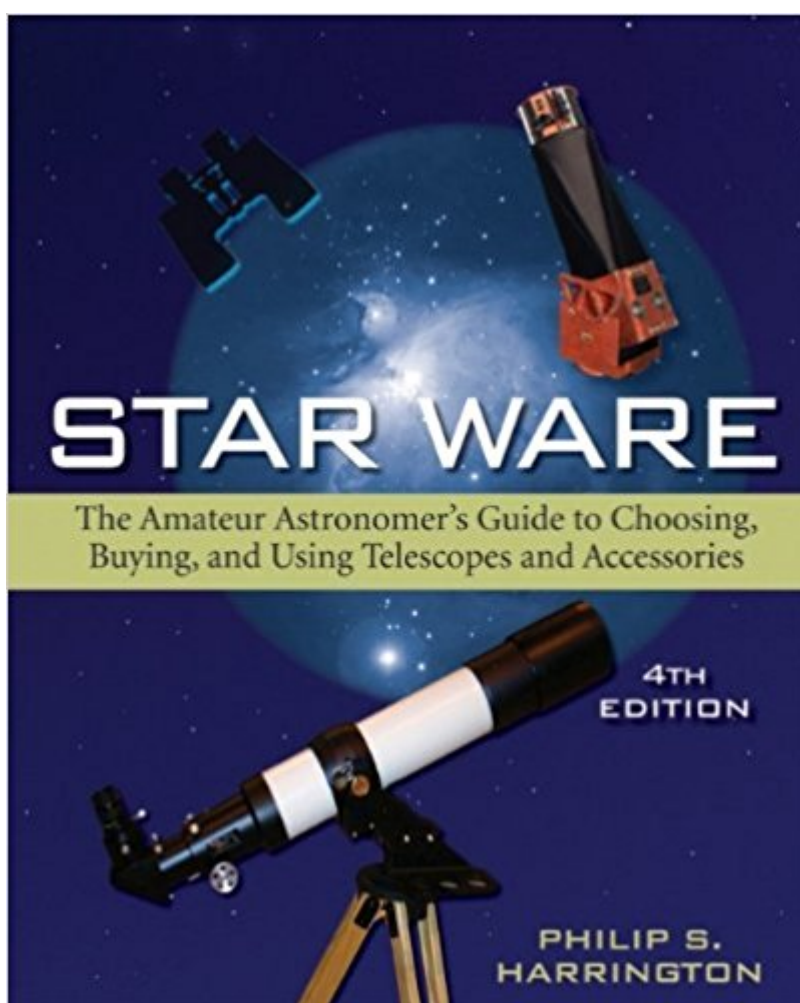


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Star Ware: The Amateur Astronomer's Guide To Choosing, Buying, And Using Telescopes And Accessories



Synopsis

Praise for Star Ware""Star Ware is still a tour de force that any experienced amateur will find invaluable, and which hardware-minded beginners will thoroughly enjoy.""- Robert Burnham, Sky & Telescope magazine""Star Ware condenses between two covers what would normally take a telescope buyer many months to accumulate.""- John Shibley, Astronomy magazineWhether you're shopping for your first telescope or your fifth, don't be surprised if you feel overwhelmed by the dazzling array of product choices, bells and whistles, and the literature that describes them all. That's why you need Star Ware.In this revised and updated Fourth Edition of the essential guide to comparing and selecting sky-watching equipment, award-winning astronomy writer Philip Harrington takes you telescope shopping the easy way. He analyzes and explains today's astronomy market and compares brands and models point by point. Star Ware gives you the confidence you need to buy the telescope and accessories that are right for you and the knowledge to get the most out of your new purchase, with:

- *Extensive, expanded reviews of leading models and accessories-including dozens of new products
- *A clear, step-by-step guide to every aspect of selecting telescopes, binoculars, filters, mounts, lenses, cameras, film, star charts, guides and references, and much more
- *Ten new do-it-yourself projects for building your own astronomical equipment
- *Easy tips on setting up, using, and caring for telescopes and other astronomical equipment
- *Lists of where to find everything astronomical, including Web sites and resources; distributors, dealers, and conventions; and corporate listings for products and services

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Customer Reviews

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Philip S. Harrington holds degrees in mechanical engineering and science education. As a contributing editor for Astronomy magazine, he writes reviews of astronomical equipment as well as a monthly column on binocular astronomy. He is the author of the three previous editions of Star Ware as well as Star Watch, Touring the Universe through Binoculars, and Eclipse!

