

# Manual for the Baader SkySurfer III

Congratulations on your purchase of a SkySurfer III red dot finder. With the diverse adaptation possibilities, the large dew-cap and the additional function as solar finder, it will help to find your goals in the sky quickly with many telescopes or spotting scopes. The high-quality coating allows you to see also fainter stars, whose light would be swallowed in red dot finders with shiny red, military style toy coating.

## Scope of delivery



- |  |                                  |
|--|----------------------------------|
| ① – SkySurfer III Red Dot Finder               | ⑤ – Adapter for large telescopes |
| ② – Adapter for standard-finder-base           | ⑥ – Adapter for binoculars       |
| ③ – Adapter for smaller telescopes             | ⑦ – Adapter for spotting scopes  |
| ④ – Intermediate adapter for larger telescopes | ⑧ – Cleaning cloth               |

## Control elements of the SkySurfer III



- a – Fixing screws of the clamping jaws  
b – On/Off, dimmer switch  
c – Adjusting screw for altitude

- d – Adjusting screw for azimuth  
e – Dew cap with optical window  
f – Solar finder

## Installation on a telescope

The SkySurfer III can be mounted on a variety of devices. By loosening the two screws a) slightly, you can slide it onto the dovetail of the adapter you need. Then tighten the two screws by hand. You can now attach the adapter to the respective device.

### Installation on a standard finder base

Attach adapter ② at the SkySurfer. Loosen the clamping screw on the finder base of the telescope so far that you can insert the adapter without resistance until it stops, and then clamp it with the fixing screw. Alternatively, you can use this adapter also with the Baader standard basis #245 7000, which fits rigid at each radius above 150mm, even on a flat surface.



### Installation on a small or mid-size telescope without standard finder base

Either remove the original viewfinder together with its base, or use the mounting screws that are intended for mounting the viewfinder. If necessary, take a look at the manual of your telescope, so you do not remove the wrong screws or let nuts fall into the tube. Make sure that you do not use screws with the wrong length on Schmidt-Cassegrain and Maksutov telescopes, otherwise you might damage the primary mirror, which moves back and forth directly underneath the finder base when you focus. Then attach the viewfinder to the adapter ③ on the tube and tighten the screws by hand.



For larger tubes, insert the intermediate adapter ④ between tube and adapter ③ (as shown in the image).

### Installation on a large telescope

For larger devices, use the adapter ⑤. It allows a very low adaptation of the finder. Either remove the original viewfinder including its base or locate the fixing screws that are intended for mounting the viewfinder. If necessary, take a look at the manual of your telescope, so you do not remove the wrong screws or let nuts fall into the tube. Make sure that you do not use screws with the wrong length on Schmidt-Cassegrain and Maksutov telescopes, otherwise you might damage the primary mirror, which moves back and forth directly underneath the finder base when you focus.



## Installation on a pair of binoculars



If your binoculars are attached via a photo screw on the front of the middle bridge and an angular or L-adapter on a tripod, attach the SkySurfer III on the adapter ⑥. Run the fastening screw of the tripod adapter through the hole of SkySurfer adapter and screw both on your binoculars. So you can use the SkySurfer also with large binoculars with a small field of view. On binocu-



lars, which are focused with a center wheel, the adapter should face forward so that it does not impede the operation (left picture). In binoculars with individual focusing it can also be face backwards (right picture).

## Installation on a spotting scope

Use adapter ⑦ to use the SkySurfer with a spotting scope. Place the adapter plate between the spotting scope and the mounting plate or quick release plate of your tripod. You can attach the viewfinder to the right or left side, depending on how you turn the adapter plate.

Caution: Make sure that the mounting screw is long enough to keep your spotting scope safely even with the adapter. He has an additional thickness of 2.5 mm. The length of the mounting screws is not standardized.

Also, make sure that the thread of your spotting scope is not damaged or is located too deep in the housing. Especially threads that were cut in injection molding can easily break. Check before use if the spotting scope is securely mounted on the tripod. We can assume no liability for damage caused by a too short fastening screw or a defective thread.



## First use and alignment of the finder

Your SkySurfer is shipped with a pre-installed Lithium-eyepiece. Before first use, you may need to remove the plastic separator which sits between the battery and the electric contacts.

Point your telescope, binoculars or spotting scope at a distant object. A tower or a prominent mountain on the horizon is ideal. Center it in the eyepiece.

Now turn the SkySurfer III on by turning the wheel b. You'll hear a clicking sound when you turn it on. If you look from some distance into the finder, you should see the red dot. Turn the wheel all the way to the maximum brightness; at night you can also set a weaker brightness. (If you can't see the red dot even from different angles, please replace the CR-2032-battery. If this doesn't help, please contact your dealer.) With the wheels c and d, you can move the position of the beam spot until it is exactly on the object that you see in the eyepiece.

Check the adjustment occasionally, especially if you detach the viewfinder for the transport of the device. Turn it off after use by turning the wheel b counterclockwise until it clicks into the off position. This also expands the battery lifetime.

## Solar finder

The two tube halves make a useful solar finder if you observe the sun with an front filter or a Herschel wedge without built-in ceramic solar finder. With the shadow cast by the front part of the dew cap on the rear, you can easily locate the sun. You only need to bring the round shadow of the front tube in coverage with the rear of the SkySurfer, then you will already see the sun in the eyepiece. In the left picture the sun is correctly centered and the shadow falls exactly on



the rear barrel. On the right is the sight when the sun is not centered and the shadow only cuts the rear ring (yellow arrow). You may need to re-adjust the viewfinder for solar observation, or mark the intersections of the shadow on the rear section.

Please follow the safety instructions of your telescope when you observe the Sun. You can find safe solar filters on <http://astrosolar.com>.

## Further tips

Turn off the SkySurfer III whenever you are not using it. If the battery should run empty during a night, you don't have to go home: You can use the two parts of the dew cap as simple sight tube, so you may still find your targets even if the battery is empty. With the optional standard finder base #245 7000 (pictured right), you can equip many telescopes with a quick-change base. This way you can remove the finder when you transport the telescope.



## Camera-/Hot Shoe Adapter



Some telescope dealers offer hot shoe adapters which you can use to mount the SkySurfer III on a DSLR. This way, you can point your DSLR at any target, even if you can't see the stars in the finder or display of your camera. Simply mount the SkySurfer III on the hot shoe adapter like on any of the other adapters, and then attach the adapter to your camera's hot shoe.

Do not use it as a carrying handle!

## Troubleshooting

In rare cases, it may not be possible to align the red dot with the target. Then you can try to rotate the base or the clamping jaws by 180°. This way, irregularities in the finder base may be compensated.

This manual and all texts are protected by international copyright laws. No part of this document or its wording shall be copied by third parties. Any reproduction, duplication, electronic copying, transfer into other media or into the Internet or intranet, or other means of publication - even in part and regardless of the layout - are explicitly prohibited and will be prosecuted by law.

(c) 2023 by Baader Planetarium GmbH, Mammendorf



# BAADER PLANETARIUM G M B H

Zur Sternwarte 4 • D-82291 Mammendorf • Tel. +49 (0)8145/8089-0 • Fax +49 (0)8145/8089-105  
Baader-Planetarium.com • kontakt@baader-planetarium.de • Celestron-Deutschland.de