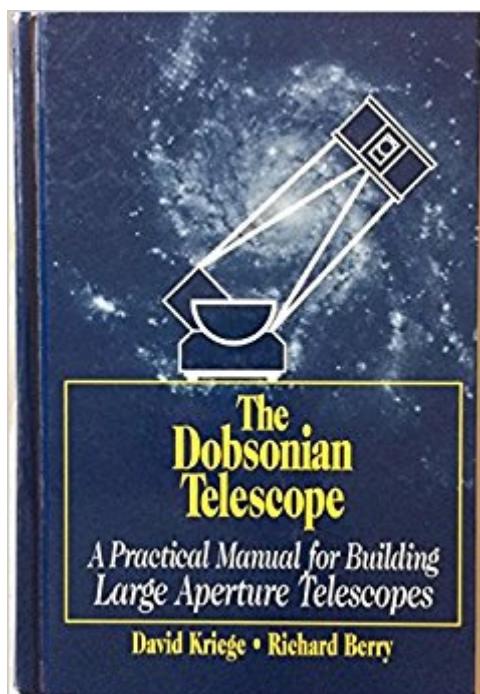


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The Dobsonian Telescope: A Practical Manual For Building Large Aperture Telescopes



Synopsis

This book tells how you can build a state-of-the-art Dobsonian telescope using readily available materials and supplies. Every step of construction is detailed in photographs and diagrams, and the underlying ideas are carefully explained. As a result of this three-year collaboration between authors David Krieger and Richard Berry, experienced and well-known telescope makers, you now have the opportunity to build a high-performance telescope from 14 inches to 40 inches aperture based on the thoroughly tested designs described in this book. The Dobsonian telescope takes its name from the astronomer/philosopher John Dobson, who introduced the concept of inexpensive, large-aperture telescopes to astronomy. Amateur astronomers at the time were so amazed that a telescope built from simple, inexpensive materials performed so well that they could hardly believe their eyes. As home-built Dobsonians started showing up at star parties across the nation and people saw what Dobsonians could do, the word spread. In just a few years, the Dobsonian revolution swept the world. Since those early telescopes, Dobsonians have improved dramatically. An entire generation of amateur telescope makers contributed their best insights and refinements to Dobson's original design. Today's Dobsonians are larger, lighter, and more precise than ever before. For example, it is possible to build a telescope of 20 inches aperture that is compact enough to transport

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Customer Reviews

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I purchased this book to assist me in building the largest telescope of my life, a 21.5-inch F/6. I knew that I would have to rethink everything I had learned in the past about building telescopes; with my last, and largest to date being a 13-inch telescope of rather conventional construction completed over 20-years ago. With this book I now have a working design ready to go to build my new telescope. There are telescope design and construction features that I had never thought of before in this book. I currently have the mirror box and the upper eyepiece cage well hand with confidence due to design features plainly spelled out in The Dobsonian telescope. If you are going to build a very large Dobsonian I would highly recommend getting this book first. It will save you a lot of headaches and dead ends you'd otherwise experience on your own.

Very good information on the full process of building your own telescope .. which I intend to do right after the thousand and one projects my wife has slated for me :) well written in plain English easy to understand.

Very useful, informative and stimulating creativity book. It has inside anything you need to know how to build the telescope of your dreams. Yes, I recommend it to anyone curious about fine optics building knowledge.

This book has been essential to me in my quest to build my first telescope. The instructions are thorough and complete. As a neophyte I have learned some important telescope theory and as a woodworker with some skills I have appreciated the descriptions of the building process. It is important to note that the book focuses on the telescope itself and there is not as much on how to grind your own mirror. An appendix contains some of that information but a beginner will need another source on mirror grinding. I think this book is enough for anyone to build a strong, successful dobsonian telescope.

Chock full of valuable details about building large Dobsonians.

A very easily understood, "nuts and bolts" book for someone with a hankering to go BIG with their star gazing equipment, and want the satisfaction of DIY. I really enjoyed the book, the writing style is very easy to follow and understand without a lot of technical mumbo jumbo usually found in amateur telescope making guides. I also liked the fact that the authors discuss the latest trend in light weight construction, open truss structures. It starts off with guiding one thru building a small scope and then utilizing that learning process to enable one to have the confidence to go to the BIG light buckets for deep space viewing. My kind of book, direct and to the point, without a lot of personal anecdotal accounts, yet not dry and technical. If you're looking to build your own large size Dobsonian, then this is the ONE book to have.

This is the gold standard for the construction of a great Dobsonian telescope! However, if your desire is to grind your own mirror, or to make a less than 12" dob, you might want to find another book. Richard Berry has written a great how to build a telescope book that covers several current build options. This book is for larger apparatus dobs, using premium grade construction materials.

One way you can tell if a "how-to" book is good is if you keep going back to it and eventually realize that you really need to read and understand everything they are talking about in the book. That is true of this book. Building a high quality medium to large telescope involves lots of attention to detail. Every detail in this book I have found to be important in some respect, even if you modify the design significantly. If you want to build a telescope, read this book or you will be wasting time and money - guaranteed. Don't re-invent the wheel. Build something better.

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