Thank you for purchasing the Tele Vue-NP127is. It has been our pleasure to craft this fine instrument for you. Nearly thirty years ago, Al Nagler received a U.S. patent for a fast, refracting telescope design based on Josef Petzval’s portrait camera lens concept. Petzval’s design uses widely spaced doublets to produce a flat focal plane over a relatively narrow field of view, just the sort of field a fast telescope can see. Nagler’s combination of flat-field, fast focal ratio, and unobstructed system lent itself perfectly for testing eyepieces.

The 5” f/4 MPT (Multi-Purpose Telescope) with its fast speed and wide flat field, led to a series of continuous improvements, primarily in color correction. The “Halley Comemorative,” 4” f/5.5 started the parade where more advanced glasses including special dispersion, fluorite and fluorite substitute glasses brought steady improvements. The 4” f/5 Genesis employed fluorite in the rear doublet, and the subsequent SDF and Tele Vue-101 versions at f/5.4 brought us even closer to perfection. Maintaining this fast f/5.4 speed while reducing tube length in a totally new design with new glasses allowed virtually ideal color correction and improved field flatness in this, the ideal form culminating the 20 year refinement toward perfection with the Nagler-Petzval 101, and NP127 with an even faster f/5.2 speed.

The Tele Vue-NP127is refines the original NP127 with the addition of a more robust, larger focuser now standard with 10:1 reduction. The “is” designation denotes Imaging System, Tele Vue telescopes with specific mechanical advantages for photography. Tele Vue offers a series of accessories in conjunction with each optical system so you are assured of compatibility and maximum performance. While the NP127is maintains all the visual prowess of the previous NP127, the larger rear elements and larger focuser along with a host of proprietary Imaging System accessories, make it ideally suited for the CCD imager.

**WARNING:** NEVER try to look at the sun or point the telescope toward or near the sun without professional solar observing equipment rigidly secured in front of the objective lens. When observing the sun with the proper filters, remove any sighting devices such as Starbeam from the telescope. Use only the Tele Vue Sol Searcher to find the sun. Instant and permanent eye damage may result from viewing the sun directly, even during a solar eclipse, or when viewing through thin clouds, or when the sun is near the horizon.

Standard Features - Optical tube assembly includes: captive sliding dew shield, 2.4” focuser with Focusmate 10:1 reduction, tilt adjustment end ring, screw-on metal lens cover, 2” Accessory Adapter, Imaging System Adapter, custom hard-shell case, Allen Keys for end ring tilt adjustment.
1.0 Getting Acquainted with the Tele Vue-NP127is

1.1 Optical tube assembly
The NP optical design contains four elements consisting of two widely spaced, air-spaced doublet groups. The forward group of lenses are contained in a stainless steel lens cell. The cell attaches to the main tube via three alignment screws. The front cell is encased within the sliding dew shield. The rear doublet, making up the rest of the objective, is larger in diameter than the previous NP127 and provides additional illumination at the edge of the field. This benefit is especially useful for large format CCD chips which are extremely sensitive to light fall-off. The rear lens group is housed in the cell that threads between the back of the tube and the focuser. Never stick any long objects into the focuser or you will hit the rear-most lens surface.

1.2 Focuser
The 2.4” output side of the NP127is focuser is designed to pass all of the field rays exiting the rear elements of the objective, as the forward end of the draw tube has a 3” internal diameter. A larger focuser, therefore, lends no additional illumination benefit.

The NP127is is shipped in its “visual” configuration. The 2” Accessory Adapter sits within the 2.4” inside diameter of the drawtube. Thumb screws pass through both the drawtube and adapter to cinch a brass clamp ring around 2” accessories. With three thumb screws there is enough holding power for the heaviest of visual accessories!

The two tension screws on the top of the focuser body can be adjusted to add resistance when using heavy equipment. These tension screws tighten against a brass clamp ring in which the draw tube slides. For photography it is not necessary to tighten beyond the need to keep a camera stationary but we do recommend to tighten them in unison to avoid any focus shift. Note that even when sufficiently tight, the focuser knobs can still drive the draw tube.

