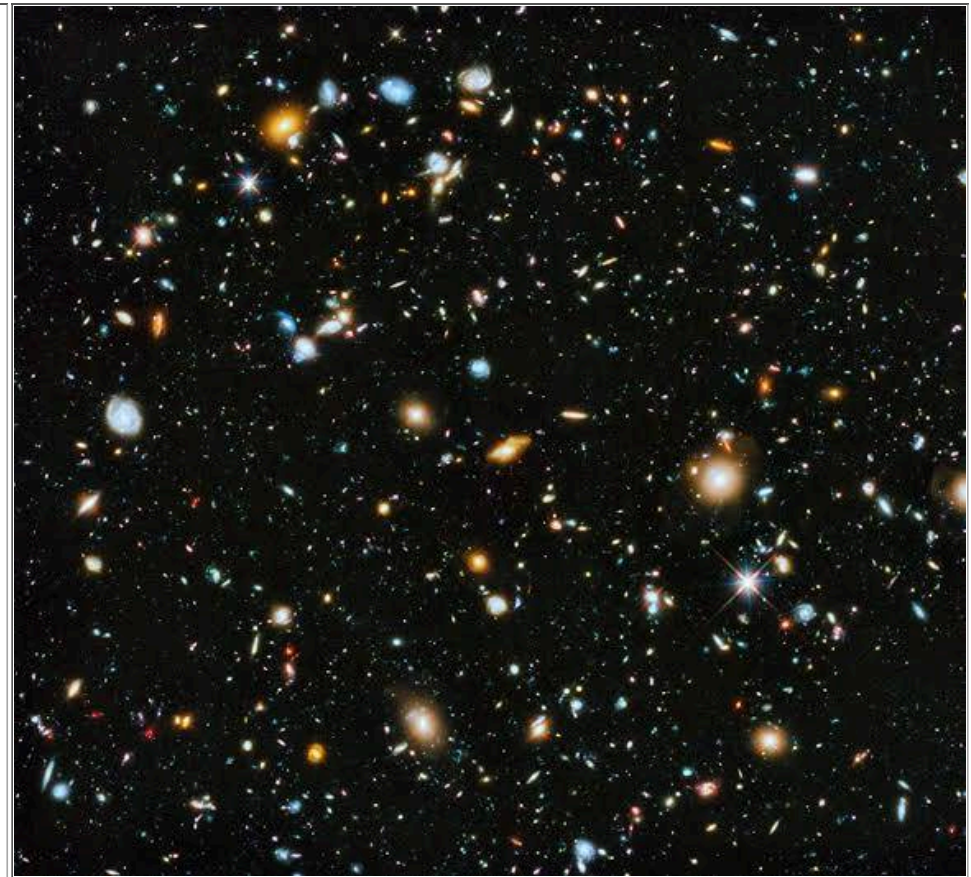


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## ASTRONOMY

[My 80mm Skywatcher Refractor telescope](#)[My 800mm Meade 2080 Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope](#)[HOME](#) [Link to my Moon page](#)[Link to my summary of The Life of Stars](#)[Some useful online links](#)[Guide to star maps etc](#)[Go to my advice on telescopes for beginners](#)

This is the [Hubble Ultra Deep Field Image](#) showing about 10,000 galaxies

## Guide to Star maps etc

### Printable PDF Star Charts

If you prefer traditional, physical maps to use with a red flashlight in the field, these platforms offer excellent high-resolution downloads:

- [Skymaps.com Evening Sky Map](#): Provides free, monthly, single-page sky maps customized for the Northern Hemisphere, Southern Hemisphere, and equatorial regions. [[1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#), [5](#)]

- [Eyes on the Sky Beginner Charts](#): Offers clean, black-and-white downloadable PDF charts plotting stars down to a magnitude of 7.25, making them perfect for binocular or small telescope navigation. [1]
- [Deep Sky Hunter Atlas](#): A comprehensive, 110-map large-scale astronomical atlas designed for serious deep-sky observers looking for galaxies, clusters, and nebulae. [1]

**Interactive Mobile Apps**

If you want a digital, pocket-sized planetarium that uses your phone's GPS and compass to map the stars exactly where you stand, choose from these top-rated apps: [1]

