your telescope to the collimator

Using the laser diffuser, the primary mirror reflects the diffused laser back to the collimator target. When the donut shaped reflection is center positioned on the collimator target plate, the telescope is very close to be on the same optical axis of the collimator laser. If the donut edge is too coarse, you may also reference on the outer tip of the crosshair to be on the same ring.

- Stick the provided diffuser (matte-finish tape) in front of the center crosshair laser to diffuse the laser.
- Use the telescope's fine adjustment knob or its hand control to center aim the donut light to an equal on the same target ring (e.g. ring 6.5)
- Adjust one movement at a time, e.g. up/down or left/right, to keep the adjustment in more controllable fashion. For example, move the telescope up/down adjustment to see where the donut light beam moves. Then concentrate on just lining up the top and bottom of the donut to ring 6.5. Once confirmed, adjust left/right controls of the telescope to see where the donut light beam moves, and concentrate on just center aim just the left and right side of the donut to ring 6.5.
- Iterate step (c) to center aim the whole donut on ring 6.5.



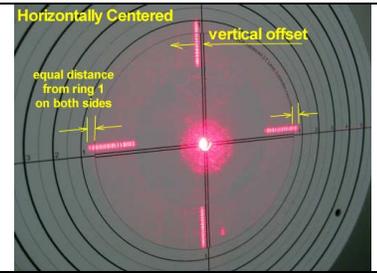
Donut is off from ring 1



Donut is centered

Note: If the diffused light is too dim or coarse to identify, you may remove the diffuser and use the outer tip of the crosshair line as the same edge reference as the donut to line up on ring 6.5 on the target. In this step, ignore the position of the crosshair line to the printed target cross in this step.

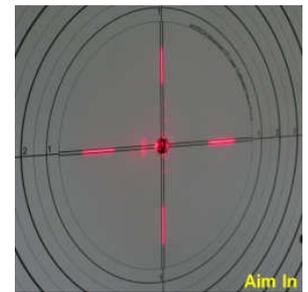
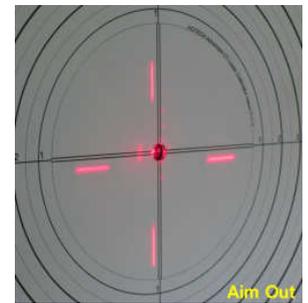
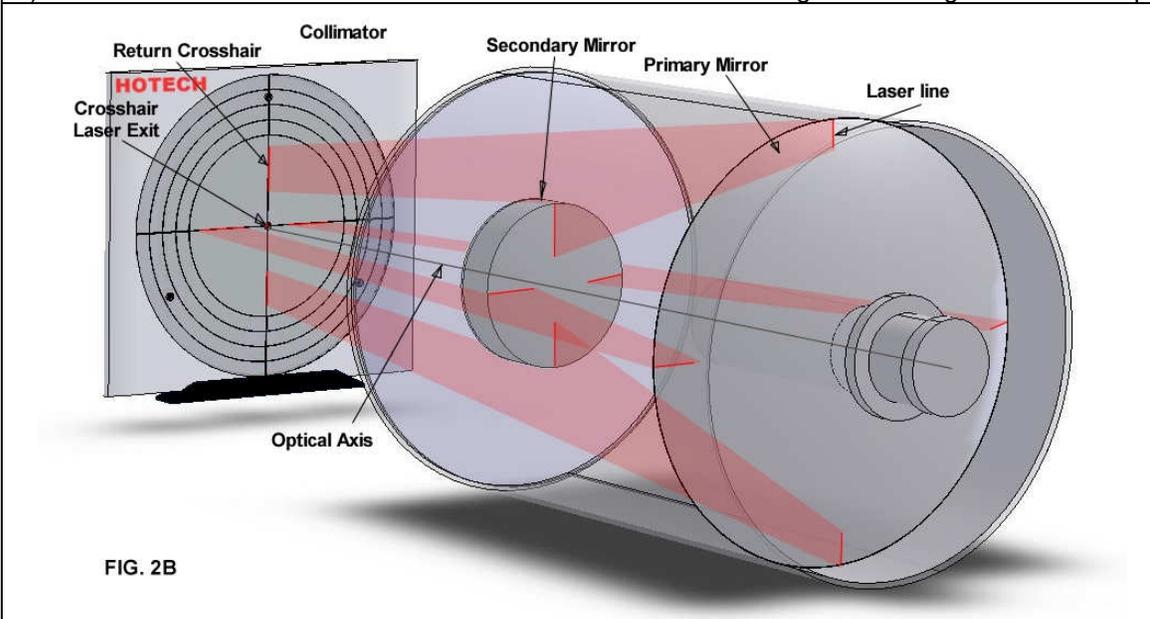
For example, when center aimed (tips to the ring), the horizontal and vertical line may not be aligned on the printed cross line on the target. See photo illustration.



