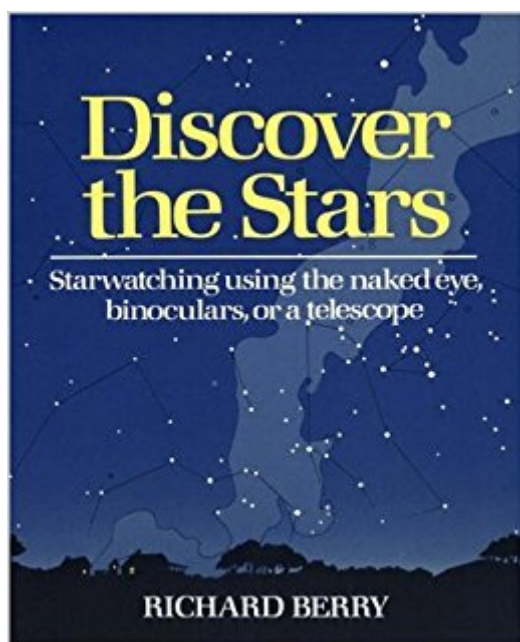


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Discover The Stars: Starwatching Using The Naked Eye, Binoculars, Or A Telescope



Synopsis

For everyone who has looked up at the stars on a clear night and longed to know more about them, here is the perfect introduction and guide to discovering the stars. Discover the Stars leads you on a tour of all the stars and constellations visible with the naked eye and introduces you to deep-sky objects that can be seen with binoculars or a simple telescope. The tour is conducted by the editor of Astronomy magazine, Richard Berry, whose two-color, computer-plotted sky maps and clear instructions make stargazing fun and productive from your first night out. The heart of Discover the Stars is two sections of big, beautiful sky maps and charts. The first section features twelve maps that show the entire sky overhead as it appears during each month of the year. These outline all the constellations visible anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere, and the accompanying text reveals the rich ancient mythology that surrounds the star groups. The second section is made up of twenty-three star charts that depict smaller regions of the sky in great detail. These charts give the names of key stars and lead you to fascinating features such as stars with unusual colors, double stars, variable stars, nebulae, and galaxies. Separate chapters cover basics, such as how the stars move through the sky, how to find your way around the moon and the planets, making an astronomer's flashlight, and choosing and using a telescope -- all in terms that are easy to grasp and remember. Discover the Stars is the perfect introduction to the heavens, simple enough to be useful if you're just starting out but packed with enough information to keep you learning and enjoying the stars for years to come.

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Customer Reviews

YA This title for beginning stargazers is well laid out and provides simple explanations and instructions for exploring the stars, planets, and moon. The star charts of various constellations are simple, their disadvantage being that they don't prepare beginners for the masses of other stars in the night sky. There are also star charts for the night sky in various months viewed from the northern latitudes of the U.S., making the book less useful to schools in the south. The hints on how to use a telescope are excellent, and the format makes the book likely to be popular with beginning star gazers who want a book that's easy to carry outdoors. Bob Fliess, Episcopal High School, Bellaire Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

For everyone who has looked up at the stars on a clear night and longed to know more about them, here is the perfect introduction and guide to discovering the stars. Discover the Stars leads you on a tour of all the stars and constellations visible with the naked eye and introduces you to deep-sky objects that can be seen with binoculars or a simple telescope. The tour is conducted by the editor of Astronomy magazine, Richard Berry, whose two-color, computer-plotted sky maps and clear instructions make stargazing fun and productive from your first night out. The heart of Discover the Stars is two sections of big, beautiful sky maps and charts. The first section features twelve maps that show the entire sky overhead as it appears during each month of the year. These outline all the constellations visible anywhere in the Northern Hemisphere, and the accompanying text reveals the rich ancient mythology that surrounds the star groups. The second section is made up of twenty-three star charts that depict smaller regions of the sky in great detail. These charts give the names of key stars and lead you to fascinating features such as stars with unusual colors, double stars, variable stars, nebulae, and galaxies. Separate chapters cover basics, such as how the stars move through the sky, how to find your way around the moon and the planets, making an astronomer's flashlight, and choosing and using a telescope -- all in terms that are easy to grasp and remember. Discover the Stars is the perfect introduction to the heavens, simple enough to be useful if you're just starting out but packed with enough information to keep you learning and enjoying the stars for years to come.

