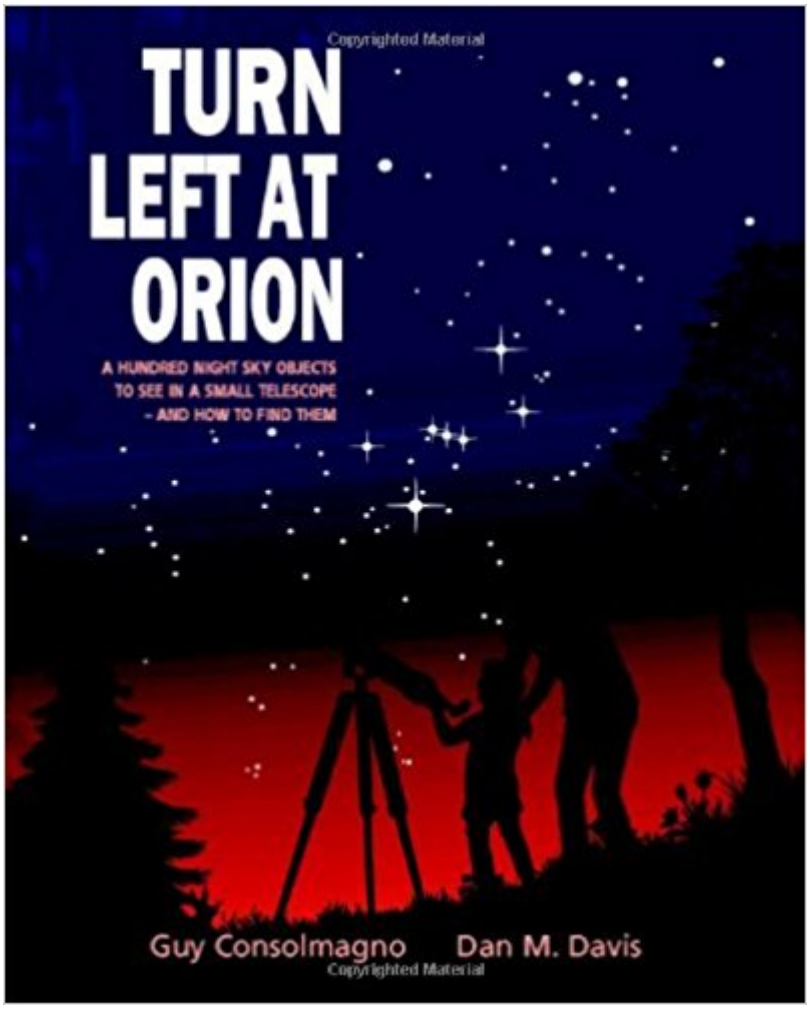
Turn Left At Orion: A Hundred Night Sky Objects To See In A Small Telescope - And How To Find Them



Synopsis

A superb guidebook described in Bookwatch as ’the home astronomer’s "bible"’, Turn Left at Orion provides all the information beginning amateur astronomers need to observe the Moon, the planets and a whole host of celestial objects. Large format diagrams show these objects exactly as they appear in a small telescope and for each object there is information on the current state of our astronomical knowledge. Revised and updated, this new edition contains a chapter with ten new spreads describing spectacular deep sky objects visible from the southern hemisphere, and tips on observing the upcoming transits of Venus. It also discusses Dobsonian telescopes, with hints on using personal computers and the Internet as aids for planning an observing session. Also new to this edition are redrawn "Guidepost" figures at the beginning of each season chapter that allow readers to visualize a three-dimensional view of the sky’s dome; redesigned seasonal object layouts that provide more space for the naked-eye charts; a new spread on double stars near BoÃƒÂ¶tes has been added to Spring, replacing the "Shrinking Double" spread; and a unique "When and Where to Look" table has been added to the last page, among other new features. Unlike many guides to the night sky, this book is specifically written for observers using small telescopes. Clear and easy to use, this fascinating book will appeal to skywatchers of all ages and backgrounds. No previous knowledge of astronomy is needed.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"...an excellent book for small telescope users...As the resurgence in small telescopes continues,

