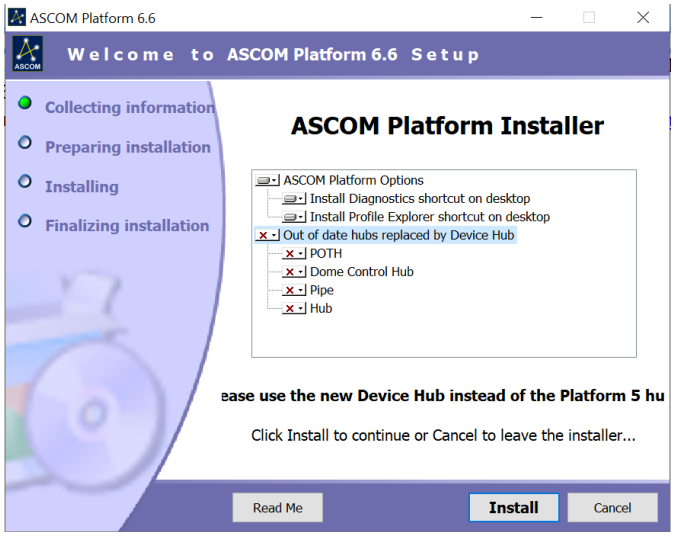
Connect a SkyHunter mount to a Computer

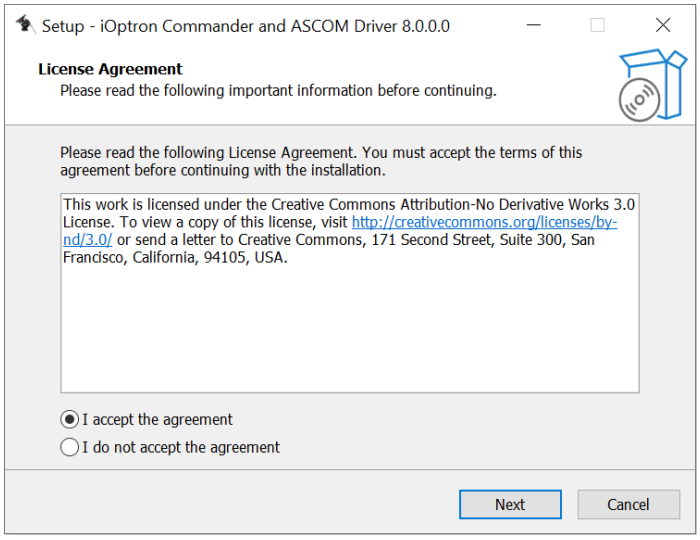
A SkyHunter mount can be connected to a computer via a miniUSB port on the mount, or a built-in Wi-Fi. A USB2.0 cable is needed to make the connection work if connected to a computer USB port.

Connect to a Windows computer is via ASCOM Platform (please refer to http://www.ascom-standards.org for detailed info.) The software/firmware needed:

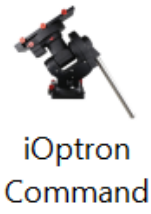
- Windows 7 /8.1 /10/11 64bit system with .NET Framework 4.8 installed. For Win10 and 11, make sure that .NET Framework 3.5 is activated.
- ASCOM Platform 6.6 or late version. Download and install it from http://www.ascom-standards.org;



- iOptron Commander and ASCOM Driver Installer 8.0 or later. Download and install it from iOptron SkyHunter product page.



After installation, you should see an icon like this on your computer desktop, or your designated folder:



- If this is the first time you connect the mount to a computer, please download and install Prolific PL23XX VCP installer.
- Latest mount firmware

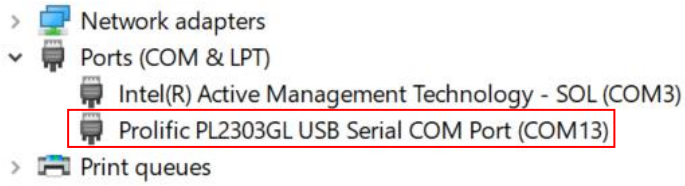
Connect a SkyHunter to a computer via USB

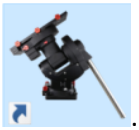
SkyHunter uses a Prolific PL2303GL USB-RS232 chip. A VCP driver needs be installed before making the connection.