This is an excellent beginner's look at understanding what you can see in the night skies with your naked eyes. Chapter One begins with some brief explanations of why the stars appear to move the way they do. Then moves to monthly charts that are easy to understand and with solid explanations as to what the sky holds during each month. Each month is covered by a 2 page spread with one

page of text info about the chart and the facing page showing a sky chart. Remember that these charts are geared toward naked-eye viewing so the charts simply show the stars within the constellations viewable that month. Chapter Two begins with some basic info about types of telescopes available, how they work and what accessories are available. Chapter Three contains more detailed charts of the skies (think zoomed in for more detail), plus info about astronomical measurement, variable stars, double stars, star clusters, nebulae, the Milky Way and other galaxies. It also contains instructions for using the star charts. Chapter Four is a brief exploration of the Moon, Chapter Five a brief view of the planets. Chapter Six encourages further exploration of astronomy with sources. These Chapters are followed by a list of constellations and what charts show them, and an Appendix showing which chart to use on particular dates and times. The book a book with "only" 128 pages "Discovering the Stars" is a very thorough introduction to the night sky.

Nice monthly atlas. Protection from flood of too much information.

Good book. The price is very good

This relatively slim volume is chock full of useful information for the beginner, and at a very reasonable price. It also includes a monthly all-sky chart for each month, and then 21 detailed charts of the constellations with facing pages suggesting the best objects to view in each constellation. It is really a gem!

As described in many places, this book lives up to the expectation. A nice introductory book on star-gazing. Our whole family loves the book.

This is an awesome book. I am an accomplished amateur astronomer and have tons of books but this the book I use to quick reference what Messier objects are visible in a particular constellation. I have literally worn a copy out thumbing back and forth in it. It would be a perfect first astronomy book for the budding binocular astronomer.

I'll make this quick. DISCOVER THE STARS, by Richard Berry, is beautifully written. Here's just one of the great many excerpts from this book: "This region lies south of Pegasus, far from the rich fields of the Milky Way. For observers in the northern states, the bright star Fomalhaut never rises high, and Sculptor, Phoenix, and Grus can't even be seen. Nonetheless, there are treasures buried

among these stars, especially when the sky is dark and transparent." Another: "As the glories of the summer sky sink in the west and before the brilliant gems of winter rise, autumn's stars grace the meridian. This is not a sky of bright stars, but rather a sea of large, dim features known as the "watery constellations." If only I could write half as well. The book is organized just as brilliantly as it is written, too. Damn, now I have to go out tonight, if it's clear, and do a bit of star gazing. Highly Recommended.

Discover The Stars: Starwatching using Naked Eye, Binoculars, or a Telescope is a great little book that teaches basic astronomical concepts in an approachable, chatty way. It is appropriate for young people who can read fairly well and for adults who are just beginning to delve into astronomy. This is an appropriate resource for home schooling families, youth groups, and after-school programs as well. Even for advanced star-gazers, it makes a nice little quick-find desk reference. The graphic on page three is a perfect visual to illustrate Earth's tilt and the way stars appear, from our Earthly perspectives, to move from East to West. Most people are not aware of Earth's special movements with relation to the stars, and most do not have an understanding of circumpolar skies! The monthly sky section is a nice way to introduce year round stargazing, and I liked the section on Choosing a Telescope, because this is an area where most people make their biggest, astro mistake...spending too much for inferior products and not appreciating the type of views an ordinary telescope will render. (The personal telescope is not the Hubble! :D Avoid the department store telescope!) My favorite section was "Exploring the Moon" The graphics in this little section are very helpful to the beginning astronomer, who most likely will target the moon frequently during sky-view skill building. The large moon graphic labels the main craters that can be seen. The book does a fairly good job on describing measurements for astronomy: distances, magnitudes, angles, sky relationships, etc.

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