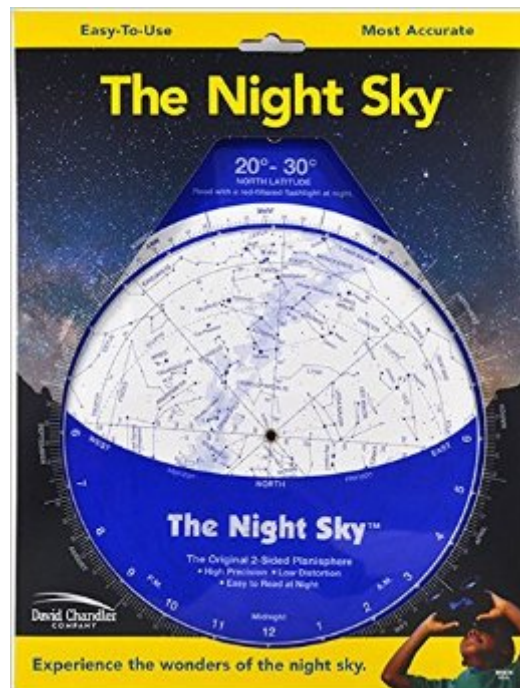


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# The Night Sky 20°-30°N (Large) Star Finder



## 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 20° -30° latitude zone (Florida, Caribbean, S.Texas, Hawaii). There are versions for the following latitude zones: 50° -60° , 40° -50° , 30° -40° , 20° -30° , and the Southern Hemisphere. There are also pocket-sized versions available for the same latitude zones.

## Book Information

Map: 2 pages

Publisher: David Chandler Co. (January 1, 1998)

Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-0961320768

Product Dimensions: 11 x 8.9 x 0.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (48 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #96,743 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #44 in [Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing](#) #208 in [Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy](#) #2015 in [Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology](#)

## Customer Reviews

It is very detailed. As it says, it's very similar to the stars you actually see in the sky. It works as follows: there is an outer dial with the days of the year, and an inner dial with the hours of day. By aligning them, it is easy to see the stars that are on the sky at any day (night) and hour. One side faces North and the other side faces South. It has the star coordinate system (the one in hours and degrees), so you can find planets, if you have a table that tells you where to look. I think you should complement this with a book, such as "40 Nights to Knowing the Sky", in order to know what you are seeing.

Having used planispheres for over 40 years, I was very interested when I first saw David Chandler's "The Night Sky". I found it to be the easiest to use, easiest to see and most accurate "sky dial" I had

ever used. I can recommend this excellent planisphere to beginner, amateur and professional astronomers alike.

I'm taking up backyard astronomy. So far I just use binoculars, maybe I'll go to a proper telescope later. Finding your way around the constellations is a daunting task for beginners. Enter the star finder. The proper term is planisphere. It's a chart of the night sky. It is adjustable for date and time so that you can locate the major star formations and it is quite useful. I use mine frequently. The one thing I'd fault it for is that it needs better instructions. However, you can find extensive instructions on the web. Now, let me tell you something that very few people know and that I only learned the hard way. Planispheres are constructed for specific latitudes. This one covers a band from 20 to 30 degrees north latitude. It is useful in Florida where I live as well as Texas. It would be of limited use for someone in oh, say Virginia and none at all in Massachusetts. There you would need a planisphere for 30 to 40 degrees north latitude. It is a very important distinction. So, if you decide to buy one, first find out the latitude where you live (you can find it on the Wikipedia page for your home state), then order the specific one for that latitude. It will save you a lot of headaches later

The Night Sky is not just another planisphere. I think The Night Sky is the finest and easiest to use star finding aid in existence. --Jack Internationally via satellite, the Armed Services Network, NASA C.O.R.E. and USIA WORLDNET

This deceptively simple-appearing device does require some familiarity or, better, a brief tutorial from an experienced friend or teacher. Once quickly mastered, it is an invaluable tool both for getting oriented to the current night sky and planning an observing session. It is far and away the most legible, least distorted and easiest to use of any planisphere I've tried. I keep mine in my telescope case. Very important: a planisphere does not replace a good atlas and seasonal observing guidebook! Two of my favorites are the portable but elegant Pocket Sky Atlas and the latest expanded edition of Turn Left at Orion. And a planisphere cannot show the moon or planets! iPhone and iPad applications are nifty, but this plastic planisphere can be put down on dewey grass without fear and requires no charging! While this planisphere is offered for many 10-degree latitude bands, the sky wheel is the identical for all and the only differences are where the blue horizon is painted. I wish each horizon was shown as parallel curved thick lines on a clear window. Then the planisphere would be universal for all observing latitudes, and I wouldn't have to buy one each for Miami, New York and Minneapolis!

I am holding back my opinion due to what may be my ignorance. I live at latitude 19.5 deg. roughly so this seemed to be the right version. In comparing it to online starcharts, I immediately noticed something very strange: Polaris (north star) and Little Dipper were shown almost directly overhead! And the Pleiades is shown well down in the north, rather than almost directly overhead as is easily seen any night. Online starcharts show Polaris well down on the northern horizon as you might expect, certainly not directly overhead. Almost like someone slipped the wrong star wheel into the thing, or I am really stupid at how to use this? Why is this so different from the online charts? Edit: Belay my first attempt at a review, turns out I had no idea how to properly use the device. It is not like a starchart that I had been printing out. If there is a glitch with this product, it is that it does not come with a simple tutorial on how to use a planisphere. After months of staring at starcharts, I was thinking this was just a nice laminated version. Wrong.

The first and best star chart for viewing the south sky with low distortion! I highly recommend it!

Really nice and easy to read and turn the dial to the month, date, and time you are looking at the sky. North -one side and South on other side. Am a beginner , senior and just wanted to identify stars .

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