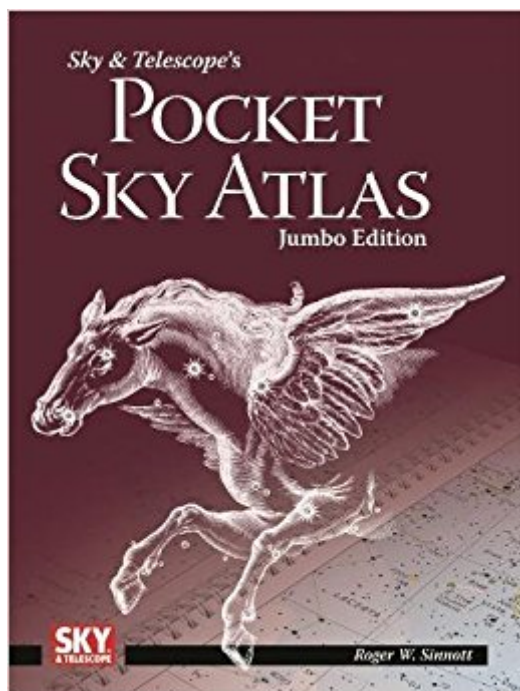


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Sky & Telescope's Pocket Sky Atlas Jumbo Edition



Synopsis

Perfect for experienced stargazers and beginners alike, Sky & Telescope's Pocket Sky Atlas will have you exploring the heavens in no time! Sky & Telescope's celestial atlases are the standard by which all other star atlases have been judged for a half century. Now we've raised the bar again with our Pocket Sky Atlas - Jumbo Edition. There has never been such a wonderfully detailed atlas so handy to take on trips and use at the telescope, thanks to its user-friendly size, convenient spiral-bound design, and easy-to-read labels. The charts show both constellation boundaries and stick figures to help you find your way. Features of this atlas: More than 30,000 stars individually sized according to their relative brightness, 1,500 deep-sky objects color-coded by type, including 675 galaxies oriented as they appear in the sky. This Jumbo Edition has 6 new close-up charts, for a total of 10, depicting high-interest star fields. Labels even more legible in dim light.

Book Information

Spiral-bound: 136 pages

Publisher: Sky & Telescope; Jumbo ed. edition (January 18, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1940038251

ISBN-13: 978-1940038254

Product Dimensions: 9 x 0.7 x 11.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 303 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #103,330 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #41 in Books > Science & Math > Astronomy & Space Science > Star-Gazing #75 in Books > Science & Math > Reference #138 in Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Astronomy & Astrophysics

Customer Reviews

Roger Sinnott is a senior contributing editor of Sky & Telescope magazine. He coauthored the two-volume Sky Catalogue 2000.0. In 1997, he collaborated with Michael Perryman of the European Space Agency on the Millennium Star Atlas, the most detailed all-sky atlas of its time. Minor planet 3706 Sinnott is named in Roger's honor.

I'll start off by saying I love the "standard" edition. It joins me on every visit to my dark site. I was however a bit disappointed with the Jumbo Edition, mostly because I expected more out of it. The standard edition's pages are about 6" x 9", with margins of anywhere between a half inch and 3/4

