

# THE MAG-7 STAR ATLAS

*A word of explanation is in order about these star charts, how they came to be, and why they are available for our use. This material, written by the originator of the atlas, is adapted from the introduction to these charts found on the Cloudy Nights Telescope Review website:*

## **What is it?**

This project is my attempt to produce a free, downloadable set of high-quality star charts -- the Mag-7 Star Atlas -- capable of being printed at reasonable resolutions on the average home printer.

The Mag-7 Star Atlas plots stars down to Magnitude 7.25, with double / multiple stars indicated by a thin horizontal bar. Plotted DSO's (Deep Sky Objects) include all objects on the Messier list, the RASC's finest NGC list, and the Herschell 400 list --- more than 550 DSO's in total.

I hope beginner's and experienced observers alike might find some use in these charts -- as a first atlas, as a bridge atlas between planisphere and a deeper atlas, as a binocular atlas, as printable charts for outlining observing plans and/or recording small field notes, or to make wallpaper for your outhouse. At the very least, when you take family or friends on an observing outing it is easy (and affordable) to ensure everyone has an atlas of their own to refer to. The free licensing (see below) makes these charts an open resource for teachers and astronomy outreach programs. But, you don't have to be an association -- go ahead and print one off for your neighbor, and the kid down the street, and ...

## **But Free? Really?**

Yes. And not just free of charge -- you have other freedoms as well. This work is licensed under a Creative Commons License. Basically you are free to download, use, and or distribute this work for non-commercial purposes with appropriate attribution. You can create and distribute derived works if they follow the same license.

## **The Mag-7 Star Atlas**

There are 20 primary charts and one supplemental chart (11a for the Virgo Coma Berenices region) comprising the complete Mag-7 Star Atlas. Based on early feedback, I've made two versions available: a black on white version for use in the field (where red light may interfere with different color schemes), and a version with DSO's, constellation lines and boundaries, and gridlines highlighted in different colors. Different colors help to visually break up the charts making for a more relaxed viewing experience (whether viewing on-screen or printing in color for a "desktop" version). Apart from color, the two versions are identical. Enjoy.

Andrew Johnson  
4/24/05

We have the black and white version included on this CD. To see the color version of the atlas, go here: [http://www.cloudynights.com/item.php?item\\_id=1052](http://www.cloudynights.com/item.php?item_id=1052)

## Key

This key tells you what section of the sky a specific chart covers. Along with the area encompassed by the listed Right Ascensions and Declinations are the names of constellations that dominate the chart.

1. Dec. N. of +65 degrees Ursa Minor
2. RA 0h to 4h DEC +65 to +20 Perseus/Andromeda
3. RA 4h to 8h DEC +65 to +20 Auriga
4. RA 8h to 12h DEC +65 to +20 Leo Minor
5. RA 12h to 16h DEC +65 to +20 Bootes/Canes Venatici
6. RA 16h to 20h DEC +65 to +20 Lyra/Hercules
7. RA 20h to 0h DEC +20h to +20 Lacerta/Cygnus
8. RA 0h to 4h DEC +20 to -20 Cetus
9. RA 4h to 8h DEC +20 to -20 Orion
10. RA 8h to 12h DEC +20 to -20 Hydra/Sextans
11. RA 12h to 16h DEC +20 to -20 Virgo
- 11.a. RA 11.5h to 13.5h DEC +20 to 0 Virgo Galaxies
12. RA 16h to 20h DEC +20 -20 Ophiuchus/Aquila
13. RA 20h to 0h DEC +20 to -20 Aquarius
14. RA 0h to 4h DEC -20 to -65 Phoenix/Eridanus
15. RA 4h to 8h DEC -20 to -65 Puppis/Columba
16. RA 8h to 12h DEC -20 to -65 Vela/Antlia

17. RA 12h to 16h DEC -20 to -65 Centaurus
18. RA 16h to 20h DEC -20 to -65 Scorpius/Sagittarius
19. RA 20h to 0h DEC -20 to -65 Grus
20. DEC south of -65 degrees South Circumpolar