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The Night Sky 40°-50° (Large) Star Finder



Synopsis

The Night Sky is a rotating star finder- or planisphere that allows the user to recognize the constellations for any time of night, any day of the year. The sky appears to rotate (due to the rotation and orbital motion of the earth), so to be successful recognizing the constellations a beginner needs to know which stars are above the horizon at any time. This is the full-sized version of The Night Sky suitable for the 40° - 50° latitude zone (northern United States and parts of Europe). We have versions for the following latitude zones: 50° - 60° , 40° - 50° , 30° - 40° , 20° - 30° , and the Southern Hemisphere. We also have pocket-sized versions available for the same latitude zones.

Book Information

Map: 2 pages

Publisher: David Chandler Co.; Large Plastic 40-50 degree Edition edition (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0961320745

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Product Dimensions: 11.1 x 8.9 x 0.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars See all reviews (129 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #10,647 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #7 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing #22 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy #157 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology

Customer Reviews

Although a planisphere is usually meant for beginners, it is a quick and easy way for even experienced observers to see "what's up" at a given day and time without firing up the computer. The difference with this one, which I quite like, is the "low distortion" idea - it better represents what the eye sees, which is particularly useful when learning the constellations. My only complaint - I wish the South facing view was the larger, as there are more interesting things to see in that direction.

This is a truly helpful map of the skies for anyone interested in backyard astronomy. It is very legible, easy to see at night. I am a beginner and was able to find most of the constellations shown. Very durable as well.

I'm always on the look out for unique gifts. I bought this as part of a gift for an outdoors person. I bought the chart, a foldable hammock, and a stargazing flashlight. (all on for under \$70). I thought the chart was neat, so I tested it out myself. I know nothing about stars or star charts and I figured out how to work this chart in under 5 minutes. I identified 4 constellations within 15 minutes in my front yard (pretty well lit area). I also think this would be a great, inexpensive gift for a curious or scientifically minded teenager (maybe paired with a book about constellations or horoscopes) or a camper. The chart comes packaged flat, but it does curl very slightly when removed, it is laminated and seems sturdy, also the chart turns around easily, but doesn't fall out of place, ie once you set it to the correct date and time it doesn't move around from normal jostling. Overall, a unique and fun gift for the intellectually curious or nature lovers.

Chandler's star chart is a classic that is functional, easy-to-use, and valuable for people just learning the night sky. Its main features are its large size and lamination -- important as summer evening dew inevitably turns most paper products saggy. This is recommended for people desiring to learn their way around the night sky and build an understanding of the universe.

This is a very useful device for anyone interested in viewing the constellations. It is easy to use and much more versatile than star charts printed in magazines or newspapers since it can be used at any time of year. The star field rotates to match the sky at any time and date. Also like the rugged plastic construction, so that it is very sturdy. Only wish that it stocked the 30-40 degree latitude version since this one is slightly too far north for my needs. Good price. Good value.

This planisphere is the most user-friendly I have used. It is well constructed of durable material, and, unlike some, is double-sided, this permitting more detail on each side. The stars, displayed as black dots on a white background, are shown as larger or smaller according to their apparent magnitude, the usual astronomical convention. The names of the various objects shown are acceptably legible. Obviously, copious detail cannot be shown on discs of this size, but Chandler's planisphere provides a satisfactory depiction of the night sky and is quick to use.

Even though the Night Sky chart is primarily of use to novices, intermediate and advanced viewers will find it useful for planning a night's viewing activity, primarily determining what objects are visible at what time. This kind of information is not easy to get directly from star charts. With a customized,

time ordered checklist and a computerized telescope (plus good conditions), it's easily possible to view over 100 objects in a few hours.

The "large" word is a little misleading even though the product size is mentioned in the details of the product. The disc is under 8 inches in diameter. I have been an avid star gazer and amateur astronomer for over 15 years and have always used star charts and maps from books which have different areas of the sky split into different pages. I thought this would be a good handy single replacement to carry around but fitting all the constellations, with labels of the constellations, bright stars and messier objects into an 8 inch disc is not a good idea. Practically I find it difficult to see the small lettering and graphics without straining, in the dim red light of my flash light. If you are indoors at the table and using it, everything looks good but its not the same in the field where the chart appears tiny. The dial with the Months and the time stamps are useful and easy to use but the size and scale of the chart defeats the pros. I downloaded Stellarium on my phone and iPad which is far more powerful, cheaper and practical to use in the field. For a paper alternative, I will stick to my letter size split maps.

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