inches The actual chart on each page is 5" x 7 3/4" Some pages are too small to show an entire constellation, and I find myself flipping between pages way too often. The way the sky is divided up, you find your self flipping between page 45 and page 65 as an example. I hoped the jumbo edition would have larger pages, and thus show more of the sky allowing me to flip pages less often. I based this assumption off nothing really, as I believe I'm the first review for this, I had nothing to go on, there were no internal description of the book, I just assumed the jumbo version, being bigger than the standard would show me more of the sky per page. For the 3rd time in my life I was wrong about something. When the Jumbo Edition arrived I found the EXACT same charts. Just larger...slightly. Each page is 8 3/8 x 11 3/4, with margins between 1/2" to 1 1/4". The chart size was 6 1/2 x 10 1/8. So they stretched the chart about an 1 1/2" side to side, and about 2 1/4" up and down. The Jumbo Edition had a hard cover, which I fear will get nasty after a few wet nights at the dark site. The rest of the pages appear to be the same water resistant pages as the other Sky Atlas, but they feel slightly different to the touch, so I guess time will tell if they hold up. The rest of the book is almost exactly the same, the words Jumbo Edition appear on each page, the publication dates changed, and the Sky & Telescope logo is printed on a page. They did add a few more Close-Up Charts. Today it goes from A to D, The jumbo edition goes to J. These extra close-up charts are of the Large Magellanic Cloud, which is wasted on those of us in north, but it also includes the Cone and Rosette, Big Dipper Bowl, Lion's Tail, Sky near Deneb, Steam from Teapot and Scorpion's Tail, which are all objects that can be seen by those of us in the Northern Hemisphere. If your eyes get tired quicker than in your youth and you desire slightly larger print, this might help. If you haven't yet bought a pocket sky atlas, this might be a good addition to your inventory (if the hard cover and pages don't deteriorate the first time they get wet). If you already own a pocket sky atlas and are happy with it, and have no problems reading it, then I would not consider the jumbo edition a needed upgrade. This will probably join me in my back yard where I get way less dew, but I might use it sparingly at my dark site until I know it can survive some moisture. Clear Skies Everyone!

I have and I really enjoy the original "Pocket" atlas. So I wondered if this larger version would be worth the extra price. I couldn't resist and I'm glad I didn't. The Jumbo edition is fantastic. It's a practical tool in a reading chair, desk, or next to your telescope under the stars. The bigger size is especially helpful to anyone who benefits from bigger fonts and graphics -- nearly everyone over 45. The construction is well done. The covers are hard and the front cover can wrap behind the back. The spiral binding actually has a little nicer arrangement than the original. The pages are dew

resistant -- the paper seems the same as the original. And the graphics are top notch, too -- good choices for fonts, icons, rules. Like any good atlas, the links to neighboring parts of the sky are easily found with cross references in the margin. If you had to choose only one edition, your two prime decision factors would be print size and portability. If you need the larger fonts and graphics, the Jumbo is the easy call. Some people care about a small footprint for travel or a flexible cover for aggressive packing more than the print size. They could make a case for the original with its smaller dimensions and flexible cover. If you're deciding which edition to get as a gift, I think most astronomers would appreciate the Jumbo. BTW, people will tease that the Jumbo shouldn't be called a "pocket atlas". But in all frankness, the original didn't fit into any pockets, either.

This may likely prove to be your nightly companion -- thorough, comprehensive, night-time friendly (bigger than your cargo pocket, but smaller than desk-top or coffee table atlas), the "S&T PSA" (Sky & Telescope Pocket Sky Atlas). It has a long history of being a favorite among avid astronomers. Of the half-dozen atlases in my growing astro library, this has become my go-to, outdoors, immediate reference. Small, but mighty! Pros: Spiral bound, the only way to go if you want something at hand while outside and viewing. Organized nicely (!) with border indicators to adjacent maps. Provides constellation "stick figures" and object coordinates, indispensable for the aspiring astronomer because we need some reference, not all atlases provide this. Ridiculously low priced considering its content and utility. so-so: Not a desktop atlas, so this means that a desktop atlas page is actually 2 pages on the PSA, a slight overlap so nothing is omitted, and is actually convenient in that you can fold over the half you are interested in. No more big books blowing in the breeze. cons: small print (not tiny print)-- but it is after all, a "pocket" atlas, but easily remedied with a magnifier sheet, available here on "4.5" x 7" Flexible 200% Magnifier Sheet", available in a number of magnification powers... and these work very well. S&T recently reprinted their PSA in a larger format, their "Jumbo PSA", and with a larger price tag. The content is the SAME, but slightly larger format, about 30% (guessing) if you have vision issues (I do, thus the magnifier). Other than size, this is the same atlas. Either will serve you well. The price difference amounts to 2 foofy coffees at your favorite barista's. My only other recommendation, to whatever atlas you prefer, is a decent planisphere... a snapshot of the universe above, as indispensable as is an atlas. Clear skies!

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