this book will be of use to all users of such instruments. Since many of the objects covered in Turn Left at Orion can be seen from light-polluted skies, this book is a valuable asset even if you live in a large urban area." Deep Sky"...should be packaged with every first telescope. It’s as nearly perfect as such a book can be." Sky & Telescope"...for those intent on doing some serious observing with a small telescope, Turn Left at Orion has much to recommend it." Stardust"I think the format is perfect for beginners but even more advanced observers may learn a thing or two. It’s like having one of the KAS’s many experts right next to you at your ’scope! It is commonly available in bookstores and libraries (including the KAS library). Two thumbs up (both of mine)." - Robert Havira, Cloudy Nights Telescope Reviews

Turn Left at Orion is a guidebook for beginning amateur astronomers, containing all the information needed to find over a hundred celestial objects. This revised edition includes tips on observing the upcoming transits of Venus and describes spectacular deep sky objects visible from the southern hemisphere. It also includes hints on using personal computers and the internet as aids for planning an observing session. Unlike many guides to the night sky, this book is specifically written for observers using small telescopes and will appeal to skywatchers of all ages and backgrounds.

Let me first say that the 4th edition is an outstanding book. It has made owning a small telescope a real joy because it very accurately points out *hundreds* of interesting things to see in the night sky that are within the reach of a small "budget" telescope and provides simple, step-by-step directions on how to find them. The charts are easy to use, and give a sense of thrill when you, say, successfully locate a new star cluster for the first time. Because the directions start from easy to find, bright stars it’s possible to use them even in fairly light polluted skies. In fact, since those are the only stars you can see in my light polluted part of coastal Florida, it’s easier to use the book at home than it is under dark skies when there are hundreds and hundreds more stars to sort out.Everyone who owns a small telescope needs this book. I had no idea what to do with my telescope when I got it as a Christmas gift, but after I picked up my first copy of TLAO a few weeks later I was amazed at the things I could find and see and all of a sudden I was spending three hours at a time sitting at the telescope every Friday and Saturday night that wasn’t completely overcast. After using this book to successfully find Deep Sky Objects for a while it gives you the confidence to strike out on your own using star chart books to find even more things. I had no idea how much *fun* even small 50-60mm telescopes could be IF you know where to look.My problem is that I now have several telescopes and while I don’t mind loaning them out I do mind loaning out my copy of

this book since I make notes in it and use it nearly every time I take a scope out. I also had problems where I've accidently torn several pages out of the spiral bound 4th edition when the book fell out of my lap while observing, and I don't really want someone else tearing up my book. Plus, some of the people I've loaned/given telescopes to have kids, and the kids may need something more durable. Thus, I decided to pick up a used copy of the hardbound 3rd edition and give it a try.All in all I've been very pleased with it, but there are some notable differences. The drawings of where to look in the sky are a little smaller in the 3rd edition (the pages are smaller) and don't quite have as much detail as the 4th edition. The finderscope views are nearly identical, but the 4th edition sometimes covers a larger piece of sky. The "in the telescope view" in the 3rd edition only shows views for what the object looks like in mirror-image star diagonals. If you have a correct-image diagonal you have to flip it in your head, but that's nothing compared to the mental gymnastics you have to do with an upside-down correct image in a reflector scope to make sure you've found the right thing. The 4th edition has views for what an object looks like in a bigger reflector scope ("Dobsonian"). The 3rd edition has a nice "moon tour" based on phases of the moon that walks you through how to identify various prominent craters and feature, which also shows what the moon looks like in a mirror diagonal. The 4th edition, however, has a much more detailed night-by-night "moon tour" and shows the moon (as well as close-ups of some areas) as correct images, which is more useful for reflectors and those refractors with correct-image prisms. Some of the directions for how to find objects (the open clusters in Auriga, for instance) are easier to follow in the 4th edition since it accounts for the increased light pollution that has gotten worse since earlier editions.The 4th edition also has a bunch more double stars and fainter galaxies that can only be seen in a larger aperture telescope (8inch+), but if your telescope is in the 60-90mm range like many beginners you're hardly going to miss those objects since you can't see them anyway.The two biggest things the 3rd edition has going for it is that it is a sturdier hardback book which will hold up to kids' use better and price, in that it is currently 25-35% the price of the newer edition. Given the fact that it's "nearly as good" in most areas it's an outstanding value to have as a backup, loaner, or gift for those who may need a more durable book. I've bought three copies now to loan/gift, so I would say the 3rd edition still has relevance today.

