

Optec Alt-Azimuth De-rotation Server

New Version 2.0 Alt-Az De-rotation Server software

Key differences between the older and new versions:

Optec Alt-Az Derotation Server Software version 1.xx

V1 Alt-Az software will de-rotate the Pyxis at the correct rate for the current rotation angle. ACP or other client software must set the (instrumental) rotator angle for a suitable guide star and apply any offset for the current Sky PA after a slew. When de-rotation is active, the Alt-Az server reports a changing instrument angle when tracking. This can cause problems when clients such as ACP continually attempt to “correct” the instrument angle.

Optec Alt-Az De-rotation Server Software version 2.xx

V2 Alt-Az software will de-rotate the Pyxis at the correct rate for the current rotation angle PLUS maintain the Sky PA during a slew. That is, the rotator angle reported through ASCOM to higher level clients will remain consistent unless the “Inhibit Rotate during Slews” is enabled (coming in version 2.0.1). This major change will allow the entire mount plus rotator system to appear to behave more like an equatorial mount. When de-rotation is active, the Alt-Az server reports a constant instrument angle that includes the parallactic angle.

We hope these change reduce some of the confusion caused to users after a slew.

IMPORTANT NOTE: The rotation direction or Reverse Property must be set correctly for the Alt-Az server to function properly.

IMPORTANT NOTE 2: Because ASCOM does not include rotator offsets in the iRotatorV2 Interface standard, there is no way for a client to pass an offset back down to the driver. As a result, multiple clients may display different position angles when connected.

WE RECOMMEND USING ONLY ONE ASCOM CLIENT WHEN APPLYING OFFSETS.

For Alt-Az configuration, that single ASCOM client should be configured to communicate with the Optec Alt-Az Server Software driver for both mount and rotator.

Finally, there is a bug in TheSky X in which the software does not apply the rotator offset properly and may display an incorrect value in the Rotator panel after a plate-solve (Image Link). This occurs with the ASCOM driver or with the native X2 driver. X2 does not function with Optec’s Alt-Az De-rotation Server software at this time.