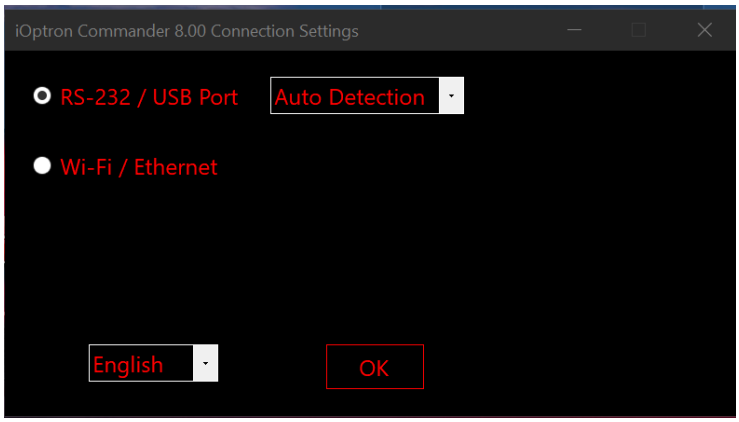
Plug miniUSB plug of a USB able into the miniUSB port on the mount. Plug the USB A plug into any available USB port of the computer. Power the mount on.



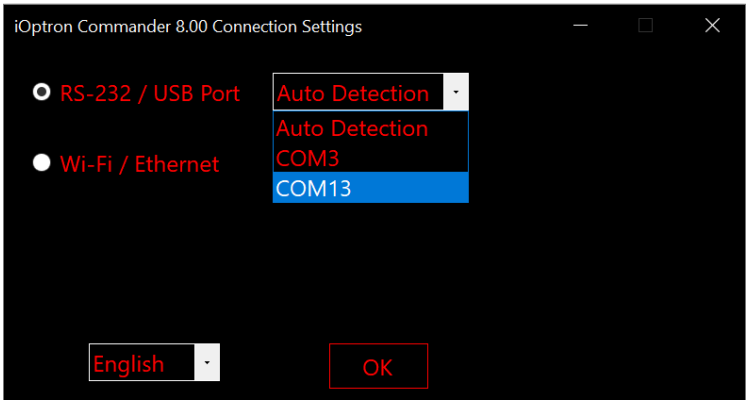
Click on Windows Device Manager to find the assigned COM port for the USB connection. Here the port # is COM13.



Click on iOptron Commander 2017 . An ***iOptron Commander Connection Setting*** window will open:



Select "***RS-232/USB Port***" with "***Auto Detection***", or click on the RS-232/USB Port pull down menu to select a COM port manually. Here it is COM4 as shown below.

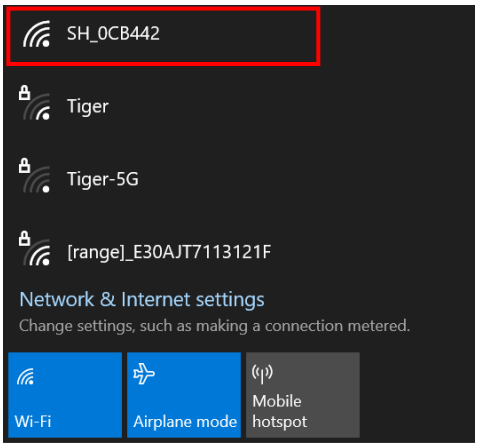


Click OK to connect.