- [Stellarium Mobile](#): Widely considered one of the best for realism, it offers massive catalogs of stars and deep-sky objects that work flawlessly offline. Download it on the Apple App Store or [Google Play Store](#). [1, 2, 3]
- [Sky Map by Google](#): A completely free, lightweight, open-source app for Android that easily identifies constellations and planets as you move your phone. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- [Star Walk 2](#): Perfect for beginners, featuring sleek 3D models of constellations, integrated satellite tracking, and beautiful AR camera overlays. Available on [Google Play](#) and the App Store. [1, 2, 3, 4, 5]
- [Sky Tonight](#): Includes an observational calendar, letting you track upcoming meteor showers, eclipses, and planet configurations while monitoring local stargazing weather metrics. [1]

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**My Refractor telescope.** [Now given to Terry Drabble's son (William)] Sky-Watcher EVOSTAR DS-PRO Series ED Apochromatic refractor. 80mm objective; 600mm focal length. It feature a doublet objective lens. One element is made from Extra-Low Dispersion (ED) glass, which virtually eliminates chromatic aberration. Top quality Schott glass is utilized for the Crown element. It has 9x50 viewfinder.

**The mount** is a Sky-Watcher EQ5 Deluxe Heavy-Duty Equatorial Mount.  
For convenience there is a **Sky-Watcher 90 Degree Polar Scope Eyepiece** which is used for accurate alignmment with the pole star and can also be used with the viewfinder for more comfortable looking at overhead objects. NB Only one counterweight is needed.

**Motor drives.** Sky-Watcher Dual-Axis Motor Drive for EQ5. Provides multi-speed (1x/2x/8x) motor tracking of the R.A. & DEC. axes. Battery-powered.

**Eyepieces and magnification.**  
Magnification is the telescope focal length (600mm) divided by the focal length of the eyepiece. The maximum useful magnification is 2 x objective diameter (80 mm)that is 160x. [So no point in using Barlow 2x magnification]

40mm. 15x. Not top quality but excellent for finding objects. Same magnification as my Canon binoculars.  
24.5 mm Meade super wide angle multicoated. 25x

12 mm Celestron X-CEL LX series. 50x.  
5 mm Celestron X-CEL LX. series 120x.  
*Note: these eyepieces give 60° apparent field of view. The premium six-element optical set is finished with multiple layers of high-transmission coatings for clear, sharp images. The edges of the optics are blackened for increased contrast. 16 mm of comfortable eye relief – advised as very beneficial for spectacle wearers.*

**Skywatcher update**

I found it difficult to use for anything but 'low-flying' stars as the eyepiece was too low down for comfort. Followed advice and fitted an Extension column which raises the height of the telescope by 16 inches. Problem solved. I also fitted a telrad viewfinder which makes finding objects easier by providing a red illuminated 'target' . Centre the star in the target and there it is.



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**I now only use myy 'astronomy' binoculars.** Canon 15x50 with optical stabilisation. These are magnificent, holding everything completely steady at this high magnification. [See Review](#)

**Some useful links**

[What is in sky tonight](#) Very good for showing location of planets etc

[Widescreen Astronomy supplies](#) Excellent; I bought my telescope from them. Very helpful when setting it up.

[Southampton Astronomical Society](#) Very friendly group with many helpful experts

[Southampton Amateur Astronomers](#) Run an observatory at Toothill North of Southampton

[Southampton Astronomy](#) in University of Southampton

[Stargazers Lounge](#) Discussion forum

[Constellation maps on Wikipedia](#) (can be saved and printed)

[Sky maps](#) Monthly printable sky maps

[Sky-Map](#) Extensive information on everything in the sky

[Sky & Telescope](#) Comprehensive guide to astronomy Includes weekly things to look out for

[UK Space centre site](#)

[BBC Sky at night magazine](#)

[NASA](#)

[Hubble telescope](#)

[Where is the Webb telescope now \(a NASA site\)](#)

[The Planets](#) Excellent simple factual guide

[Clear sky prediction](#)

### **Astronomy books that I have found useful**

Collins (Gem) Stars. Very small guide; 88 constellation charts with notes on objects of interest. Ridpath and Tirion

Collins Stars and Planets Complete guide. Ridpath and Tirion

Collins 2021 Guide to the night sky. Month by month guide. Dunlop and Tirion.

The Messier Album; an observer's handbook. Summary of each object with b/w photo. By Mallas and Kreimer 1978

The backyard astronomer's guide. 3rd Edition by Dickinson and dyer. Firefly books 2018. A magnificent summary of everything. From star types to setting up telescopes. Full of sane advice.

SkyAtlas 2000 by W. Tirion. Details atlas of all constellations in 28 maps. Down to 10 magnitude  
(Too detailed for me to use)

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