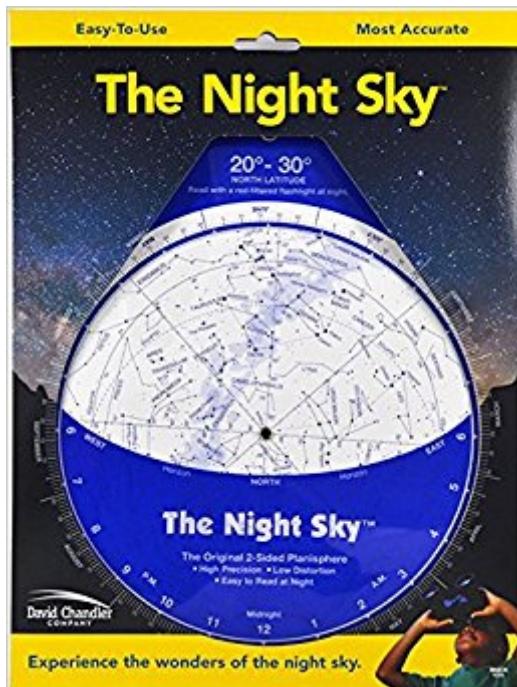


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# The Night Sky 20°-30°N (Large) Star Finder



## 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

ISBN-10: 0961320761

ISBN-13: 978-0961320768

Package Dimensions: 11 x 8.9 x 0.1 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 57 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #237,896 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing #596 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Astronomy #5511 in Books > Science & Math > Nature & Ecology

## Customer Reviews

Chandler's planisphere is the finest available. -- Terence Dickinson, astronomy textbook author, in SkyNews Magazine --Terence DickinsonI think The Night Sky is the finest and easiest to use star finding aid in existence. -- Jack Horkheimer, TV's Star Hustler --Jack HorkheimerMost aficionados now prefer David Chandler's The Night Sky wheel. -- J.T. Westways Magazine --Westways MagazineI think The Night Sky is the finest and easiest to use star finding aid in existence. -- Jack Horkheimer, TV's Star Hustler --Jack HorkheimerMost aficionados now prefer David Chandler's The Night Sky wheel. -- J.T. Westways Magazine --Westways Magazine

The Night Sky comes in two sizes: Large (8 inch diameter) and Small (5 inch diameter). The large size is best for learning the constellations. The small size is best as a pocket reference to tell you

what constellations are up if you are already reasonably familiar with the constellations. In each size the charts are available for different latitude zones. To find the correct size and latitude zone, use the following ISBN numbers in your .com search: The Night Sky 50° -60° (Large), 1891938088 (Small), 1891938096 The Night Sky 40° -50° (Large), 0961320745 (Small), 1891938010 The Night Sky 30° -40° (Large), 0961320753 (Small), 1891938029 The Night Sky 20° -30° (Large), 0961320761 (Small), 1891938037 The Night Sky Southern Hemisphere (Large), 0961320737 (Small), 1891938002

After reading all the wonderful reviews here I decided to buy this planisphere. The overly "simple" instructions it came with are really two tiny sentences printed on the back (or "south" side); "Turn the dial to match the day with the time . Use the front chart when facing north and the back chart when facing south."Really? That simple? NOT!!! I am a complete amateur, however I know how to identify only one group of stars; the big dipper. While looking at the big dipper and adjusting the wheels of this contraption to the correct time/month/day, the big dipper doesn't even appear on either the north or south side!!Am I missing something? I tripple checked my adjustments and nothing on this chart is even remotely recognizable. I'm sure some astrophysicist can figure out how to use this thing, but for an amateur like me it is a frustratingly impossible thing to figure out. I checked Youtube, spent a couple of hours researching online how to use this thing, but no luck.The one I ordered was the 20° - 30° north latitude recommended for Florida, so it's not like I ordered the wrong one.Not going to bother returning it. It's going straight to the trash. Lesson learned; no such thing as "easy methods" when it comes to stargazing. Either you approach it like the truly complicated science that it is, or get yourself another hobby. That is how frustrated I ended up after purchasing this thing.Also, it was sent to me in an envelope which was not marked "do not bend". Mailman bent it and stuffed it in my mail box. Thanks for your sloppy, cost cutting shipping methods .EDIT: I purchased two planispheres from different brands yesterday at my local bookstore; both are from different manufacturers. Both of them matched up perfectly with the night sky over my house. Apparently the disk on this "Night Sky" planisphere was placed on backwards and upside down, so that's why it was impossible to match up accurately with the night sky.

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.

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'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

Excellent, well-designed/thought out product. Easy to use.

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