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A Manual For Amateur Telescope Makers: With Detailed Plans To Construct Three Different Telescopes



Synopsis

This is a manual for amateur telescope makers with plans to construct three telescopes.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is primarily a book about astronomical mirror fabrication, and a very good one. Although it discusses the fabrication of three different telescopes, a 5" Newtonian, a 10" Newtonian and a 12" Cassegrain in some detail, don't imagine it's like Richard Berry's classic, "Build Your Own Telescope". Berry's book is concerned principally with fabrication of the mounts and includes cautionary, almost discouraging comments on optical fabrication, but nevertheless includes a couple of very good chapters on elementary optical work near the end of the book. A "Manual for Amateur Telescope Makers" on the other hand, is more in the tradition of Jean Texereau's classic, "How to Make a Telescope", but is a far more readable and modern format. Using the three different telescope designs mentioned above, it introduces the reader to progressively more demanding concepts and techniques. Abrasive selection, grinding and polishing technique, Foucault testing, fringe testing flat mirrors, judging acceptable tolerances, defect correction, wire test, caustic test and telescope window fabrication are just a few examples. There are a couple of features I really liked about this book. It has little "tip" boxes in the style of computer books. Things like "A Few Essential Rules for Polishing", "Dealing with a Severe Turned Down Edge", "Blocking Pitch, How Thick" or "Advantages and Disadvantages of the Caustic Test" to give just a few examples from dozens in the book. The text is always succinct, clear and authoritative. Did you know that the thinner the wire, the

more precise the wire test and that the diameter of the wire should be slightly larger than the opening of the slit?

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