8" TELESCOPE SET-UP CHECKLIST

___ Check out your telescope as a group. Carry it by the FORK TINES.

___ Bolt the wedge to the pier, but do not tighten the bolt securely.

___ Assemble your telescope (remove covers; install diagonal and eyepiece).

___ Confirm that all the set screws and bolts are secure.

___ Collimate (align) your finder with your main telescope.
   • locate distinct object on the horizon (not in the sky; it moves!)
   • point the telescope to it and adjust the pointing until the object is centered in the MAIN EYEPIECE
   • adjust the finder telescope screws (tightening one and simultaneously loosening another) until the object is exactly centered in the FINDER
   • look in the main eyepiece again to make sure the object is still centered
   • confirm that all the finder telescope screws are secure

___ Align the polar axis with north
   • ROTATE the wedge on the pier until the fork tines point roughly to the North Star (on the new roof, the pier and the wedge form a "W" on the south side when you are pointing approximately north).
   • Point the telescope parallel to the fork tines by setting the declination to 90° and rotating it around the RA axis until the finderscope is on top.
   • After this, do not adjust the RA or Declination of the telescope, and do not adjust the finderscope collimation screws!
   • Rotate the wedge+telescope until the North Star is centered right-left in the FINDERSCOPE. Do not try to center it in the cross hairs or find it in the main eyepiece.
   • Tighten the bolt holding the wedge to the pier (securely)

___ Plug in your telescope

___ Locate a very bright star (of known RA and Dec) in the eyepiece.
   • Place the star in the exact center of the eyepiece field of view.
   • Re-collimate your finder (this is IMPORTANT)
   • Make sure all the finder set screws are tight.
   • Make sure your clock drive is working.
   • Adjust the focus of your telescope. If it's out of focus, it will look like a donut. If you can't focus it to a point, let the instructor or TA know.

If you plan to use the setting circles, you also need to do the following...

___ Compare the Dec setting circle reading to the known declination and record the offset ________ in degrees.

___ Set your RA setting circle to the known RA ______________