The end ring can be adjusted (and locked) to compensate for any tilt effects seen in CCD imaging. Lock screws in the end of the draw tube tighten against either the taper of the
Imaging System Adapter or brass clamp ring within the 2” Accessory Adapter. The threaded holes on top of the focuser body accept the Digital Indicator Kit.

Operation of the rack and pinion focuser is via the 10:1 ratio Focusmate on the right side or either of the 1:1 knobs. You might consider the optional Focusmate Driver for vibration-free focus control.

2.0 Mounting Options and Set Up
The telescope tube diameter is 5”. The dual ring MRS-5000 is suited for photography and CCD imaging with a variety of adapter plates that can be bolted to the base plate. The base plate also bolts to the Tele Vue Gibraltar5 Alt-Az mount if a more travel-friendly, visual use mount is desired. Each tube ring has two machined channels with #10-32 threaded holes for mounting accessories. A central bar spans across the top of the two rings for added stability.

The bottom of the tube rings have ¼-20 holes to accept mounting studs or screws. Telescope balance is achieved by unlocking the “bat handle” screws and sliding the tube fore or aft. Once the O.T.A. is repositioned, retighten the bat handle screws.

3.0 Visual Observing Set Up
As previously mentioned, the NP127is is shipped in its “visual” configuration. If you have removed the 2” Accessory Adapter and would like to re-install it, loosen the three end ring lock screws sufficiently to remove any accessory that may be in place. However, do not retract them fully into the end ring. By allowing them to protrude into the body (note photo below), they act as locators. Looking at the 2” Accessory Adapter, note the three grooves with holes machined 120° apart. The grooves help index the holes in the adapter to the three thumb screw arrangement in the end ring. This will ease installation in the dark. Insert the 2” Accessory Adapter into the end of the focuser. If it does not go all the way in, rotate the adapter. When the grooves in the adapter align with the protruding screws, the adapter will seat fully into the focuser. Tighten the three screws a few turns so they enter the holes in the adapter. The lock screws will now act against the brass clamp ring in the 2” Accessory Adapter.

Slip a Tele Vue 2” Everbrite diagonal into the focuser and tighten the lock screws. You will now be able to reach focus with any Tele Vue eyepiece.

IMPORTANT CAUTION: When replacing the orange plastic plug into the 2” Accessory Adapter, push it in far enough to seat. Do not use the lock screws to clamp the plug in place as the clamp screws will distort the brass clamp ring in the 2” accessory adapter.

3.1 Eyepieces
With its wide, highly corrected, flat field and fast f/ratio, the NP127is puts eyepieces to the test. This scope demonstrates the superiority of Tele Vue eyepiece performance and, with a range of 12x to 330x (if the atmosphere allows) there is a magnification for all purposes. See chart at the end of this manual or call Tele Vue for recommendations. In general, we suggest choosing low and medium power eyepieces in ratios of field stop diameters. For example, factors of 1.4 or 2.0. When choosing higher power eyepieces, use ratios of magnification. (See reference chart in the “Choosing Your Eyepieces” article.)
3.2 Finders
We particularly recommend using the Starbeam reflex sight (part# SFT-2003), which attaches to the Tube Rings. The case has a cutout for the Starbeam. The Quick Release Universal Finder Bracket (QFM-1008) can hold a traditional 50mm finderscope and also attaches to the mount ring channels.

4.0 Photographic Set Up and the Tele Vue Imaging System
Tele Vue Imaging System Accessories provide solid threaded connections between components. To use these accessories requires the insertion of the Imaging System Adapter (ISA) into the focuser. You will find the ISA in the accessory compartment in the lid of the telescopes case. To install the ISA, first back off the three Lock Screws far enough to pull the 2” Accessory Adapter out from the drawtube to reveal the 2.4” diameter. Store the adapter in the accessory compartment in the case.

