Using the PD ruler to measure your pupillary distances

Your hand-held Universe2go planetarium is an instrument designed for using with both eyes. That makes viewing the wealth of 3D astronomical images it can show you a completely relaxed affair. To make Universe2go a perfect fit for your own face, you can enter your own personal pupillary distances. Simply use the PD ruler, shown below, for measuring your pupillary distances.

How to make your PD ruler:

1. Print out the PD ruler template, provided here, using fairly stiff card.

2. Use a normal ruler to check the accuracy of the millimetre scale on the printed out PD ruler. If it does not exactly match, then adjust the settings on your printer accordingly and print it out again.

3. Cut out the PD ruler and fold it over at the central solid line. Fold back the side tabs. Tip: glue it together, using the blank rear side first, for an even better result.
How to measure your pupillary distances:
There are two methods for measuring these.

The two person method:
You will need to ask a second person to assist you with this.

1. Position yourself at arm’s length from your assistant.

2. Your assistant holds the PD ruler in place on the bridge of your nose using the triangular cut-out. The ruler should be positioned just above your eyes but not covering them.

3. Your assistant closes their right eye and notes the reading on the scale at the position of the centre of the pupil of your right eye. They then reverse the procedure for your left eye.

The mirror method:
This method is suitable for when there is no second person available to help you.

1. Position yourself approximately half a metre away from a mirror

2. Hold the PD ruler in place on the bridge of your nose using the triangular cut-out. The ruler should be just above your eyes but should not cover them.

3. Shut your left eye and note the reading on the scale at the position of the centre of the pupil of your right eye. Reverse the procedure for your right eye.

What is the pupillary distance?
Everyone’s face is unique. The positions of the eyes and nose vary from person to person. Opticians therefore always need to measure the distance between your eyes and nose in order to fit you for glasses. This is defined as the distance from the centre of the nose to the centre of the pupil - for each eye. It is possible for the distance from the left eye to the nose centre line and right eye to the nose centre line to be different.