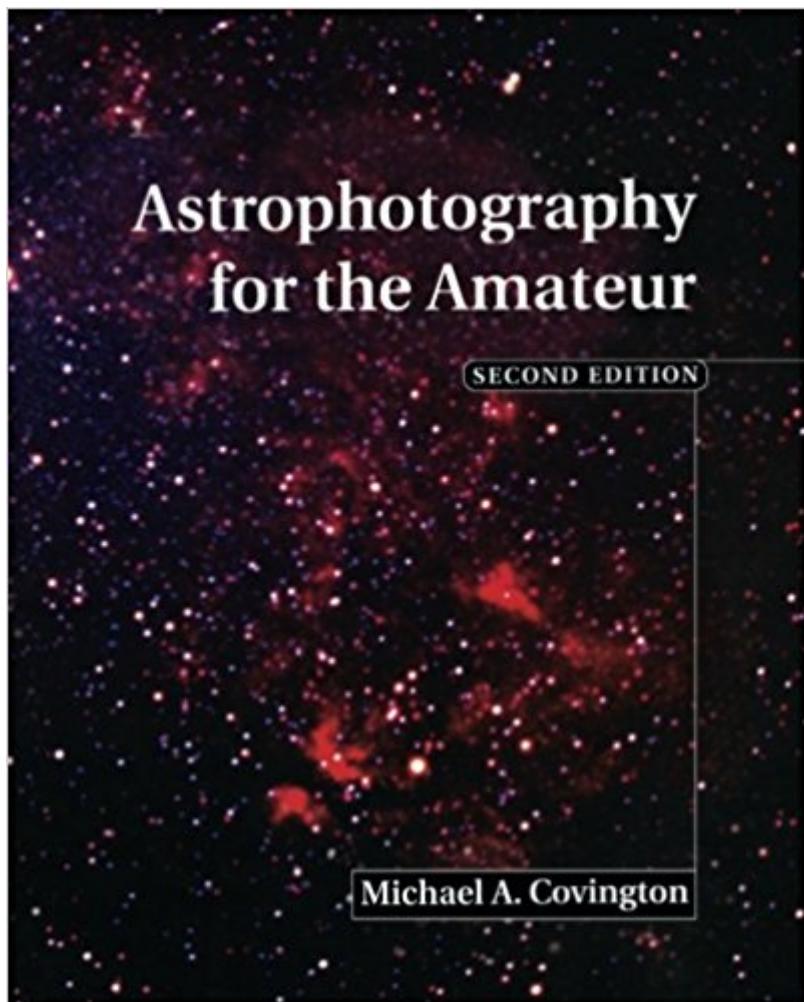


The book was found

Astrophotography For The Amateur



Synopsis

With this extraordinary handbook, you, too, can frame the stars and have them hanging on your livingroom walls. *Astrophotography for the Amateur* provides a complete guide to taking pictures of stars, galaxies, the Moon, the Sun, comets, meteors and eclipses, using equipment and materials readily available to the hobbyist. Based on suggestions from readers of the first edition, the new edition has been completely updated and expanded to include new chapters on computer image processing and CCD imaging; expanded advice on choosing cameras and telescopes; completely updated information about films; a much larger bibliography; and hundreds of new photographs (in color and black and white) demonstrating the latest equipment and techniques. *Astrophotography for the Amateur* has become the standard handbook for all amateur astronomers. This new edition provides an ideal introduction for beginners and a complete handbook for advanced amateurs. It will also appeal to photography enthusiasts who will discover how to take spectacular images with only modest equipment. Michael A. Covington received his Ph.D. at Yale University. He is the author of several books, including *Syntactic Theory in the High Middle Ages* (Cambridge, 1984). He is a Senior Member of the IEEE and is the Associate Director of the Artificial Intelligence Center at the University of Georgia.