You will then need to back out the screws further so their ends are flush with the inside diameter of the End Ring. Insert the ISA and tighten the three Lock Screws located equidistant around the end ring.

The Imaging System’s threaded accessories provide a variety of options for camera adaptation and focal length variation. The goal of Tele Vue’s Imaging System is to let you pursue your astrophotographic passion with ease, by providing accessories designed to work together. The following summary of parts and pictorial diagram will help you understand each part’s use and its sequence in the chain. Please note that spacing requirements of any particular camera will need to be met by the appropriate Imaging System spacer or combination of spacers.
LCL-1069 Large Field Corrector

- Optimizes edge of field performance. Recommended for 35mm CCDs (43mm diagonal) and larger.
- NPR-1073 – 0.8x Reducer for NP and NPis series telescopes
- Recommended for increasing field with APS size formats (27mm diagonal)
- Constructed to fit both standard 2” focuser NP scopes (RAD-1074 required) and the threaded “NPis” accessories on the input end. Requires either CWT-2070, STL-1071, or TRG-1072 to connect to camera.
STL-1071 – SBIG STL series camera adapter
• This adapter is sized to thread directly onto the STL series cameras and mates with Imaging System accessories.

TRG-1072 – Standard T-ring adapter
• This is the most restrictive of adapters as it has the smallest inside diameter. Recommended for use with APS size or smaller chips.

CWT-2070 – Canon Wide T Adapter
• Adapts Imaging System Accessories to Canon DSLRs. Includes Canon Bayonette mount.
• Eliminates the inner portion of Canon Trings to provide a larger diameter opening for reduced vignetting.

AD2-1110 – Apogee U47-D2 Camera Adapter
A2A-1107 – 2” Accessory Adapter
• Use for cameras with 2” nosepiece or any other 2” accessory. (Extension tubes may be required to reach focus.)
• Dual thumb-screws and clamp ring for positive locking.

AFT-1105 – 48mm Filter adapter
• Allows use of 48mm filters in the system.
• Best if used closest to the chip to minimize any vignetting
• Adds 0.25” of spacing.

TLA-0250 – 0.250” (6.4mm) Extension Tube
TLB-0375 – 0.375” (9.5mm) Extension Tube
TLC-0500 – 0.500” (12.7mm) Extension Tube
TLD-1000 – 1.000” (25.4mm) Extension Tube
TLF-0040 – 0.040” (1.0mm) Spacer
TLG-0080 – 0.080” (2.0mm) Spacer
TLS-1121 – Set of TLF-0040 and TLG-0080.
TLS-2245 – Set of all six.
• Threaded coupling provides the necessary distance for proper spacing of field lenses to chip. Required spacers will vary depending on camera specifications.
• Black anodized aluminum with anti-reflection threads for maximum contrast.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component Recommendations for Top Performance at Prime Focus</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Recommended Maximum CCD/film diagonal</strong></td>
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</table>
4.1 Adjustable Position End Ring
The tilt of the End Ring to the optical axis can be changed to compensate for any tilt errors you may see in your photography.

To determine which way to tilt the End Ring, it is necessary to focus on the part of the image that comes to focus first when racking out the focuser from its “in” position. That will permit adjusting, or “jacking,” the End Ring “out” to match that focus point in the field.

You will need to remove your camera equipment, including the Imaging System Adapter to adjust the tilt of the End Ring. Slightly loosen the three Jamb Screws located on the face of the End Ring with the appropriate Allen key. Then, “jack” the End Ring to the desired position using the appropriate Allen key Jack Screws. Tighten the Jamb Screws against the End Ring and reinstall your camera. Some trial and error imaging will be necessary, so it is best to carry out any necessary adjustment during an imaging session.

4.2 Prime Focus
Prime focus photography involves attaching a camera, without its lens, to the telescope. In this method the telescope becomes the camera’s lens. In the case of the NP127is, it is a 660mm focal length, f/ 5.2 telephoto. It is the focal length of the telescope in combination with the diagonal dimension of the CCD chip or film frame that will determine the amount of field your photograph will cover. The shorter the focal length or larger the diagonal dimension, the greater the field that will be recorded.