I fell in love with viewing stars and planets 50+ years ago but grew frustrated with the problems: halos around stars, fuzzy views of planets, difficulty tracking objects in the night sky. And collimating the 'scope! Too much. So I searched for a good book to help me and this is the one that really fit the bill. Harrington knows his stuff. He explains it very, very well, and the book is organized in a manner that allowed me to grasp the points of telescopes, binoculars, eyepieces, and mounts. I let me to understand why focal length, power, eye relief, etc. are important and yet do not need to put me off. There are tables to help me quickly look at what matters to help my viewing experience. And he not only dealt with particular brands, using both frank discussions of products, clarifying types of

telescopes and binoculars and other equipment, combined with his personal viewing experiences and reviews for a major astronomic viewing magazine. Perfect. I can now see the reasons for my difficulties and the solutions. I had been using a Bausch & Lomb 10X35 binoculars for looking in the sky at night, and it was frustrating. I spent only a hundred bucks more for a pair of Pentax binoculars that are wonderful, and I see so much more! I will also be able to get better use out of my two reflector telescopes now that I understand the equipment better, and there are a couple of reasonably priced accessories I'll get, such as a better finder-scope. I didn't want something that would make it all more difficult for me, and this book gave the breadth of information and level of analysis I needed. Perfect!

I basically bought this book to get current on the latest gear, it fills the bill in every way as far as that goes with tons of pertinent and useful data to help a person decide where to go with their interest. I had a very high end telescope a few years ago, but it wasn't very portable, and very few people were willing to go through the ordeal of getting to dark and then setting up and observing quite far from home base! Recently I acquired a fixer upper Newtonian and wanted to fit it out a little better than usual for more casual and portable viewing. This book was perfect for exactly what I needed. It re-introduced me to the good, better and best gear, and made me realize that even a smaller, well set up scope could get the job done very well. I highly recommend the book to anyone starting out or re-entering the hobby after a hiatus. Solid, usefull and current info as long as you get the latest edition!!

As a newcomer to astronomy, I have read 'Nightwatch', 'Turn Left at Orion', and this book. 'Nightwatch' provides some good advice on buying your first telescope. 'Star Ware', however, is a much more comprehensive guide to telescopes and telescope accessories. Take the time to read it and you will be rewarded with a wealth of information that will enable you to make informed decisions on what telescope is right for you and what else you will need to buy. My only criticism is that in an attempt to be comprehensive it provides almost too much information - a dizzying array of manufacturers for one thing. Also, I have the Kindle edition and I think for reference books like this I'd rather have the print version. But that's just me. Anyway, good telescopes aren't cheap and this book will help you make a good choice. Well worth the money.

Oh yeah. This book saved me from an expensive purchase I would not have been happy with. Learned enough to make a good decision on purchasing a (actually two) telescopes(s). I was

very confused getting back into astronomy and looking at all the choices and reviews. Previous telescopes were department store types and after reading this book, it was not surprising I gave up the hobby for 30 years!! I recommend this book prior to making ANY telescope purchase by the beginning astronomer.

This is a well written book. Everything is neatly arranged. The author provides explanations of common terms like focal ratio, eye relief, and many more. He also provides a history of the various types of telescopes as well as a comparison of the various uses. Phil S. Harrington did a excellent job of compiling a reference of the various telescopes, accessories, and manufacturers. It also contains some information on observing. As an added bonus, purchasers of the book can go to his website for updates and corrections (and some other useful stuff). This book is definitely worth the money!

This book is very easy to read, and extremely helpful if you are in the market for a telescope. The types of instruments available, and which ones are good for viewing which objects are all easily explained. Which eye pieces? Which mounts? Which manufacturers? The author doesn't dumb down the subject but presents the important specifications for intelligent buying in a manner that all can understand. Ultimately, he leaves that to you, but it really did make me a better consumer. I'm glad I spent a few bucks for the book not only for the well presented info but also because it was an interesting read. Thanks Mr. Harrington.

If you are thinking about buying a telescope, hold off until after you read this book. I got a toy telescope for Christmas when I was a kid and was initially excited but quickly got frustrated over its performance. Now, I want to try again. I was excited about jumping in, but decided to do some research first before making the investment. The author has tons of experience. The book is full of personal observations and written in a casual, conversational style. The biggest takeaway from the book is to know why you are buying a piece of gear. The chapters on types of telescopes and how to choose the type for you make the book worth the price. So, before you rush and buy a scope because it is on sale, buy this book first.

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