

The Paramount MKS 6000 Upgrade Information



Figure 1: The Paramount MX+ MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit.

This document contains **preliminary information**¹ about upgrading existing Paramount German equatorial mounts, gear-driven Paramount Taurus equatorial fork mounts and Bisque Telescope Control Systems to the MKS 6000 telescope control system (TCS).

For details about the new features in the MKS 6000, watch the video here: <https://www.bisque.com/Series6>. Details on the MKS 6000 start at the 35 second mark.

The MKS 6000 TCS is compatible with older model Paramount mounts, and requires upgrading the following Paramount mount components:

- The internal electronics (MKS 6000 PCB and Instrument Panel PCB).
- The control systems internal cables and other pass-through cabling.
- Paramount model-specific components such as the physical Instrument Panel housing, the mount's hour angle axis plate, and the Electronics Box housing that holds the MKS 5000 PCB.
- Power supply unit that is compatible with the MKS 6000 power in port.

Supported Mounts

There are seven Paramount MKS 6000 Upgrade Kits planned; each kit will include the components necessary to upgrade your model Paramount. The following table lists each Paramount model, the manufacturing dates, and the ranges of Mount Identifiers for each model.

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Phone: +1.303.278.4478 Website: [Bisque.com](https://www.bisque.com)

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¹ The prices and information in this document are subject to change without notice.

Paramount Model	Shipping Dates	Mount Identifiers
Paramount MYT	November 2014 – April 2023	C0001-C00531
Paramount MX Classic	July 2011 – July 2014	A00001 – A00499
Paramount MX+	August 2014 – July 2023	A00500 – A00999
Paramount ME II	March 2013 – August 2023	B00001 – B00599
Paramount ME Classic	July 2001 – August 2012	N/A ¹
Paramount Taurus 400/500 Gear Driven Models	November 2019 – April 2023	T00001 – T00060
Bisque TCS (with the MKS 3000, MKS 4000 or MKS 5000)	July 2001 – April 2023	N/A ²

¹ The Paramount ME Classic did not have a mount identifier; the mount’s serial number as printed on the Paramount ME invoice from Software Bisque.

² The Bisque TCS does not include a mount identifier or hardware serial number. See the Bisque TCS Identification document for details how to determine which MKS version your mount uses: <https://www.bisque.com/downloads/bisque-tcs-identification/>

Before Upgrading Your Mount

Your mount’s motor index angles that are stored in the MKS 5000 must be transferred to the MKS 6000 firmware. The Paramount Upgrade Kit User Guide describes the step-by-step process to do this.

When you order your upgrade kit, please add your mount’s mount identifier to the Notes in the order, or email this information to FrontDesk@bisque.com.

Model-Specific Hardware Components

Figure 2 shows the hardware components that are included with the MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit for each model mount.

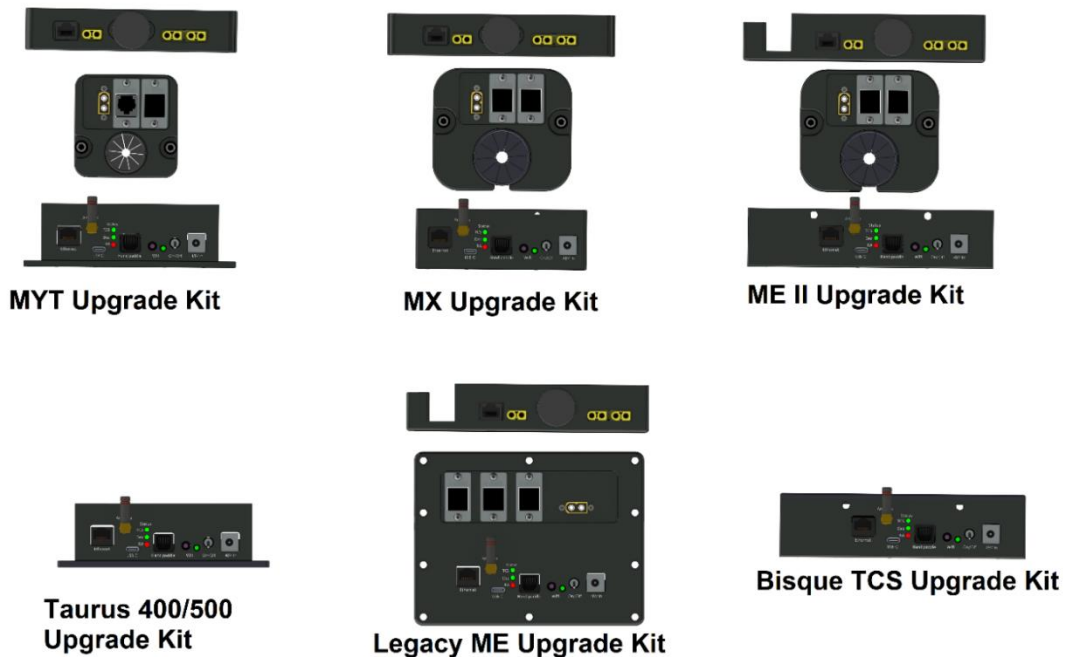


Figure 2: The MKS 6000 upgrade kit hardware components for each Paramount model.

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Frequently Asked MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit Questions

Please review the answers to frequently asked questions below.

Q.

A. The price of the Paramount Upgrade Kits is \$1,595 for the Paramount MYT, Paramount MX+ and Paramount ME II. The Paramount MX Classic and Paramount ME Classic upgrade kit costs \$1,995.

Q. When will the MKS 6000 upgrade kits be available?

A. In the fourth quarter of 2023.

Q. How can I be notified when the Paramount MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit is shipping?

A. Go to www.bisque.com/6K, and click the “I want to be notified...” link to send an email to Software Bisque.

Q. Will installing the MKS 6000 upgrade increase the total weight capacity for my Paramount mount?

A. No. The MKS 6000 upgrade, stand-alone, does not increase the Paramount’s weight capacity. The total weight capacity of the *Paramount MYT Series 6* and the *Paramount MX Series 6* mounts is higher because of the mechanical changes to the mount design, not specifically because of the new MKS 6000 TCS.

Q. Can older versions of TheSky Professional control the MKS 6000 TCS?

A. No. Controlling a Paramount mount with the MKS 6000 TCS will require the latest release of TheSky Professional edition. If you do not already have an active software subscription, you will need to renew your subscription (\$100 for the Paramount MYT and Paramount MX, \$150 for the Paramount ME II, or \$200 for the Universal bundle) so that you have access to the latest TheSky installers and updates.

Q. Does the cost of the MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit include a renewal to TheSky’s annual software subscription?

A. No. The MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit includes all of the necessary hardware, cabling, and mount components. TheSky’s software subscription can be updated by logging in to your Software Bisque account at www.bisque.com, the clicking My account, My Subscriptions.

Q. Do I need to save my existing motor index angles?

A. No. Once the MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit is installed on the mount, the motor index angles must be measured and saved to the mount’s permanent memory. This process is described in the MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit PDF and video (coming soon).

Q. Does the MKS 6000 Upgrade Kit require a new power supply unit?

A. Yes. The power out plug on the new power supply unit is compatible with the MKS 6000 power in port.

Q. Where can I find my mount’s identification number?

A. The mount’s serial number and identification number for all Paramount GEMs shipped after July 2012 is located on the underside of the hour angle axis housing on the left-hand side (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: The location of the Paramount mount identifier and serial number.



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