The parts necessary for Prime Focus photography are: camera with T-ring, appropriate T-ring adapter, Extension Spacers, Imaging System adapter, telescope.

To obtain the best edge sharpness with CCD chips 30mm or larger, use the Large Field Corrector (LCL-1069) in the configuration listed on page 6.

The recommendations in the chart and diagrams are specifically for SLR (digital or film), Apogee and SBIG STL series cameras. If you have a different camera, you will need to determine the spacing necessary to achieve reference distance from the seat of the Large Field Corrector to the CCD chip. These spacers will be added between the seat of the Large Field Corrector and the face of your camera. Check the Tele Vue website for on-going camera updates.

To start, you need to know the distance from the chip to the faceplate of the camera. This should be specified in the camera’s documentation; call your camera’s manufacturer if it is not. The equation is simply 2.6” — Chip to faceplate distance = additional spacer length required. There is enough tolerance in this value that using threaded Imaging System extension tubes along with 0.040” and 0.080” spacers to bring you as close as possible will work fine.

4.2a) To gain more field with chips APS size and smaller, use the 0.8x Reducer (NPR-1073). While the reducer can be used with larger formats, noticeable vignetting will occur. The standard technique of “flat fielding” should compensate. The arrangement of parts necessary for Prime Focus photography with the 0.8x Reducer is: camera with T-ring, appropriate T-ring adapter, NPR-1073, Extension Spacers to minimize draw tube out-travel, Imaging System adapter, telescope. The equation to figure the proper spacing between the 0.8X Reducer and the CCD chip is: 2.44” — Chip to faceplate distance = additional spacer length required.

4.2b) To gain more magnification, the 2x (PMT-2200) and 4x (PMT-4201) Powermates are recommended for best performance. Start by inserting the 2” Accessory Adapter into the end of the focuser. (Since increasing the magnification will reduce the field, the large opening provided by the Imaging System Adapter is of no benefit.) The arrangement of parts necessary is: camera with a T-ring attached, Powermate with corresponding T-ring adapter (PTR-2200 or PTR-4201) attached, 3.5” Extension Tube (X3C-0009), telescope.

There are certainly a variety of ways of setting up the Tele Vue-NP127is for photography!
5.0 Imaging System Focus Accessories

5.1 All Tele Vue telescopes with rack and pinion focusers now permit the photographer to index focus position to within 0.00005" by means of a digital indicator. Mounting points are provided on top of the focuser body and end of the draw tube for easy installation of the various Digital Indicator Kits. Using the Digital Indicator provides a convenient way of finding best focus, returning to it, or checking that it hasn't changed.

Choose either the 10 Micron (0.0004") Indicator Kit (LMK-2404) or the 1 micron Indicator Kit (LMF-2405) depending on the accuracy desired. Both indicators have 0.5" motion ranges and accept an RS-232 output cable for displaying readout on computer. The 10 foot long RS-232 Output Cable (RSC-2320) permits remote indicator readout on computer screen via downloadable software from the Tele Vue website (www.TeleVue.com). The cable also provides power to the indicator.

5.2 The Focusmate Driver for the NP127is (FDF-2004) electronically drives the fine focus knob of the Focusmate in steps of approximately 0.0005" per button click. With the button depressed, the motor drives the Focusmate continuously without vibration transferred to the system. Motor speed is variable. The motor has a standard phone jack that will accept a cord of any length. Remote control is possible. Contact Tele Vue for further details.

5.3 The Tele Vue Imaging System comes full circle when you add the Focusmaster (FMU-2319) to your system. The Focusmaster is the communication gateway for the Digital Indicator Kit and the Focusmate Driver to become a “closed-loop” focusing system with your camera and camera control software. Converge focus quickly on the base of the “V” curve to within a micron when using our 1-micron indicator... you just can’t do this by hand!

