

Cleaning the mirrors on CDK telescopes

There are a lot of opinions on cleaning mirrors. Ours is a pretty basic procedure and conservative procedure. You will need:

- 1 – Compressed air
- 2 – Camel hair brush (you may bypass this but it is a great tool to have)
- 3 – Cotton balls
- 4 – Non-scented Kleenex
- 5 – Distilled Water
- 6 – Liquid dish soap (non-waxy)
- 7 – Isopropyl Alcohol
- 8 – Paper towels (not for touching the optics, just soaking up water)

Procedure:

- 1 - Point the telescope a couple degrees below horizontal, meaning the front end of the telescope should be slightly lower than the back end. This is to keep the water from flowing into the back of the telescope.
- 2 – Put some paper towels inside the carbon fiber light shroud on the bottom side to absorb excess water that runs off the mirror onto the tube.
- 3 – Using the compressed air, blow off dust and the larger particles on the surface of the mirror. NOTE: Do not shake the bottle of air and follow the directions so as not to expel liquids compounds from the bottle. Do a test spray of air before blowing on the mirror)
- 4 – If you have a camel hair brush (commonly used for camera lenses), brush off remaining dust and particles.
- 5 – Mix two drops of dish soap (non-waxy type) to one quart of distilled water to make a cleaning solution. (Note: too much dish soap can leave a residue)
- 6 – Clean the worst spots first. Wet a cotton ball in the mixture and drag it across the section you are cleaning in straight lines. Dragging with nearly no pressure is the best way to clean. If the spot you are cleaning requires more pressure than just use enough pressure to remove the spot. Try to roll the cotton ball up and away from the mirror while lightly dragging, so that dirt does not get trapped under the cotton ball and dragged across the mirror. Throw away used cotton balls and continue with fresh ones.
- 7 – Now clean the rest of the mirror with wetted Kleenex. Again, drag the wetted Kleenex in straight lines, trying to roll the Kleenex up and away from the mirror.
- 8 – The distilled water mixture should dry with no spots, so at this point you may be finished.
- 9 – If you have more problem spots or if the distilled mixture left some spots, you can clean with an alcohol mixture. You should mix a 50/50 alcohol to distilled water mixture.

Any excess moisture should have found its way to the bottom of the carbon fiber lower light shroud and onto the paper towels. Wipe up the excess cleaning mixture with the towels, being careful not to wipe the mirror itself with a paper towel.

A similar procedure can be used on the secondary mirror. Note that you should point the telescope a few degrees **above** the horizon when cleaning the secondary so that excess water does not run back behind this mirror.