

Schulman Telescope Hand Paddle

The hand paddle used at the Schulman Telescope is technically an non-optimized device for the LCOGT controller. The controller (like most of its kind) was designed for semi-professional operation and research and not so much for “starparty” type usage. Thus this paddle has some “features” that should be known before using it.



- The Red button at the top of the paddle is an Emergency Stop (E-Stop) plunger. Pressing this button will de-energize the brakes (causing them to clamp down) and disconnect the drives from the telescope. The E-stop plunger on the [telescope controller](#) works in the same way.
- Moving the joystick will send commands to the controller to move the telescope. In this implementation moving the joystick will result in a single commanded JOG (moving the telescope of a set number of arcminutes). The behavior is NOT as is customary with the paddle moving the telescope continuously while using the joystick (like a remote controlled toy or video game). Holding the joystick in a particular direction will not initiate further motion. The joystick must be permitted to return to the neutral (central) position for another JOG. In addition, a first JOG must be completed with the telescope settling to the new position before another JOG will be possible.

- The magnitude of the JOG is determined by adjusting the not-currently-well-named *SPEED* knob. Recommended JOG magnitudes for centering in an eyepiece are 1-5. The largest jogs move the telescope a degree or more. If the telescope servos are not tuned properly (or the telescope is out-of-balance) this can be problematic.
- The other knobs and buttons are not currently in service (including the station, “Fast”, or “Next/park”).

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Last update: **2016/11/04 19:15**