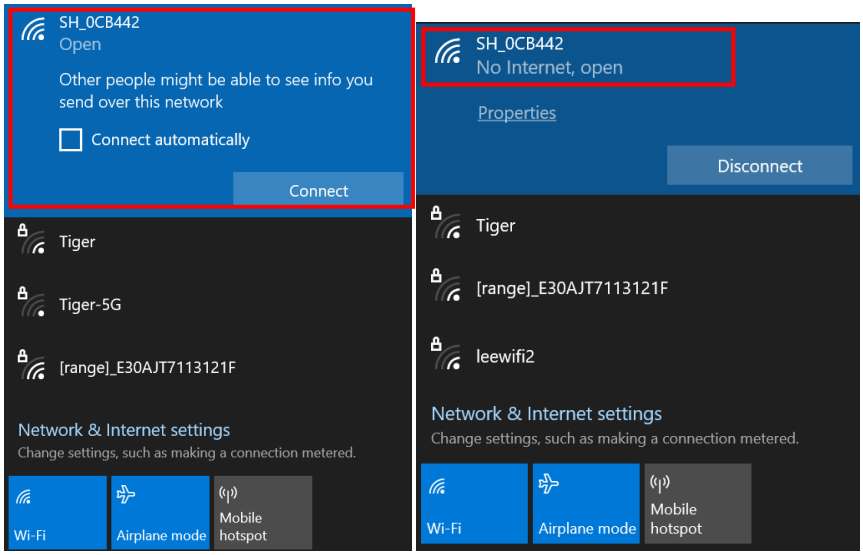
Connect the mount to a computer via Wi-Fi

The mount Wi-Fi SSID is in a form of SH_XXXXXX, IP address 10.10.100.254, port # 8899.

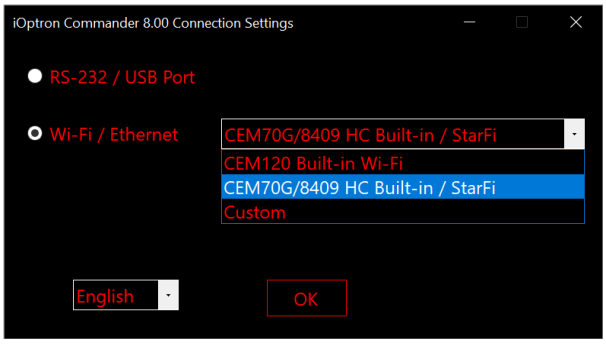
Turn the mount power on. Click on the Wi-Fi sign located on right bottom corner of your computer to bring up Wi-Fi network menu.



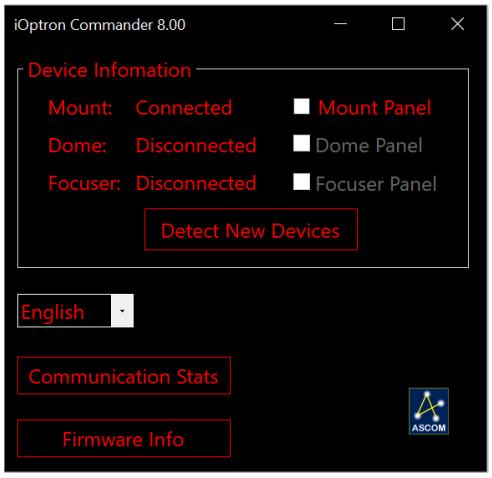
Select the SkyHunter Wi-Fi network and click to connect.



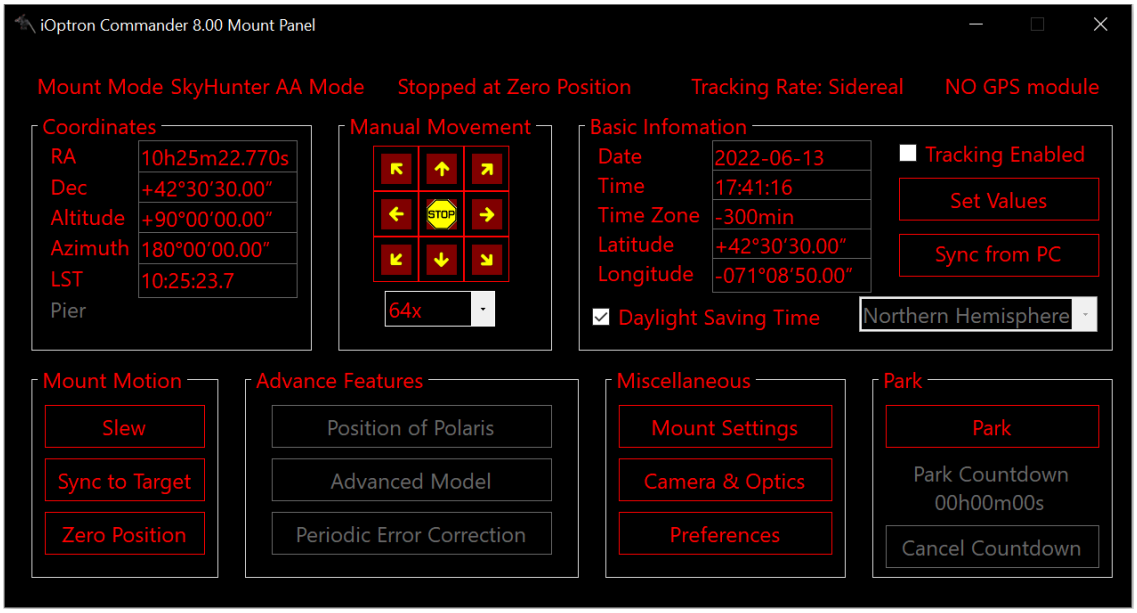
Click on iOptron Commander 2017 . An ***iOptron Commander Connection Setting*** window will open. Select "***Wi-Fi/Ethernet***" and choose "***CEM70G/8409 HC Built-in/StarFi***" from pull down menu. Click OK.



