The Backyard Astronomer S Guide

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the modern classic completely updated the newest edition of the backyard astronomer s guide includes the latest data and answers the questions most often asked by home astronomers from beginners to experienced stargazers terence dickinson and alan dyer provide expert guidance on the right types of telescopes and other equipment photographing the stars through a telescope and star charts software and other references they cover daytime and twilight observing planetary and deep sky observing and much more with over 500 color photographs and illustrations the backyard astronomer s guide is one of the most valuable beautiful and user friendly astronomy books ever produced new and updated for this edition a 20 page full color atlas of the milky way provides location and context for hundreds of celestial objects mentioned throughout the book a chapter on astrophotography with digital cameras specifies what equipment works best and how

to use it to collect a color gallery of celestial portraits telescopes for recreational astronomy features assessments of a wide range of new telescopes from models for beginners to those for veteran astronomy enthusiasts with special emphasis on computerized telescopes and how they work accessory catalog spotlights the best of the accessories and flags the frivolous and irrelevant three practical appendices polar aligning your telescope optics cleaning and collimation testing your telescope optics any serious home astronomer must have this superb guide as an ongoing reference

a world renowned astrophysicist takes us through the huge unfolding history of the universe the night sky is an endless source of wonder and mystery for thousands of years it has been at the heart of scientific and philosophical inquiry from the first star catalogues etched into ancient mesopotamian clay tablets to the metres wide telescopes constructed in chile s atacama desert today on a clear night it is hard not to look up and pick out familiar constellations and to think of the visionary minds who pioneered our understanding of what lies beyond in this thrilling new guide to our universe and how it works professor of astrophysics jo dunkley reveals how it only becomes more beautiful and exciting the more we discover about it with warmth and clarity dunkley takes us from the very basics why the earth orbits the sun and how our moon works right up to massive strange phenomena like superclusters quasars and the geometry of spacetime as she does so dunkley unfurls the history of humankind s heroic journey to understand the history and structure of the cosmos revealing the extraordinary little known stories of astronomy pioneers including williamina fleming vera rubin and jocelyn bell burnell illuminating and uplifting this is your essential guide to the biggest subject of all

this book presents the amateur with fine examples of astronomical sketches and step by step tutorials in each medium including pencil pen and ink chalks and pastels painting and computer graphics programs this unique book can teach almost anyone to create beautiful sketches of celestial objects by following simple illustrated step by step instructions readers can select a chapter related to their preferred class of object and rapidly learn techniques in several media each chapter contains useful information regarding equipment techniques for preserving and archiving sketches and suggestions for accurate record keeping

it is a pleasure to present this work which has been well received in german speaking countries through four editions to the english speaking reader we feel that this is a unique publication in that it contains valuable material that cannot easily if at all be found elsewhere we are grateful to the authors for reading through the english version of the text and for responding promptly for the most part to our queries several authors have supplied us on their own initiative or at our suggestion with revised and updated manuscripts and with supplementary english references we have striven to achieve a translation of handbuch for sternfreunde which accurately presents the qualitative and quantitative scientific principles con tained within each chapter while maintaining the flavor of the original ger man text where appropriate we have inserted footnotes to clarify material which may have a different meaning and or application in english speaking countries from that in germany when the first english edition of this work astronomy a handbook translated by the late a beer appeared in 1975 it contained 21 chapters this new edition is over twice the

length and contains 28 authored chap ters in three volumes at springer s request we have devised a new title compendium of practical astronomy to more accurately reflect the broad spectrum of topics and the vast body of information contained within these pages

this is the third edition of phil harrington s popular and comprehensive guide to astronomical equipment written for both new astronomers as well as experienced amateurs it includes numerous tips and tricks from other experienced astronomers in this revised and updated edition of star ware the essential guide to buying astronomical equipment award winning astronomy writer philip harrington does the work for you analyzing and exploring today s astronomy market and offering point by point comparisons of everything you need whether you re an experienced amateur astronomer or just getting st

