

USING TARGET: SAT TO POSITION TELESCOPES

The same applications of Target: Sat apply to positioning of Telescopes to see satellites as well as receiving signals from satellites using satellite antennas .

First go through all the steps necessary to receive satellite signals from a chosen location .Once you are assured that the line of sight is free from obstacles for all satellites positions, then proceed with set up of your telescope at that point. Using the Spacecraft Targeting Platform Program, you can determine each azimuth and elevation position then print them out. Choosing a location for your telescope is much easier now than before because you now have a preview of each location you wish to view to check for a clear view before setting your telescope in place. Satellite positions most easily viewable are located on the Clarke belt, which is an equatorial ring around the planet at the 22,300 mile distance and remain fixed in position with the speed of the earth. This allows them to be viewed easily because they remain fixed in the sky at one certain point. Those satellites that are not fixed position are called inclined orbit or polar orbit and move across the sky during a certain time period in a north/ south or east/ west direction. Positioning of the declination slider on Target:Sat at zero is necessary on the Target: Sat if you wish to view only those positions not located on the Clarke belt. These are more difficult to view because your telescope must be fixed at a certain elevation and azimuth for it to catch a glimpse of the target as it passes by your location at a certain time period. The same also applies to both the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. Target: Sat is used to make sure your intended location viewing direction is free of obstacles at that period and through the course of the time those moving targets are available for viewing .An internet link is provided to Fourmi labs for viewing applications of this nature .The link is located on the Spacecraft Targeting Platform program and will provide all satellite locations around the world with the orbit degree slot for use with the Targeting platform program.

Telescopes are fun and with Target: Sat to provide an accurate location for the telescope to rest, more enjoyment than ever is realized from your telescope. Costly installation time of the telescope is reduced greatly allowing more time for what the telescope was intended for; viewing things out of this world!.