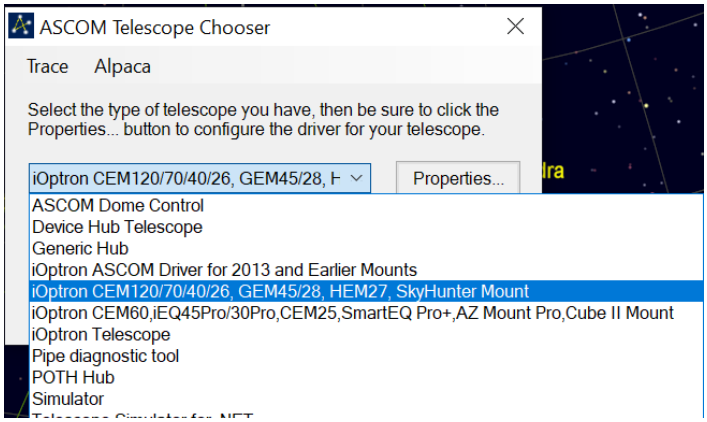
A ***Device Information*** window will show.



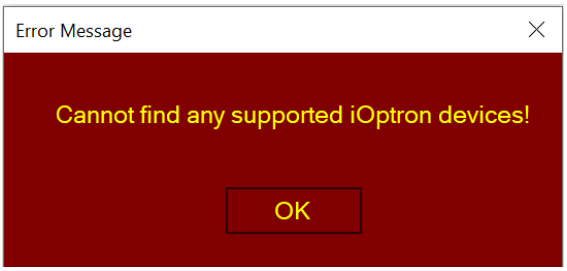
Check Mount Panel to bring up the **iOptron Commander 8.xx Mount Panel**.



Now you can control the mount via iOptron Commander, or connect your favorite planetarium software and select "**iOptron CEM120/70//40/26, GEM45/28, HEM27, SkyHunter Mount**" for software configuration.



Error Message



If you see this error message, please check the following:

1. The COM port may be occupied by other program, such as UpgradeUtility. Please power off/on the mount to release the COM port;
2. Correct iOptron Commander is installed and used, especially you have multiple iOptron mounts;
3. Firmware is up to date;
4. Connection between mount and computer is established. Check Device Manager by plug and unplug the USB cable to observe the COM port changes to determine which one if from mount;
5. Delete all COM port from other devices. Power cycle the mount and computer. Then plug in the mount first and try again.
6. If Commander does not not start, check online FAQ's.

SmartPhone/Tablet with iOS or Android

iOptron Mobile Commander

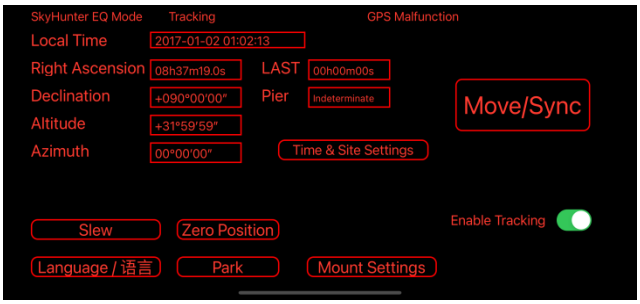
Turn the mount power on. Check your SmartPhone WIFI setting and connect to a WIFI device named SH_XXXXXX.

