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Book Review: The New Amateur Astronomer

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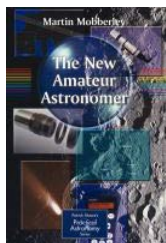
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The new amateur astronomer



Mobberley, Martin. Springer, 2004

229p, 1852336633 \$34.95

LC Call Number: [QB63](#)

This is one of several dozen books in Patrick Moore's "Practical Astronomy" series. Amid this large family, Mobberley finds his niche: the beginning high-tech amateur. The book's first half discusses equipment: computer-driven telescopes, CCD cameras, imaging processing software, etc. This market is changing every bit as rapidly as the computer world, so these details will be current for only a year or two. The rest of the book offers an overview of scientific projects that serious amateurs are carrying out these days. Throughout, basic formulas and technical terms are provided as needed, without formal derivations. An appendix with useful references and Web sites is also included. Readers will need more than this book if they are considering a plunge into high-tech amateur astronomy, but it certainly will whet their appetites. Mobberley's most valuable advice will save the book's owner many times its cover price: buy a quality telescope from a reputable dealer and install it in a simple shelter so it can be used with as little set-up time as possible. A poor purchase choice and the hassle of setting up are why most fancy telescopes gather dust in their owners' dens.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. General readers; lower- and upper-division undergraduates.

Reviewer: [T. D. Oswalt](#), Florida Institute of Technology

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: General Readers, Lower-division Undergraduates, Upper-division Undergraduates

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: [Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy](#)

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