



Controlling an Orion IntelliScope Dobsonian with an iOS Device using the StarSeek Telescope Control Cable

To control an Orion IntelliScope Dob with an Orion StarSeek app running on an iOS device (Apple iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch), you will need either the StarSeek Wi-Fi Module – the wireless solution – or the more economical StarSeek Telescope Control Cable (TCC). For the Wi-Fi module, refer to the Tech Note entitled “Controlling an Orion IntelliScope Dobsonian Wirelessly with an iOS Device using the StarSeek Wi-Fi Module.”

To use the TCC with an IntelliScope you will also need an Orion IntelliScope-to-PC serial cable (#5222), which is sold separately. Plug the DB-9 end of the TCC into the mating DB-9 end of the IntelliScope-to-PC cable, as shown in the picture below. Then, plug the “handset” (RJ-22) connector of the IntelliScope-to-PC cable into the serial port of the IntelliScope computerized object locator (COL). Plug the docking connector of the TCC into your iOS device.

Now follow the start-up procedure outlined in the instructions for the TCC. Once you have successfully

established the connection between the COL and your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch, and you have completed the two-star alignment using the IntelliScope COL, you will no longer use the COL for object location. But it must remain powered on!

NOTE: After completing the two-star alignment of the IntelliScope, be sure to press the FCN button on the COL, and leave it in that mode. (The COL will display the RA and Dec coordinates and the scope’s altitude and azimuth.) If you don’t, the telescope cursor on the StarSeek app either may not move at all or will move only after a delay of several seconds after the telescope has been moved.

Using the StarSeek app (Std, Pro, or Max) to “point” an IntelliScope Dob is a slightly different experience from pointing a GoTo telescope, or even from using the IntelliScope with the COL alone. In fact, the GoTo button on the StarSeek app’s Telescope Control screen will not be active. To go to an object, you select one from StarSeek’s object menu, or tap on an object on the phone’s display, then widen the scale of the star chart, i.e., zoom out, to show both the position where your telescope is currently pointed (telescope cursor) and the selected object. Then move the telescope manually so that the telescope cursor moves toward, and eventually lands on, the selected object. You can then zoom in on the target object (using a reverse pinch motion on the iOS device’s screen) to more precisely superimpose the telescope cursor on the object.

NOTE: Be aware that the IntelliScope COL is programmed to shut off after sitting idle for 50 minutes, to preserve battery life. So when using an i-device as your “controller,” be sure to press the FCN button on the IntelliScope controller before 50 minutes has elapsed to extend the ON time for another 50 minutes. If the controller does turn off, you will need to repeat the initial alignment procedure.