6.0 Caring for your NP127is

The Tele Vue-NP127is requires no special care. Treat it as you would any fine camera lens. Use the lens cap when the telescope is being stored or not in use. The captive dew shield provides protection from glare, helps protect the lens from dust or spray blown in by the wind and minimizes dew formation on the lens.

If dew forms on the lens during cold weather, it is best to use a hair dryer (on the lowest setting) to gently warm it away. A few specks of dust will have no effect on image quality and may be gently blown off with a squeeze bulb. Do not use compressed air cans to blow dust off optical surfaces.

Fingerprints, however should be cleaned off. Though the anti-reflection coatings are durable, they are easily scratched. The simplest cleaning method is to moisten (not soak) a very soft, lint-free tissue, cloth, “Q-Tip” or surgical cotton with a lens or glass cleaner and gently whisk away the stain. Do not apply any solutions directly to the glass surfaces. After every cleaning stroke, use a fresh applicator. The fewer strokes the better! Any residual “film” will not affect visual performance.

Collimation of your Tele Vue-NP127is has been locked at the factory. With reasonable care it will remain aligned. However, rough handling can cause misalignment. WARNING: Do not loosen the button head screws in the front or rear lens cells as this will cause misalignment. If necessary, contact Tele Vue for recollimation.

The tube is powder-coated for durability and requires no special care. Black anodized surfaces can be cleaned with Windex. If you have any questions about the care, operation or performance of your Tele Vue-NP127is, please call us at (845) 469-4551 from 9:30 am to 5:00 pm EST.
7.0 Warranty
Tele Vue telescopes are warranted to be free of manufacturing or workmanship defects for 5 (five) years from the date of purchase, to the original owner. Please return the warranty card as validation of your ownership and for easy identification. If your Tele Vue telescope requires warranty service, please call Tele Vue to discuss the problem, upon which you will receive a return authorization. NO RETURNS ARE ACCEPTED WITHOUT PRIOR AUTHORIZATION.

The warranty does NOT include: collimation, defects caused by mishandling, defects of subjective nature, or coverage for any telescope purchased through an unauthorized Tele Vue dealer.

Warranty work will be performed at Tele Vue’s discretion and may only be performed by Tele Vue Optics. The telescope must be shipped in its case with proper inner and outer packaging. Return shipping and insurance charges are the purchaser’s responsibility.

8.0 Specifications
Type  4-element, flat field, APO refractor, Fully Multi-Coated  
Clear Aperture  5 inches (127mm)  
Aperture Gain  329, compared to a 7mm exit pupil  
Focal Length  660mm  
Focal Ratio  f/5.2  
Resolution (visual)  0.9 arc-sec. (Dawes Limit for a 5 inch aperture)  
Resolution (photographic)  277 line pairs per mm  
Magnification  12x to 330x using Tele Vue eyepieces  
Field, Visual  4° at 12x (55Pl) or 16x (41Pan)  
Focuser  2.4-inch, rack and pinion type  
Diagonal  Optional 2-inch 99% reflective dielectric coating, with 1¼" adapter  
Finder  Optional Starbeam, Quick-Release Finder Bracket (50mm Finderscope not included), or low power eyepiece.  
Mounting  Optional adjustable mount ring set with mounting plate for Gibraltar5 Mount  
Weight  14.6 lbs. (tube assembly) 28 lbs. in case, 32 lbs. shipping  
Length  33-inches (O.T.A. only)  
Accessories included as standard: custom fitted case, screw-on lens cover, sliding dew (glare) shield, 2" Accessory Adapter, Imaging Systems Adapter  
Tube  Powder-coated aluminum  
Specifications subject to change without notice.
Tele Vue recommends choosing low and medium power eyepieces in ratios of field stop diameters. For example, factors of 1.4 or 2.0. When choosing higher power eyepieces, use ratios of magnification.

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**NOTE**: True Field in degrees = (Field Stop dia./Telescope Focal Length) X 57.3°

*Indicates additional Dioptrex Adapter required