



Observing Asteroids



Las Cumbres Observatory Global Telescope

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Setting up Astrometrica

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Introduction

If you haven't already, download the Astrometrica software and the FT configuration files. Links to these can be found on the front page of the Asteroid Online Training page.

Setting up Astrometrica

First, launch the program.

Configuration File

The first step is to load the FT configuration file. To do this, click on the small spanner on the left-hand side of the menu bar or by going to **File>Settings**.

You will see the program settings window appear. Click on the **Open** button at the bottom of this window and you will see a box in which to load the FT file.

Program Settings - Astrometrica.cfg

Observing Site | CCD | Program | Environment | Internet

Location

MPC Code: 540

Longitude: 14.2753 * East West

Latitude: 48.4422 * North South

Height: 815.0 m

Details

Contact: _____

E-Mail: _____

Include Contact Details in MPCReport

Observer: _____

Measurer: _____

Telescope: _____ Code: _____

Open Save Save As OK Cancel

Browse to the location on your computer where you downloaded the configuration file. There are currently two files, one for FTN and the other for FTS - select the correct file for the telescope you used.

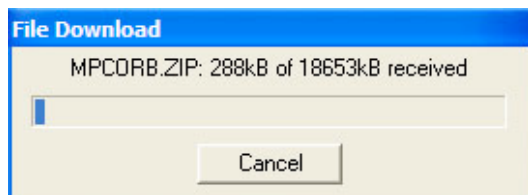
Select the file and click **Open**. Then click **Ok** in the Program Settings window.

MPCOrb

The MPC Orbit database contains orbital elements of minor planets that have been published in the Minor Planet Centre Circulars, the Minor Planet Orbit Supplements and the Minor Planet Electronic Circulars.

You need to download this database for Astrometrica to use so it can identify your images.

To do this go to **Internet>Download MPCOrb**



Please Note: For the first time, Windows XP users will get a message asking if they wish to unblock Astrometrica - click yes to this message.

This process requires a reverse DNS lookup to start the download, which can fail if you are behind a firewall. You can download and install this database manually by going to:

<http://cfa-www.harvard.edu/iau/MPCORB.html>

and clicking on the link: <ftp://cfa-ftp.harvard.edu/pub/MPCORB/>

You must login with the username anonymous and your email address as your password.

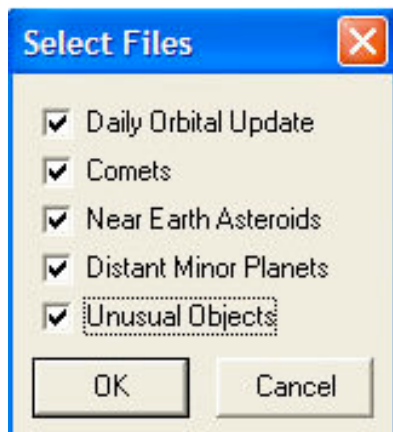
These are the files you will need:

Comet.DAT
 Daily.DAT
 DistanceObjects.DAT
 NEAtod.DAT
 Unusuals.DAT
 MPCOrb.DAT

You should save each file in the Astrometrica directory.

When you launch Astrometrica again, it will reload the database which can take a few minutes.

When the software returns to normal, go to **Internet>Update MPCOrb**



Another small window will appear with tick boxes or different elements of the database. Tick them all and click **Ok**. Astrometrica will then download new updates for the database.

It is recommended that you update the MPCOrb every time you come to use Astrometrica.