

Re: Southern pole scope alignment

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 - *Date:* Sun, 13 Jan 2008 16:44:57 -0800 (PST)
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On Jan 11, 6:16 am, galwacco <claudio.ferna...@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:
<snip> I have a small scope, 127mm apperture equatorial mount.

[in the southern hemisphere] <snip>
Does anyone know how to align it [in the southern hemisphere]?

Your 127mm scope may or may not have a polar scope included. The polar scope contains a small reticule with a pattern of stars around the south celestial pole marked on it. The full scope is aligned by rotating the reticule and turning the mount bolts until the stars match the pattern. If your scope does not have a polar scope or if it does not have a southern hemisphere reticule, it is possible to buy a bolt-on polar alignment scope that has a south pole alignment reticule. See –

http://www.jimsmobile.com/spec_polar_scopes.htm

In general, for the polar alignment to accurately point the scope for visual observing, the error in your polar alignment needs to be within less than 10 arcminutes accurate, something that your estimation method may not achieve.

For more local hands-on training, try your local astronomy club like the:

Clube de Astronomia de São Paulo
<http://tech.groups.yahoo.com/group/C-A-S-P/>
<http://www.astrocasp.com.br/>

Or their web site will probably be able to link you to the club closest to your home.

The Amateur Astronomy Club of Buenos Aires in Argentina is also active
–

www.caifa.com.ar:

– and may be able to direct you to the club in Brazil that is closest

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to your home.

After you find a local club, I'm sure someone in your local club will be happy to meet with you and show you the proper alignment procedure for the southern hemisphere.

– Canopus56

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