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Guide To The Stars



Synopsis

The 5th edition (published 2013) of the 16-inch diameter plastic Guide to the Stars chart is an instrument to help you identify the constellations. You simply dial-in your observing time and date to find the set of constellations visible in your sky (this is accomplished by turning the clear top piece). Although this chart is designed for beginners, seasoned amateur astronomers will find it useful, too. This chart can be used anywhere in the world between latitudes 30 and 60 degrees North, which includes the US and Canada, England, Europe, Northern China and Japan. The 16-inch diameter is large and easy to read, ideal for families, teachers and seniors! The 5th edition has been improved by indicating more binocular objects and providing more pertinent information on the back, all without increasing clutter or decreasing the text size. The front chart indicates 70 Constellations, the Names of 55 Stars, the Milky Way Band, the Ecliptic (which is the path of the Sun, Moon and Planets), 54 favorite Double Stars, the Summer Triangle, Winter/Summer Tours and 56 Galaxies, Star Clusters and Nebulae that can be observed with binoculars or a small telescope. Additionally, favorite star patterns are noted, like the Great Square of Pegasus, the Circlet of Pisces, the Northern Cross of Cygnus and others. On the back side, there are useful tables and other astronomical information, including: Mythology, Yearly Meteor Showers, Moon map, Phases of the Moon, Facts about the Planets, A Short history of Astronomy, the 10 Brightest Stars, Information about the Binocular & Telescope Objects (those on the chart), Why Stars Twinkle, additional instructions for using the chart and more. PLANET NOTE. Most star charts, like this one, do not indicate, on the chart, the position of the Planets or Moon because these objects move through the constellations of the zodiac, along a path in the sky called the Ecliptic (indicated on the chart). Website support is provided to help identify the planets that are visible in the sky. This chart is also available in a smaller 11-inch diameter (ISBN 1928771-033). And, there is a low-cost kid's version printed in color on sturdy card-like paper (ISBN 1928771-22X), as well as the Equatorial Guide to the Stars for use in and around the equator (ISBN 1928771-777). Finally, there is the Celestial Atlas Menor, 128 pages chock-full of star charts and tables (ISBN 978-1928771883).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

“. . . friendly style invites beginning stargazers to relax, follow the chart's easy to use instructions and slowly begin the fascinating task of finding the constellations. . .” --Arizona Daily Sun, September 14, 2000”A jumbo star wheel. The largest commercial planisphere we've seen in recent years. . . skywatchers will find useful information on the Moon, planets, meteor showers and selected deep-sky objects.” --Sky & Telescope, November 2000”Add stars, constellations, and sprinkle on lots of fun astronomical facts for beginners and you have the main ingredients for a 16-inch planisphere...” --Astronomy magazine, November 2000

Ken Graun is author of six star charts and the popular astronomy books, What's Out Tonight?, Touring the Universe and The Next Step: Finding and Viewing Messier's Objects. His children's books include Our Earth and the Solar System, Our Constellations and their Stars and Our Galaxy and the Universe.

Pretty durable, but also pretty large. I use to buy smaller, heavy paper versions which I preferred. Those also had planet information covering several years-which planets were in which constellations (obviously planets move over time). This has no planet info although I guess one could transfer on-line info onto Guide. Marker may even wipe off. Not sure if it has meteor shower dates. Gift for 10 year old. He hasn't seemed that excited and I didn't use it for very long. 3 1/2 stars more accurate and good quality matches reasonable cost.

I saw this Guide To The Stars a few years ago and thought it might be big enough for my failing eyesight to resolve. Last year I got my first telescope (I've been using binoculars for years) and this Planisphere came to mind to guide formal observing and identifying what was framed in the eyepiece! On easy-clean, flexible plastic, it's as big as a large pizza at 16 inches and the area outside the sky field is filled with hints, tips and notes under headings such as Spring/Summer and

Late Winter tours, Star Magnitudes and the full Greek alphabet in the comprehensive Chart Notes. On the reverse, a series of notes for 'first-timers', objects (including many Deep Sky Objects), the Moon and Planets a smattering of Mythology, Celestial Tidbits and an Astro Timeline from 4240 BC to 2012 that spirals around the outer edge! As a (very) mature beginner, the Guide To The Stars is a very useful and comprehensive introductory tool and I really like it.

This is a MUST HAVE tool for the beginning astronomer. It will help you learn the night sky as it assists you in finding the constellations. It's very large making it easy to read and use. Just spin it around until you have the local time pointing at the appropriate date, hold it up while facing north or south and it shows you the current position of the visible constellations. For easier use (of ANY star chart in the dark) be sure to have a flashlight with a red lens like a small maglite mini.

I love this planisphere. There's a lot of information packed into it which is very useful at the telescope or with binocs. I like the size as well. You can lineup your objects and then put the guide on your table in the field and use it to find many objects in one sitting. It works for me.

Constructed of plastic with a 16 inch diameter, this is the biggest and most durable planispheres on the market. The front of the planisphere is outlined in the periphery by the months with notches for the hour of the evening that you are gazing. Three simple instructions outline what to do. There are various tips on the front based upon the season with constellations denoted by uppercase letters, names of stars in italics, and circled letters indicating objects viewed by binoculars or telescopes. On the back of the planisphere, there is an introduction to star-gazing, tips on viewing, and various 'landmarks' in the sky. Factoids about the planets and moon are described, also. In the periphery of the planisphere are a timeline of milestones in astronomy. A link to other facts about astronomy are found on [...] whats out tonight . com (no spaces). This invaluable resource is excellent for any stargazer (novice, beginner or intermediate). This is a great complement to the Discovery Sky and Land Telescope from the Discovery Store: [...]

My goodness, this thing is big! I mean, I knew it was big from the dimensions given but to actually see it in person is still surprising. It's well made, easy to read and packed full of information. I love the tidbits on the back and the star map itself is informative with prominent galaxies, nebulae and clusters marked inside their respective constellations. I had a hard time deciding between this one and the Chandler Night Sky one. I finally decided on this one because I wanted something that was

easy to read. Plus, the fact that you had to flip the Chandler one over to get the southern view was a little off-putting. I know that they created it that way to get rid of the distortion but I thought that distortion wasn't really a big deal. But now that I have the actual planisphere in hand and go outside with it, I can see what people are complaining about. It does make things a little off, but not something you can't mentally compensate for. So in actuality, I would give this 4.5 stars. It's still useful and I love how big it is and how much information it has on it. But I'm thinking of getting the Chandler one now too.

Good size, large enough to be able to read all chart text. Wealth of information on the reverse. Robust and seemingly weather proof. Only slight issue is that both front and rear disks are virtually the same size. This makes it hard to adjust to show the visible portion of the sky on the night you're observing even with warm, un-gloved hands. Using with cold hands in gloves is very difficult. I trimmed the top disk of mine down to a better size with kitchen scissors, worked well, you might like to do the same. Hopefully the next production batch will also be refined in the same way.

Haven't had a chance to use it that much, but it will be so nice to have when the clouds move on and I can spend some time looking at the stars. I've wanted one of these for a long time and am glad I finally got one. Now I can know what I'm looking at, if I have a question. Just wish it had the planets on it also.

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