It is written in a clear style which will tell you exactly what you see like a friend would do. For that the book would deserve a 5 star.But the tables are almost unreadable on the kindle. Also the viewing dates for objects are up to 2010 in some cases 2011. This is the reason for the 3 stars.I would probably buy this as a paperback to take along. It is easier to skip through the pages, ad post-it.

comments, ...Some reviews complain about the orientation of the pictures. This is one thing one has to get used with astronomy. There are so many ways to see the images depending on your telescope and is some cases even with the same telescope it will change depending on the eyepiece or camera adapter.The pictures and explanations are detailed enough to help any amateur go get started looking at the stars

I've read a series of astronomy books, but Left at Orion and Nightwatch (by Dickinson) are at the top of my list. If I had a small refractor, Left at Orion would be the best pick. Nightwatch by Dickinson is best for picking the right scope and accessories and learing the celestrial objects (e.g. planets and stuff). However, Left at Orion is the best for learing how to locate objects in the night sky USING A SMALL TELESCOPE. I've been pulling my hair out about not being able to locate objects for the longest, but now I have a great tool that will help me. This is the book you use in the dark. I sit down by my scope with my RED flashlight and this book that is such a great guidance. So don't get frustrated and throw away your small scope just yet. Get comfortable and use this guide. You can always upgrade and have the small scope for for any company who wants to join you. I wish I didn't return my small scope so quickly. Anyways, after reading this book, I bought an 80mm refractor to travel on the plane with because I can't lug that big Newtonian Dob around. Yes, Left at Orion and Nightwatch are the best picks whether you have a small refractor or a big reflector. However, Nightwatch (by Dickinson) is a book to buy when you want to upgrade your telescope. Be ware: Dickinson does NOT have the nicest things to say about the small telescopes, however, if you want to upgrade, BUY NIGHTWATCH FIRST BEFORE PURCHASING A NEW TELESCOPE!!! Please read the other reviews to help guide your purchase.

Things To See With A Small Telescope How To Become A High Quality Woman: Know What Guys Think About Women and Relationships, Then Turn Them Around And Use Them To Your Advantage The Night Sky: A Glow-in-the-Dark Guide to Prominent Stars & Constellations North of the Equator (Sky Watcher Guide) Flavored Butters: How to Make Them, Shape Them, and Use Them as Spreads, Toppings, and Sauces (50 Series) Essential Spices and Herbs: Discover Them, Understand Them, Enjoy Them Think...like a Bed Bug: A Guide To Knowing What Bed Bugs Are, WhoÃ¢â ¬â„¢s At Risk, How You Get Them, How To Spot Them Early, Health Implications, Prevention ... Tips, And What To Do If You Get Them! A Millennials Guide To Live Your Dream: The Most Likely To Succeed Will Find That Elusive Something That Leads Them To Success and Happiness. Find Your Inner Super Power! Importing From China Is Easy: How I Make $1 million a Year by Private Labeling: How to Find Products to Import, Find Suppliers, and Have Them Delivered to Your Doorstep Ultimate Explorer Field Guide: Night Sky: Find Adventure! Go Outside! Have Fun! Be a Backyard Stargazer! (National Geographic Kids Ultimate Explorer Field Guide) Astrophotography: An Introduction (Sky & Telescope Observer’s Guides)