## 5.2. Aim collimator square to the telescope

After the telescope is initially center aimed at the collimator in step 5.1, the collimator will also need to center aim back to via reflection. In this step, you will adjust the aiming of the collimator by referencing the projecting crosshair horizontal & vertical lines to the printed cross on the target.

- Remove the diffuser to see the projecting crosshair.
- Use the fine adjustment knob on the fine adjustment stage to refine the collimator aiming to line up the horizontal & vertical on the target plate cross.
- Again, line up one axis at a time. Start with up/down adjustment, then left/right adjustment.
- Place the diffuser back on the center laser to see if the donut light beam edge is still center positioned.



## 5.3. Co-alignment confirmation

Continue to repeat the procedures in step 5, adjusting telescope and collimator until the donut and the crosshair are all centered on the printed target. When you achieve this, it means both the telescope and the collimator are pointing square at each other; for all intents and purposes, it's as if the telescope were pointed at a distant star. Lock your telescope and you are ready to diagnose your optics.

## 6.0. Setup Reflector Mirror at Focal

With the telescope and collimator properly co-aligned in Step 5, the collimator can accurately reveal collimation status of the telescope. In this step, you will need to position the reflector mirror at focal point to collimate the scope at final view setting.

### 6.1. Locate the three laser dots

- Switch to Mode 2, three lasers and the crosshair, or Mode 3, three lasers with blue panel backlight turned on.
- Observe if the three laser dots are visible on the reflector mirror target cap. If visible, adjust the focus until all three dots converge into a single dot then go to step 7 to begin collimation.
- If the three laser dots are not visible or are only partially visible on the target plate please repeat the co-alignment step 5 to ensure proper alignment.

## 7.0. Collimating the HyperStar Assembly

There are two objectives in this collimation. First is to square up the Hyperstar focal plane to the primary mirror axis (step 7.1) with the assistance of the central crosshair laser. Second is to position the Hyperstar in the optical center of primary mirror axis (step 7.2). The second step requires very minor adjustment (1 to 2mm shift) and which may be very simple to achieve with scope that has built-in center adjustment mechanism (e.g. Celestron EdgeHD). For scopes does not have this feature,

user is required to explore ways to loosen the Hyperstar assembly holder on the corrector plate for re-centering the assembly. Please contact Hotech for additional technical support at [info@hotechusa.com](mailto:info@hotechusa.com).

#### 7.1. Adjusting the HyperStar focal plane

- a). Tilt adjustment is described in the HyperStar collimation manual by adjusting the Push & Pull collimation screws.
- b). Uncap the reflector mirror small target by unthreading the cap. This allows the reflector mirror in the HyperStar to provide direct reflecting to the collimator target. The small crosshair appear on the collimator target represents the tilt angle of the HyperStar focal plan.
- c). Adjust the appropriate push and pull screws on the HyperStar to center the small crosshair onto the center of the collimator target plate.
- d). Iterate this until both crosshair are center projecting on the collimator target panel.

#### 7.1. Calibrating the HyperStar Centration

- a). Cap the small target cap back onto the reflector mirror. Do not over tighten the cap on the reflector mirror.
- b). Identify the three lasers convergence position on the reflector mirror target.
- c). If the converged lasers are on the center of the reflector mirror target, the HyperStar is center positioned in the final optical axis. You have achieved collimation procedure. If not, continue to the next step.

Celestron EdgeHD users (with center available center position adjustments on the HyperStar):

- d). Slightly loosen the corrector retaining ring allowing the centering of the corrector with the HyperStar assembly to center position.
- e). Turn the corresponding corrector plate adjustment screws to shift the three converged lasers into the center of the reflector mirror target.

None Celestron EdgeHD users:

- f). Explore center adjustment options on your scope to find ways to center the HyperStar assembly into the primary optical axis. The adjustment only requires 1 to 2mm adjustment, so you may find the following options to achieve this.
- g). Loosen the HyperStar rotation screw and find any possible shifting you can gain from it and lock on.
- h). Loosen the HyperStar/Secondary mirror holder ring for any possible adjustment.
- i). Loosen the corrector plate in the OTA and shift the corrector plate with the HyperStar installed for possible adjustment.
- J). Contact Hotech technical support for further options.

## 8.0. Verifying and Fine Tuning Collimation

### 8.1. Star test to verify the adjustment

- a). On your first observing session, star test the telescope to verify the adjustments.  
The Advanced CT Laser Collimator should bring excellent collimation to your telescope. Minor adjustment might be required due to temperature variation during a long observing session.
- b). Choose a medium bright star--Polaris is good in the Northern Hemisphere. Defocus the scope a little, just until diffraction rings are seen. The star should look like a little bull's eye.  
Carefully center the star and observe the diffraction rings. If they are concentric, collimation is good. If they are "squashed" on one side, collimation requires further adjustment.