

Autostar Updater Process

Birmingham Astronomical Observatory
Director, David Birmingham
12" f/10 LX200GPS (BeBE) s/n 05008
Supercharged at ASO by Doc Clay, # 243-2012
N 42° 59' 23.1" / W 083° 46' 29.7"

Note: I always set my 'Max Baud Rate (under 'Options' at the top left) to 9,600. It's slow but sure, totally up to you!

- 1.) Hook up the scope and computer.
- 2.) Turn on the scope and after pressing 5 at the sun warning bypass the GPS acquisition by holding <ENTER> for 3 or more seconds. You will be presented with the Alignment > Auto prompt. Here I go back and set the Time and Date just because.
- 3.) Start the ASU program. It's best to expand the window by clicking the Advanced Functions so you have the full view.
- 4.) Get on the Internet, or know where you downloaded and unzipped the 'BuildX' file. (the order of 3 & 4 is up to you)
- 5.) At the upper right you will see 'Autostar Commands' and you need to click the 'Retrieve' button. The program will establish communications with the Autostar and start retrieving the information in it. At the lower left of the ASU window you will see the percentage complete of that retrieval. This might take a few minutes so chill out and get something to drink! When it is done with that process you will see that you get an announcement that the data has successfully retrieved and the 'Handbox' pane on the right now has data showing. You can click on each of the six buttons, Asteroids, Comets, etc., to see that your data is there if you like.
- 6.) Under the 'File' menu option at the top left choose 'Save Hbx Data...' with some sort of name you will recognize later, like "21082002_1.2b". It should be saved in the 'ASU' folder by default.

Okay that's done and its time to get the new build firmware.

- 7.) Just to the right of the Meade logo in the ASU you will see 'Upgrade Autostar Software Now', click it and up pops a window 'Upgrade Autostar Handbox Software'. In this window you will have two choices, 'Internet' or 'Local' for the location of 1.3t, by default it should be set to 'Local'. If you unzipped the 'BuildX' file to the 'Ephemerides' folder you will see it presented in the dropdown window of the 'Local' option. If you haven't downloaded and unzipped it yet then you need to choose 'Internet' and click 'Check WWW for the latest version'. As soon as it's done checking you will see the latest version that is available just about the 'Check...' button.

Note: The top window in the 'Update Autostar Handbox Software' window better say 'Autostar II (LX200 GPS)'.

- 8.) At the bottom of the window is a check box you need to check in front of 'Erase User Banks'.
- 9.) Now click on 'OK' and the lower left will again show the percentage completed, if downloading. of an "Are You Sure..." message.
- 10.) Once completed sending the data to the Autostar it will probably reset itself. If it doesn't you will need to do this manually. I have never had to do the reset, but I have heard reports from others that have.
- 11.) The handbox will end up asking for > State, and > City information along with the usual scope, date, time and so on. Get all of that information back into it via the keypad.
- 12.) Back in the ASU program you now need to open the file you saved earlier in step 6.). Once you have it open the left pane should look exactly like the right, in other words Library and Handbox are identical. Between the two panes you will see arrows under three options, Selected, All, and Refresh. To be sure and get everything select the All option arrows that

point to the right, towards the handbox like >>. When you select the arrows a 'Confirm Object Replace' information window will pop up asking for confirmation of what data to send. Choose 'All Object Types' and click OK.

13.) Up towards the top right of the ASU program under the 'Autostar Commands' click the 'Send' button. A 'Warning' window will pop up letting you know that you are about to replace all objects in the handbox. Click OK once again the ASU program will start sending the data to the handbox displaying the percentage complete in the lower left again. The Handbox window now goes blank as the process is accomplished. While this is completing you will note that the 'Exit' button at the top center of the ASU program is unavailable. We will be using that in just a few minutes, but for now take another break!

14.) When you get the completed message from the ASU program you can now click the 'Exit' button.

You can now verify that everything took. Turn the scope off and back on. After the usual "LX200 GPS © 2002 Meade" display you should see "LX200 GPS Version 1.3t" on the display. Acknowledge the Sun Warning and press > Enter for three or more seconds to bypass the GPS Acquisition and Mode out of the rest of the menu items until you get to "Select Item: Object". From here press the scroll down arrow (lower right of the handbox) twice to "Select Item: Guided Tour". Press > Enter and you should see all of your tours from before the upgrade.

Please go through *ALL* of the user-input data as you did when you first got your scope to make sure everything is correct!

That's it!

Clear, Dark Skies!

Dave