This guide is an introduction to SkyWire. Check Southern Stars’ web site for the latest information and troubleshooting tips:


SkyWire requires SkySafari, version 2.1 or later, running on an iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch with iOS 4 or higher. If you have an earlier version of SkySafari, or are not running iOS 4, please update to the latest versions of both before using SkyWire. Updates are free on the iTunes Store!

You’ll also need a serial cable to connect your telescope’s serial port to SkyWire’s standard PC (DB9 male) serial port. Different telescopes require different serial cables. If you ordered SkyWire with a serial cable, it should be included in the SkyWire package. Many telescope manufacturers include serial cables with their telescopes. If you’re unsure, contact your telescope manufacturer to obtain the correct serial cable for your telescope. Then:

1. Launch SkySafari on your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch.
2. Plug SkyWire’s 30-pin dock connector into your iPhone, iPad, or iPod Touch. SkySafari should display a message indicating that SkyWire has been successfully connected.
3. If your iPhone displays a message saying that "this accessory isn’t optimized for this iPhone", SkyWire’s connector is not properly inserted, preventing the iPhone from recognizing the SkyWire accessory correctly. Just disconnect and reconnect SkyWire securely.
4. Connect SkyWire’s DB9 male connector to your telescope serial cable’s DB9 female connector. If your telescope serial cable has thumbscrews, tighten them to secure the connection.
5. Connect the other end of your telescope serial cable to the RS-232 port on your telescope. On most telescopes, the RS-232 port is a 4- or 6-wire modular ("telephone") jack. On Meade LX-200 and RCX-400 telescopes, the RS-232 port is located on the mount base. On almost all others [e.g. Meade telescopes with #497 AutoStar controllers, Celestron telescopes with NexStar controllers, Orion and SkyWatcher telescopes with SynScan controllers], the RS-232 port is located on the bottom of the hand controller.
6. Turn on your telescope, and perform any telescope alignment procedure that you would normally perform. See your telescope user manual for instructions on how to align your telescope.
7. In SkySafari, go to Settings > Telescope Communication. Select the correct telescope type. You don’t need to enter an IP address or port number – these are only for telescope communication with a wireless adapter like Southern Stars’ SkyFi, or Orion’s StarSeek Wi-Fi Module. Tap the Done button to accept changes and return to the main sky chart view.
8. Tap the Scope button on the toolbar below the sky chart view. Tap the Connect button to establish communication with your telescope. If successful, the telescope’s position should appear as a bullseye on the star chart.

This device complies with Part 15 of the FCC Rules. Operation is subject to the following two conditions: [1] this device may not cause harmful interference; and [2] this device must accept any interference received, including interference that may cause undesired operation.