several decades have elapsed since the publication of any similar book in the german language the lack of such a book has been felt keenly by all friends of astronomy in our space age astronomical knowledge arouses public interest more and more practical observation at the telescope depends more than anything else on such knowledge the educational value of such a training is undisputed on the other hand the work of the amateur astronomer can also contribute essentially to the work of the professionals it is from these points of view that this handbook aims to help with versatile advice at the same time the book intends to show the wide range of applied astronomy as it presents itself to the friend of the stars in mathematical physical fields in precision mechanics and optics and last but not least in the area of social relations beyond the circle of amateur astronomers the book is addressed to lecturers teachers students and pupils it wishes to serve them as a guide to astronomical experiments which we suggest should be performed in primary and secondary schools specialist colleges and extramural courses

the definitive resource for viewing the night sky david dickinson earth science teacher and backyard astronomer and fraser cain publisher of universe today have teamed up to provide expert guidance on observing the night sky the universe today ultimate guide to viewing the cosmos features the best tips and tricks for viewing our solar system and deep sky objects as well as detailed charts graphs and tables to find must see events for years to come this comprehensive guide is complete with stunning and exclusive photography from top night sky photographers as well as advice on how to take your own incredible photos take your recreational viewing to the next level with activities like finding comets and asteroids tracking variable stars monitoring meteor showers following solar activity tracking satellites timing lunar and asteroid occultations with star charts practical background information technological resources and telescope and astrophotography guides this is the ultimate resource for any backyard space enthusiast

timeless comprehensive coverage of telescopes mirrors lenses mountings telescope drives micrometers spectroscopes more highly recommended for very serious nonprofessional astronomers a guide to the literature of astronomy 189 illustrations reprint of 1971 edition

an abundantly illustrated guide to the year s best stargazing season summer brings with it fine stargazing weather it also happens to be the time of the year when our galaxy the milky way arches high across the sky terence dickinson the cool clear nights from may to october offer astronomers the best opportunities for stargazing few sights in nature can compare with the splendor of a dazzling star filled sky summer stargazing captures the grandeur of the universe with down to earth simplicity all that is needed is a reasonably dark night sky a pair of binoculars or a simple telescope and this book the book features everything else the amateur astronomer needs including easy to use color star charts that cover the entire north american sky for one year and photographic quality charts for this main stargazing season with summer stargazing astronomers can delve into the majesty of the starry night to explore planets of the solar system galaxies remote star forming nebulas glittering star dusters and more helpful advice is given for safely viewing special phenomena such as eclipses and auroras summer stargazing is both a stargazing guide and a pictorial celebration of the summer night sky

most amateur astronomers yearn to observe more frequently many of them however live in urban and highly developed suburban areas that are heavily light polluted due to this light pollution they are under the impression that deep sky objects nebulae galaxies star clusters are either invisible or not worth viewing from home this book describes the many objects that can be seen in a bright urban sky and shows the city or suburban astronomer how to observe object after object season after season this book covers the why how and what of astronomy under light polluted skies the prospective city based observer is told why to observe from home there are hundreds of spectacular objects to be seen from the average urban site how to observe the city sky telescopes accessories and moderns techniques and what to observe about 50 of the book is devoted to describing tours of the sky with physical and observational descriptions at the eyepiece drawings and photographs

a practical guide to viewing the universe

seeing stars is written for astronomers regardless of the depth of their theoretical knowledge who are taking their first steps in observational astronomy chris kitchin and bob forrest both professional astronomers take a conducted tour of the night sky and suggest suitable observing programmes for everyone from beginners to experts how is this book different we are all familiar with the beautiful images of planets and galaxies obtained by spacecraft and giant telescopes but what can you really see with a small telescope what should you expect from a small refractor or reflector and what is the effect of observing from a site near a city the answers are all here with many photographs that will illustrate exactly what can be seen with different instruments everything from the naked eye to a 300mm telescope and from different locations

every amateur astronomer has at least heard of the many different catalogs of deep sky objects the most well known are the messier the caldwell the herschel and the ngc all of these catalogs are in general readily available but very few amateur observers are in a position to choose the best catalog for their particular deep sky observing program know how to use the catalog or even realize just how many there are out there the amateur astronomer s guide to the deep sky catalogs is a single compilation of the historical and modern astronomical deep sky catalogs it discusses their origins compares what s in them explains how to interpret the data they contain and even outlines how readers can create suitable custom catalogs for their own use the last

section provides a set of three deep sky catalogs created by the author for observers of different levels of experience from newcomer to expert

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