Book Information

Paperback: 362 pages

Publisher: Cambridge University Press; 2 edition (June 28, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0521627400

ISBN-13: 978-0521627405

Product Dimensions: 7.4 x 0.8 x 9.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,116,145 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #49 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Astrophotography #485 in Books > Arts & Photography > Photography & Video > Equipment, Techniques & Reference > Handbooks & Manuals #1155 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Astronomy & Astrophysics

Customer Reviews

"...highly recommend[ed]... to novice astrophotographers, but it is also an excellent reference for more advanced individuals....This work would also serve well in the field, as a quick reference to

many of the formulas and techniques contained within." *Sky & Telescope*"I enjoyed this book the first time I picked it up...I still find it a prime source for everything having to do with photographing the heavens." *Paul R. Castle, Reflector*"After reading this book, many will find it hard to resist the fascinating pursuit of astrophotography, which sometimes yields results that are of interest to professional photographers. This is the finest treatment of the subject at this level available in book form and is perfect for its intended audience." *Science Books and Films*

If you can't learn something from this book you must be an Astrophysicist!

I am an amateur astronomer who wants to try Astrophotography. This book is a great guide to get me started. I have an old SLR film camera, a good camera for astrophotography. This book guides me from using the camera on its own to for astrophotography, to coupling it with a telescope to take astro photographs. It describes the best films to use for the different types of astrophotography, from the moon, planets and deep sky objects. It also gives you experiments to try, to get you started. I am very pleased with the book.

Micheal Covington's book covers all aspects of astrophotography starting from objects, from camera selection to films, exposure methods, mounts and drives, guiding of the mount & guiding accuracy/errors, and of course the CCD imaging. I also gives ideas on how to build a simple barn door mount. It does not end at taking exposures. After an exposure is taken we have to convert it into an acceptable quality print or into a computer file. Images can be greatly improved by digital processing. So it also covers image processing ideas. The only point to be noted is that one must look at his website and download the errata. The book has many printing errors, some of which are trivial though. That, of course, must not deter any user. I consider is my best field guide book on this topic. I believe his recent edition has got over these errors - not mine. I bought mine in 1999.

While this book is quite complete in what it covers, it was written before DSLR cameras. Therefore, everything is related to film photography. As such, most is not applicable in today's astrophotography arena. I did not know that when ordering and was quite disappointed when it was received.

Although photography has been a hobby of mine for years, I recently became interested in astronomy. I bought this book to learn how to combine these two hobbies. This is an excellent

resource. If you're just starting out, this book covers the basics and explains things that even a novice like me can understand. As your skill level advances this book will continue to be an excellent resource. It is filled with detailed technical information on scopes, mounts, lenses, films, techniques and just about anything you need to know on this subject. I agree with other reviewers that the book does not cover CCD photography in depth. CCD hardware/software seems to be changing at such a rapid pace. It would be difficult to write a detailed text on this subject that would not be out of date in a couple of years. Overall, I rate this book very highly and recommend it for both novices and pros.

good book

I've been trying my hand off and on for the last year at astrophotography with my Meade LX-200. In that time I've scoured the internet, devoured newsgroup, and emailed enough astrophotographers that you'd think I was trying to get elected to NASA or something. In all that time, one name and reference guide kept coming up as a "must have". *Astrophotography for the Amateur* by Michael A. Covington. Everywhere I turned, everyone I asked, their answers always seemed to come down to "...because Michael Covington does it this way" or "Yeah I tried doing it that way but after reading *Astrophotography* I tried it this way and received better results". That attitude actually "put me off" this book. Here I wanted to learn how to do astrophotography, not follow some recipe in a book. After finally browsing through a friend's copy I was immediately impressed with the book as a reference guide, and when comparing it to my own notes and conclusions found several areas where I had erred, resulting in poor photo's. Of course, the flip side is true as well. Some of the info in this book (even though it is a second edition) is dated such as film types and recommendations. I've found his exposure calculations for Lunar photography to be way over exposed. I have to make a correction here, originally I (and others) noted the lack of CCD imaging information in the book and I need to note that the first addition makes no mention of CCD, while the second edition has a section detailing the differences between CCD and film work. It also has a brief section devoted to CCD work. It's not as in-depth as his discussions on film work.

This is a review of the second edition of this book. The work is superb but is now (2010) out of date because it deals with film. I purchased it as a reference for its coverage of many basic items in astrophotography and it is still very useful for that. If you want to use your Digital Camera for astrophotography buy the author's more recent book "*Digital SLR Astrophotography*" to get

started.

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