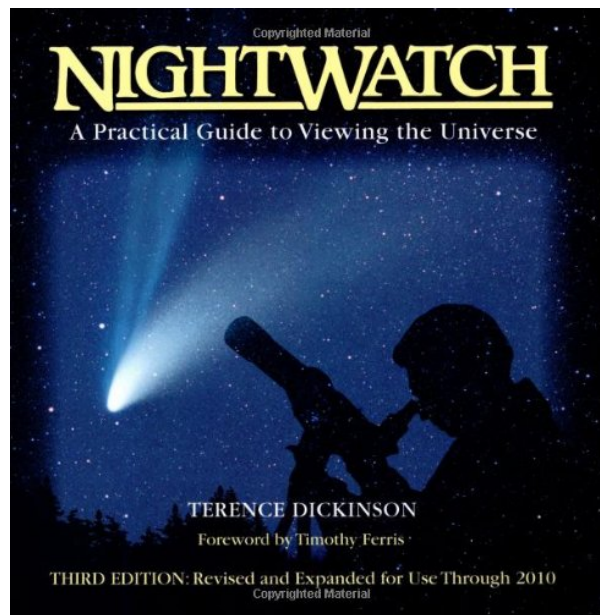
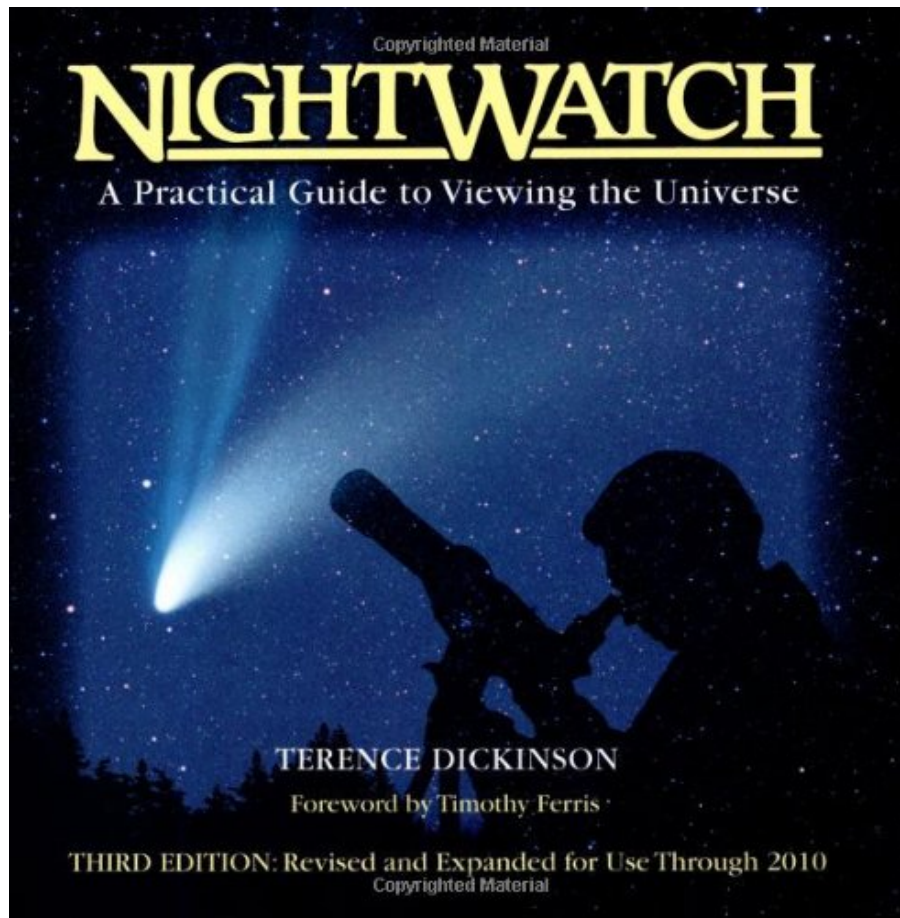


# NIGHTWATCH: A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO VIEWING THE UNIVERSE BY TERENCE DICKINSON



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Altogether, the watchword for *Nightwatch* is indeed "practical"--this is a book to be used, not just read. Spiral-bound to lie flat or to fold back undamaged, it's a field guide that pulls its own weight in the field. Author Timothy Ferris says, "Like a good night sky, *Nightwatch* is clear and wind-free. Try it and see for yourself." --Mary Ellen Curtin

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Grade 6 Up?This long-overdue update of a classic handbook for amateur astronomers combines a text both meaty and hard to put down with a great array of charts, boxes, tables, and dazzling full-color photos of the sky. Aiming this offering at new but serious hobbyists, Dickinson guides readers on a tour of the universe visible from any dark backyard, providing frank evaluations of many telescope models; specific advice for photographers; and a simple system for locating stars, constellations, nebulae, and other intriguing sights. Convenient charts track upcoming eclipses and the locations of the five planets visible to the naked eye (both through the year 2010). The author closes with lists of supplementary resources, including books, software, Web sites, and conventions. Dickinson's contagious enthusiasm and vast expertise earn this a place in reference and circulating collections of any size.?John Peters, New York Public Library

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The new Third Edition expands on that success with a completely revised and updated text, more than 100 new color photos and diagrams and 16 additional pages that cover such! new astronomical pursuits as computerized telescopes, reviews of new telescope designs and accessories, and astronomy on the Internet.

