

ScopeRoller 8 Deluxe Instructions

Instructions? How complicated is this? Not very, but even smart people sometimes make mistakes.

Dimensions

The caster assemblies are 0.988" +/- 0.007" square. Current production Losmandy GM-8 tripod leg interiors are 1.000" inside. The caster assemblies should slide inside without effort, as long as you insert the assembly square to the tripod leg. The caster assemblies are made of black Delrin; if your GM-8 leg interiors are slightly undersized from 1.000", you might find that coarse sandpaper on the leg insert will fix the problem, or that you can press fit the caster assemblies into the GM-8 legs.

Installation

If you are careful, you can slide each caster assembly into the hollow tripod leg without disassembling your mount or removing the telescope from the mount, but doing so may unbalance the mount while you are lifting each leg. Exercise care when lifting the tripod legs, and inserting the caster assembly.



When you insert the caster assembly into the hollow tripod leg, make sure that the bottom of the caster leg assembly will be parallel to the ground—otherwise the caster assembly will be under excessive stress, and will eventually break, as well as roll and rotate very poorly. If you put a caster assembly in wrong, it will be *very* obvious.

The caster assemblies are held in by the weight of the tripod. As long as you do not pick up and carry the tripod, no problem! The goal is to roll your GM-8, not to carry it. If you want the caster assemblies to stay in the tripod legs when you pick it up off the ground, put a *small*

quantity of rubber cement or black silicone sealant on the outside of the caster assembly before inserting it into the tripod leg. This will also assist if you are dragging across rough surfaces—where the legs will inevitably end up lifting off the ground a bit.

Use & Warnings

Each caster has a wheel and caster lock. Press down on the lever with your foot to lock the wheel. At first, you will probably have to pull up the lever with your fingers to unlock it. With use, the mechanism will loosen up enough for you to unlock it by pressing on the top with your foot. The wheel and caster lock will not prevent all motion—but you will find that even vigorous shaking of the mount will not cause it to move very much, and it will return to its original position.

These casters are intended for use on solid surfaces, such as concrete, asphalt, and hard packed earth or gravel. We do not recommend using them on sand, dirt, or uneven surfaces—although you may find that they work fine under your particular conditions. The casters are rated by the manufacturer at 280 pounds capacity *each*, far in excess of the load that a GM-8 should carry. The casters are not intended to support severe shocks, such as dropping the entire mount several feet onto concrete.

The casters add approximately 6” to the height of your mount. If your mount is on a slope (such as when rolling down a driveway), it is *possible* that the extra height may move the center of gravity sufficiently to increase the risk of tipping. Cow-tipping is a common rural sport, but Losmandy-tipping is not recommended. When rolling your mount, make sure that you hold the mount securely to prevent tipping.

Vibration Issues

A *few* customers have had problems with vibration at high magnification. (Most customers have had my experience—even well above 300x, no problem.) If so, tightening the axles can reduce vibration. Take two 9/16” wrenches to opposite ends of the axles, and tighten. If you tighten too much, the wheels won't roll easily.

Construction

You may notice that your caster assemblies differ slightly in detail from those in the picture. This is part of our campaign to reduce unnecessary production waste, and in no way affects the performance of the parts. The casters and legs are made in the United States of America.

Comments, requests for technical assistance, and suggestions should be directed to:

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