



## The Total Skywatcher's Manual: 275+ Skills and Tricks for Exploring Stars, Planets, and Beyond

By Astronomical Society of the Pacific

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### The Total Skywatcher's Manual: 275+ Skills and Tricks for Exploring Stars, Planets, and Beyond By Astronomical Society of the Pacific

For stargazers, comet-spotters and planet-seekers looking to enhance your deep sky knowledge and observations - this is your quintessential guide. *The Total Skywatcher's Manual* will help you choose the best telescope, identify constellations and objects in the night sky, search for extraterrestrial phenomena, plan star parties, capture beautiful space imagery and much more. With high-quality design, intricate detail, and a durable flexicover—this manual is the perfect gift!

With fully illustrated star charts, gorgeous astrophotography and step-by-step project instruction, this family friendly book is the only guide you'll ever need to navigate the night sky. Learn about the phases of the moon, how to conduct your own deep-sky observations, how the universe is expanding, our search for life on other planets, meteors vs. meteorites, sunspots and solar flares, best eclipse-viewing techniques—everything you need to know to appreciate the wonder of our universe.

Based in San Francisco, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has a 125-year history of providing resources, tools, and information to astronomy enthusiasts, including amateur astronomers, families, and science educators (K-16). Join the ASP on this journey through the night sky and beyond.

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- Sales Rank: #94333 in Books
- Published on: 2015-09-22
- Released on: 2015-09-22
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.50" h x 1.00" w x 7.50" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 272 pages

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"*The Total Skywatcher's Manual* is a fun book, but more importantly, it's a useful book... The ASP has long offered us outreach material, but in *The Total Skywatcher's Manual*, they offer us a new outreach approach as well." (*Sky & Telescope*)

#### About the Author

Based in San Francisco, California, the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has a 125-year history of providing astronomy enthusiasts with the resources, tools, and information they need to understand astronomy better and teach astronomy to others. The ASP audience includes amateur astronomers, astronomy enthusiasts, families, science educators, children, and informal educators, and the ASP has several major, grant-funded STEM initiatives that generate activities for all age groups.

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#### **TIP 38: ORIENT YOURSELF WITH A GNOMON**

If you've never tracked the Sun during the course of a day, it can be, well, illuminating! The next time it's sunny out, use this method to find north (or south in the southern hemisphere).

**STEP ONE** Start early and place a vertical stick on a large flat spot that will stay in sunlight all day. This is called a *gnomon*. A yardstick in a can of dirt, or a (clean!) plunger, will work. Mark its spot in case it moves.

**STEP TWO** Mark the line of the plunger's shadow in chalk or place a stone at the tip of the shadow. You can also write the time.

**STEP THREE** Make this same observation as often as possible, especially in the middle of the day. Every 30 minutes is ideal.

**STEP FOUR** Find the shortest shadow marking or the stone closest to the gnomon. That line represents when the Sun was highest in the sky—midday (it can be as late as 1:30 PM during daylight saving time). It is also the point when the Sun was southernmost in the northern sky, or northernmost in the southern sky.

**STEP FIVE** Draw a line between the plunger and the tip of the shortest shadow. This line points directly north in the northern hemisphere or south in the southern hemisphere. With a compass (or compass app), see for yourself the difference between true north, which you just found, and magnetic north.

### Users Review

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#### Gail Brasfield:

Now a day people who Living in the era wherever everything reachable by interact with the internet and the resources included can be true or not need people to be aware of each info they get. How individuals to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the answer is reading a book. Reading through a

book can help individuals out of this uncertainty Information mainly this The Total Skywatcher's Manual: 275+ Skills and Tricks for Exploring Stars, Planets, and Beyond book as this book offers you rich info and knowledge. Of course the details in this book hundred pct guarantees there is no doubt in it you know.

**Deborah Rost:**

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**Ricardo Donaldson:**

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**Lisa Madruga:**

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