All charts, tables and diagrams have been updated and, in some cases, redesigned for easier use. Improved spacecraft measurements of the distances to the stars (recently released by the European Space Agency) are included in the charts, along with additional observing tips for stargazers using binoculars and telescopes. An expanded chapter on Astrophotography lists the best modern films and cameras for skyshooting.

The new NightWatch is faithful to the "ultra-simplified, no jargon" philosophy of the original, and at the same time, offers substantially more practical information for the novice and intermediate-level amateur astronomer. The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada called the first edition "the best of its kind"- the new Third Edition is better still. It is still an abundantly illustrated, wide-sized volume designed for easy reference during many starlit nights.

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## Features

- Universe
- Night Watch
- Astrology
- Terence Dickinson
- Third Edition

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spiral binding rendered useless

By G. Garcia

I won't add anything about the book itself to the already great reviews written by others here, my reason for

posting this review is to say that the way that the book is now bound takes away all the advantages of the book being spiral bound. The cover on the edition that I received is a hard cover with a hard spine on the book that will not permit you folding the book over onto itself without damaging the hardcover and its spine.

It's ironic because in the book, the author writes a line, which i'll paraphrase here, that you can take this book out into the field and use the star maps by folding the book open and holding it up so that you can search for constellations and stars, but now, with this current edition's binding, you can't do this. I am thinking of cutting the spine down the middle so that i can fold the book over, because the charts and starmaps really would be useful. The other solution is just to leave the book undamaged and buy a separate star finder, and leave this book at home when out stargazing.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Good introduction into the night sky and the tools you need to do so especially for beginners

By PLs

For me as a beginner not having touched the subject for at least 27 years, this book was a very good introduction to the night sky. I was however surprised, that the included winter sky chart did not show the constellation where Mars can be found in January 2017. It is tabulated that the planet can be seen in the constellation Aquarius. When I checked the constellation chart for winter, I could not see any drawing of Aquarius nor a label for the constellation. If I would not have know that the Pisces are close to the Aquarius, I would not have found the place in the sky where Mars can be found. The Aquarius constellation is not named specifically in the winter charts, the Pisces are not drawn but labeled. The fact that not all constellations are depicted or labelled on the charts gives a better overview and a better introduction to the beginner avoiding too much confusion with too many constellations.

Besides the mentioned little inconsistency the book is really thought through and follows a clear line. Thank you for bringing all this knowledge in such a compiled form to the public!

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Great Introductory Guide to Backyard Astronomy!

By A. Aurelius

As the number one selling amateur astronomy book in the world (and here on Amazon), I think most would buy this holding fairly high expectations. And I am happy to report that for the most part, the book lives up to the hype. It provides an easily accessible framework based on the constellations of the Big Dipper (Ursa Major) and Orion for then orienting and helping any amateur astronomer to get out viewing under the stars. The chapters are logically laid out from understanding the scale of the universe to the layout of the constellations to picking a first telescope to the observation of major celestial sights. Mr Dickinson does a great job of including some great inserts on major star names and their origins, future upcoming lunar and solar eclipses and detailed data on how to view the planets. Perhaps my favorite illustration of the book is the one showing the constellations of the Zodiac laid out in the correct direction relative to the Milky Way galaxy. There are also a great many detailed star charts available in the book which will help any northern hemisphere owner achieve proper orientation to the night sky. The book is also very good as discussing amateur astronomy from several points of view, including naked eye observation, binocular viewing and for those owning telescopes.

At about 190 pages, the book can easily be read over the period of a week or so with the observer then coming back frequently to use the star charts. The only caveat I can think of is that the book is perhaps not as detailed as some gear heads and more serious observers might hope for. As a complete newbie when I purchased the book, I found every chapter insightful but now that I have more experience, I would also recommend interested readers who want more meat to take a look at another book by Dickinson, 'The Backyard Astronomer's Guide'. BAG as it is known to astronomers is basically a more detailed version of Nightwatch. It has some of the basic detail of Nightwatch but with a great deal of depth that Nightwatch does



not have (especially concerning telescope gear and equipment) plus many new topics. Nightwatch does have many nice sky maps which BAG does not. Basically if you wish to get into night sky viewing occasionally or without equipment, or with binoculars or a small cheaper telescope, then Nightwatch is your best bet. However, if you are pretty sure that celestial viewing is going to be a major hobby for you and you crave more detail, then I recommend ordering Nightwatch and the BAG book together.

Overall, I really enjoyed the book and am still using the star charts during observations. There is no wasted space in the book and it will certainly help out any new backyard astronomer. Easily five stars!

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