

# Alnitak Device Quick Start Guide

## Installing the Drivers

When the device is plugged into the PC for the first time, a driver may need to be installed. If the PC is connected to the web, the driver will be found, downloaded and installed by Windows. The driver is also installed in the directory where the Alnitak application was installed. If you don't have an internet connection you can navigate to the CDM folder created by unzipping the CDM zipfile in the applications folder **See the Alnitak Users Manual for more detail.**

## Windows Alnitak Astrosystems Controller application Installation

This application was developed using Microsoft Visual Studio C# 2005. It requires the user's PC to have Microsoft .NET 2.0 SP1 installed before it can be used. The Flat-Man installer will do that for you if necessary. Your PC must be connected to the web for this to be successful. If Microsoft Internet Explorer™ is your default browser the installation will be done from within the browser. You can also use other browsers but you will need to save the .NET installer and then run it outside of the web browser.

## Using the command line application, AACmd.exe

This is a command line application for controlling Flip-Flat, Flat-Man and Flat-Man XL. The Windows application must be closed before the AACmd.exe application can be run.

From the command prompt type "<path>/AACmd" followed by a COM port number and a command and, optionally a switch (where the path points to the installation directory). **See the Alnitak Users Manual for command descriptions.**

## Using AACmd with CCD Autopilot

AACmd can be used with CCD Autopilot.

Check <http://www.hiddenloft.com/ccdap4/help/hs112.htm> for the latest instructions on integration.

## Known issues

We use an FTDI usb to serial converter in our control electronics that is quite common in astronomical (and other) usb accessories. The Alnitak Astrosystems controller uses the latest FTDI drivers and .dll's, and these will be installed automatically (as per our

manual's instructions) when you first plug in the USB cable from one of our products if you have no other FTDI USB accessories.

If you have already installed other FTDI components on your PC they may interfere with our product's proper installation. We have found that if your drivers are old, you may get an "I/O" error when you start up our controller application. **See the Alnitak Users Manual for a complete list of known issues.**

## Setup

### All Devices

1. See the Alnitak Users Manual for mounting details.
2. Download and run the application installer. You can download it from [www.alnitakastro.com/downloads.shtml](http://www.alnitakastro.com/downloads.shtml)
3. Plug the USB cable directly into the PC or into a SELF-POWERED USB hub (one with an AC adapter connected to it). **It will NOT work with a bus-powered hub.** Install the com port driver when prompted (either by letting Windows find it on the web or by pointing to the directory you installed the application to.)
4. Start the Windows Alnitak Controller application. See the Alnitak Users Manual for more details.
5. Ensure that the Alnitak device has been found on the appropriate port (see software installation instructions).

### Flip-Flat

1. If the device is a Flip-Flat, push the close button until the application reports that the Flip-Flat is closed.
2. Push the open button to ensure that the Flip-Flat cap opens and the application reports that the Flip-Flat is open.  
Your Flip-Flat is ready to use. Please note that the light will only turn on when the cap is closed. You should periodically check the tightness of the mounting strap and retighten , if necessary.

### Flat-Man, Flat-Man L

1. Point your scope towards the zenith and rest the device on the end making sure that it is centered so that the entire field of view will be lighted.
2. Click the TURN ON button and adjust the brightness to the desired value.

### Flat-Man XL

1. Mount the panel so that it is perpendicular to the optical axis of the telescope at the park position. We have found that setting the park position so that the telescope is horizontal works best.
2. Click the TURN ON button and adjust the brightness to the desired value.

### IMPORTANT

If you cannot get the product to work after successfully installing the application and drivers try another USB cable and/or another USB hub or PC port. Many issues relate to insufficient power being supplied to the device from the USB port.