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Advanced Amateur Astronomy



Synopsis

Written by an accomplished amateur astronomer and available for the first time in North America, this advanced guide is designed to take your evening explorations to new heights. Beginning with an explanation of the fundamental principles of practical astronomy, author North provides essential information on telescope optics, the atmosphere, astrophotography, electronic imaging, and telescope hardware (including how to select equipment and diagnose faulty telescopes). This knowledge is then applied to the full range of celestial bodies accessible by telescope: the solar system, stars and galaxies. For those amateur astronomers who are bored with making simple observations, chapters on photometry, spectroscopy and radio astronomy bring observational astronomy to a level where data of real scientific value can be acquired. This book is a must for any amateur astronomer wanting a new way to look at the sky.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...many astronomers will welcome the updated second edition of Gerald North's Advanced Amateur Astronomy...The sections on telescopic hardware, adjustment and astrophotography are now joined by a chapter on electronic imaging, and the book has a superb introduction to the types of astronomical object most suited to amateur investigation." New Scientist
"This book offers practical exercises and advice for the amateur astronomer looking to move beyond the basics of backyard stargazing and into the world of data gathering." Lunar & Planetary Information Bulletin
"North ably guides casual stargazers through all of the many possibilities for moving to the next level." Science

Books & Films

For the amateur astronomer who is bored with constellation spotting and elementary observing, this indispensable guide will put new zest into nights under starlit skies. It takes the observer onto more detailed and advanced practical work in astronomy, with chapters on astrophotography, electronic imaging, spectroscopy and radio astronomy. The specialised knowledge is applied to the full range of celestial bodies accessible by telescope: the solar system, stars and galaxies.

This was a very advanced book. Certainly not for the newbie. However it is a good reference. So, I could recommend the book in that capacity. It was a bit dated, but the stats and calcs will stand the test of time. If u purchase this book don't expect an enjoyable read. I do not believe it was written for that purpose. It does what the author intended, to present advanced astronomy concepts and ideas.

Most of this book is above me and the people in our club. I hope to grow into it.

The book I ordered arrived sooner than I'd expected, and it was in excellent shape. I am very satisfied with this purchase. Darya Martelle

North's seem to have a penchant for writing overview books, but this example is superior than his more recent "Observing the Moon" overview of that subject. Many of the things that North deals with in this book - optics, hardware, seeing, astrophotography, stellar objects (Sun, comets, planets, moon, etc) - have been done in other books, but North is able to take them to the next level rather effectively. Somehow he's able to put just the right amount in each chapter this time. Furthermore, North has been able to include in this book chapters in spectroscopy and radio astronomy that I've not seen in other books of this type. The only issue I have with the book is that some of his information now seems a bit dated. There is not much that can be done about that in such a fast moving field as Astronomy. Having said that, I think that "Advanced Amateur Astronomy" manages to raise the bar for books of this type. Recommended. Heck, its on MY Wish List! 8-)

The author covers quite a range of material, in a very easy to read style. He goes into enough depth to make it a very practical book. Cover basic collimation issues, telescope design- a great book for Amateur Telescope Makers. There's nice number of pointers on astrophotography also. Especially for planetary/lunar. Some material is perhaps a little dated. Not much on digital image processing, but

a good section nonetheless. Finally he concludes with neat radio telescope projects and how amateurs can do more scientific type work of benefit.

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