

Reference Point Tool Description

The Reference Point tool assists a TSX user in generating a custom SDB Reference. Basically, the code instructs the user to choose a name, point the scope at a target using the hand paddle, whereupon the program downloads the az/alt coordinates. Or, the coordinates can be entered directly as well. The app then generates a SDB source text file and copies it to the "SDBs" folder in the TSX directory. There are no automation interfaces for loading and compiling SDB source files into database objects, so step-by-step instructions are displayed to walk the user through the process in TSX. Once completed, there will be a Reference Object created in TSX called whatever the user has chosen with the given coordinates.

Requirements:

Flat Pointer is a Windows Forms executable, written in Visual Basic. The application runs as an uncertified, standalone application under Windows 7, 8, 10 and 11. The application requires TSX Pro.

Operation:

After a name is entered, Reference Point will download and store the current Az/Alt position of the mount. A location can be entered manually as well. With another command, Reference Point will generate and copy a Sky Database (SDB) source file into the SDBs directory which is based on the reference point name (.../SDBs/name SDB.txt). This file can be edited if wanted. As no automation interfaces exist for the final step, the form merely directs the user through the sequence of TSX actions to be performed to compile that source file into a cataloged object.

Installation:

The installation program is located at <https://github.com/rtskybox/ReferencePoint> in the "publish" folder. Download either the ReferencePoint32Buildxxx.zip file or the ReferencePoint64Buildxxx.zip file depending upon whether you are running TSX 32 or 64. Extract the zip file to a temporary folder. Run "setup.exe". If the Windows security message "Windows protected your pc" pops up, then select "more info" and "Run Anyway". You may also have to uninstall any older version, if previously installed.

Upon completion, an application icon will have been added to the start menu under the category "TSX Toolkit" with the name "Reference Pointer".

This application can be pinned to the Start if desired. During operation, Reference Pointer will expect that TSX is loaded in the default location (User\Documents\Software Bisque etc.

Support:

This application was written as freeware for the public domain and as such is unsupported. The developer wishes you his best and hopes everything works out, but recommends learning Visual Basic (it's really not hard and the tools are free from Microsoft) if you find a problem or want to add features. The source is supplied as a Visual Studio project.