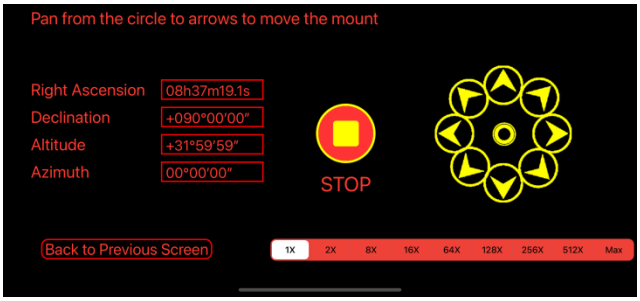


Launch iOptron Commander, Click on Connect.



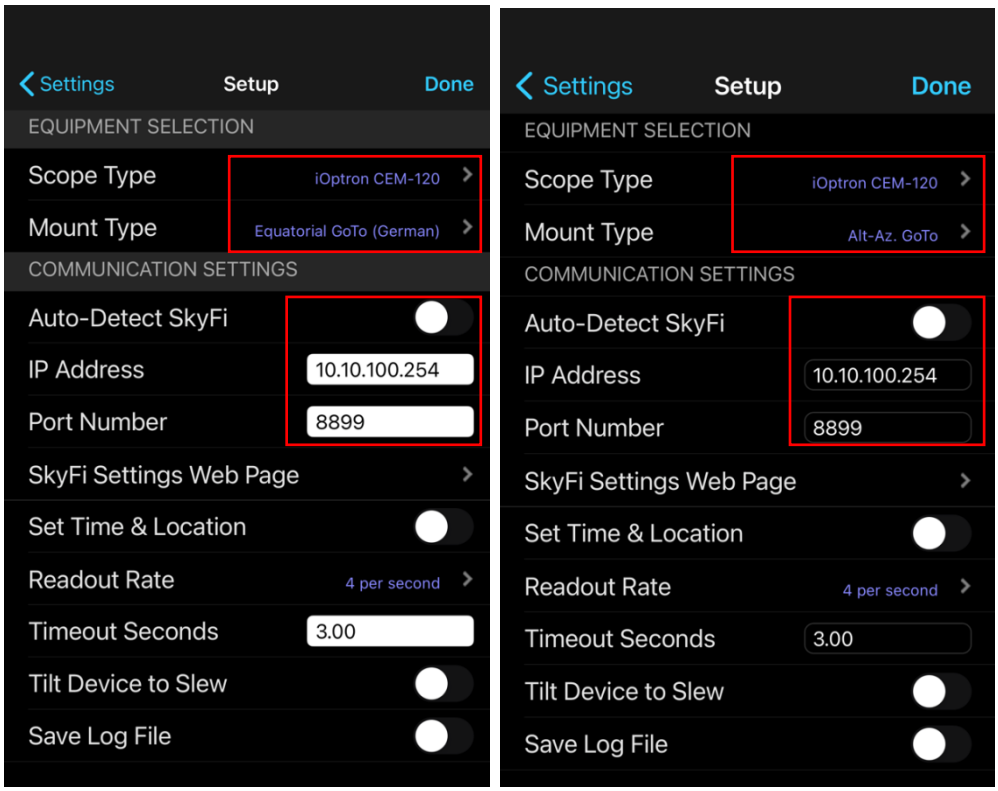
Now you can control the mount via your phone/tablet.





SkySafari 6 or above

If you are using planetary software from a SmartPhone/Tablet, such as SkySafari 6 Pro, please use the following mount and Wi-Fi settings. Make sure you changed the Mount Type to Alt-Azi Goto if you set the mount in AZ mode.



MacOS System

For a MacOS, it depends on if the planetarium software has an iOptron CEM70/CEM120 driver, either embedded or plug-in.

You may also use .INDI driver developed by third party.

Raspberry Pi System

You may use the .INDI driver developed by third party.

The SkyHunter connection parameters:

- Wi-Fi SSID: SH_XXXXXX
- IP address: 10.10.100.254
- Port #: 8899