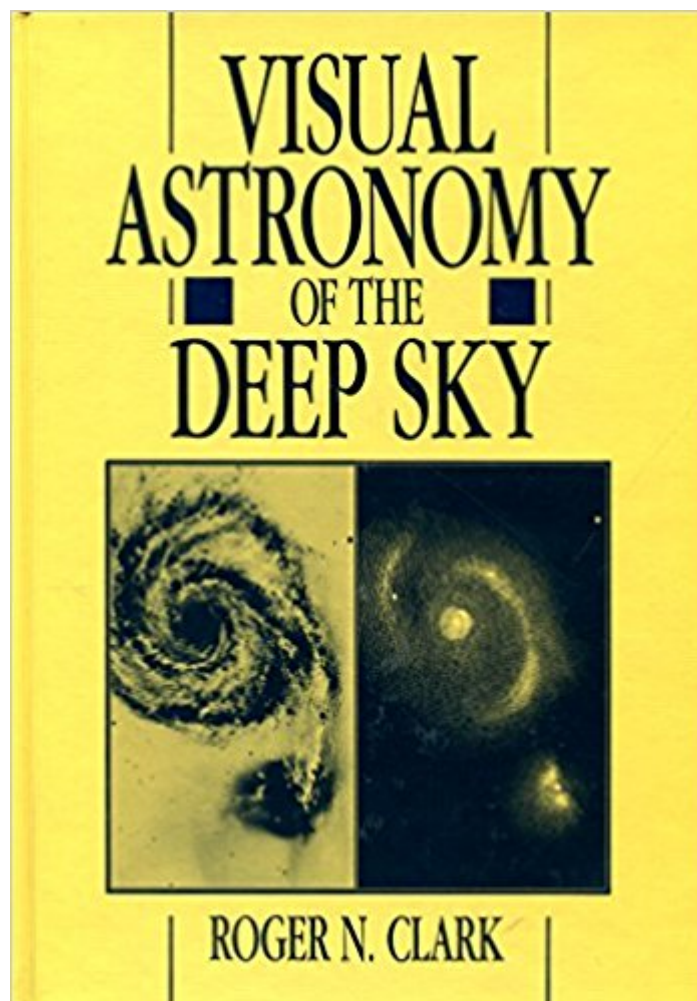


The book was found

Visual Astronomy Of The Deep Sky



Synopsis

This handbook for beginner as well as advanced amateur astronomers, attempts to cover the most important galaxies and nebulae that telescope users observe. The core of the book is a visual atlas of deep sky objects. Drawings and photographs on the same scale are presented to aid identification.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a great book with sketches and corresponding pictures. Covers many technical aspects of optics of observation, and how to get the best observation for your telescope. Also has a listing in the back with over 600 objects, giving vitals including size, location, surface brightness, and optimal magnification for various size telescopes.

A great book and the original version supplied expertly by _Mary, who put up with all my questions whether it was an original printing from 1990 (it was!!). The book will help all observers understand the interplay between the eye and actually seeing detail within deep sky objects.

This is a book that all amateur astronomers should collect. It has excellent descriptions and information about lots of deep sky objects. Very nice hand sketches. Definitely a collector's item.

Want to see spiral arms of M33, M51 or M101... in a 10 inch scope? Confused about why certain

not-too-dim "faint fuzzies" cannot be seen at all- even at low power under clear, dark conditions? Do you enjoy lots of graphs, charts, equations and technical writing? Then this book is for you. Roger Nelson Clark's book gives the Serious observer of the deep sky the skills necessary to milk the most information out of every last photon of light when observing visually. He gives an extremely complete recounting of studies of the human visual system, most specifically in terms of its ability to adapt to dark conditions and perceive subtle differences in contrast, and its acuity under low-light conditions. He asserts that there is, statistically, not a very wide range of light perception ability in the human population (amongst those without obvious visual disease) and that techniques he outlines in the book will help any committed student of the sky see more details. His conclusions? The bottom line is: most of us aren't using enough magnification. Many assume that the "richest field" view of a scope, providing the brightest image per unit area, will also allow for the greatest amount of observed detail. Clark, however, shows that this is not the case. Indeed, at low light levels, the human visual system is not very acute, (unlike daytime vision) and that many of the details in our favorite "faint fuzzies" simply cannot be seen unless they are magnified enough for their light to spread out over a larger portion of our retinæ. Also, magnifying has the added effect of dimming the background around an object as well as the object itself. The human eye is excellent, it turns out, in perceiving subtle differences in contrast, and that an overall reduction in light per unit area does not affect this as much as one would think. What's more, when reducing the overall amount of light entering the eye, dark adaptation improves. Clark outlines the results of studies that show that in complete darkness, the dark adapted human eye can detect points of light equivalent to an 8.5 mag star! So, in looking through an eyepiece, one's eye can, in fact, become more dark adapted than it would be under the ambient light of the sky. He demonstrates how to compute the "optimum detection magnification"- not too high not too low- for a given object, given its brightness per unit area and its size. An excellent feature of the book are Clark's drawings of a host of astronomical objects through scopes of various sizes. This gives an excellent indication of what one should be able to see under decent atmospheric conditions. One weakness in the book, I find, is the charts of "recommended optimum detection magnifications". While the concept that such a magnification exists is a good one to know, and its exposition in this book complete and useful, the execution of this chart is full of glitches. While the overall gist of the book suggests that many of us aren't "cranking it up enough", many of suggested optimum magnifications are absurdly high. Many are useful, however. You'll just have to find out which is which for yourself. I chalk this up to sloppy editing. Don't, however, let this dissuade you from getting this book. If you fit the description above, then this book will change the way you use your scope.

This book has become a collectors item, prices range from \$195-\$400. It's an excellent book but I would suggest borrowing it from a library, like I did, before making a decision to buy it. There is about 64 pages of technical information on issues associated with viewing DSO. I found the technical information interesting but difficult to follow at times, it took me a number of readings to absorb the material. The rest of the book is a compilation of Dr. Clark's observation logs and several appendices. For the most part he uses a homemade 8-inch f/11.5 Cassegrain. Glancing through the observational logs I noticed that Dr. Clark used either a 38mm (1), 28mm Erfle (9), 20mm Erfle (48), 12.5mm Orthoscopic (5), 12.4mm Erfle (48), 9mm Kellner (5), 7mm Erfle (9) and 6mm Orthoscopic (1), numbers in brackets are the number of times he used the eyepiece. There were about 68 observational drawings with the 20mm and 12.4mm eyepieces being used 48 times each, therefore dominating his observing. If Dr. Clark used more than 1 eyepiece for the observation he would sometimes label the eyepiece that yielded the best view. It is clear to me from Dr. Clark's book that a lot of DSOs and their details can be seen from a dark site by a visual observer with good averted vision skills, a few carefully chosen good eyepieces, such as a 20mm and 12mm for example, and a reasonably sized telescope ~ f/10, 8-inch SCT.

I found this book a must for anyone wanting to exploit visual limits in skygazing with a telescope. It analyses in depth the average visual acuity and translates the priorly published results into a guide to get the best possible power to observe anything through a telescope. Then suggest (with lots of examples) a very useful way of making an observing log. It includes a catalogue with more than 600 deep sky objects, a table which can be used as a guide to observe them with a telescope an example computer program in Basic and Fortran to be used as a basis to get the best possible conditions to study any object. It helped me to find M1, M81 and M101 in the light polluted place in northwestern Mexico City where I use my 78mm telescope.

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