

Canterbury Astronomical Society Practical Astronomy Evening – April 21st

- Star Charts and how to read them
- The types of objects amateur astronomers observe

Types of Star Charts, Why we use them, How we use them. Where do you start?

Star atlas software - free download examples – Cartes du Ciel & Stellarium

Equipment to take with you when out Stargazing

Planisphere – make sure you buy one for your latitude, great for general orientation in the night sky and ideal for teaching you the constellations. A must for any Amateur Astronomer

- Even with your binos you will be able to find objects that aren't on your Planisphere, this is where you need a more detailed star chart or star atlas to identify and find your targets.
- There are several options of varying cost, size and quality, one thing to be aware of is that your star charts will get wet and it's important to keep this in mind when buying a book or atlas. Printouts and laminated sheets are a good idea.

Basic – highly recommended

Collins Stars and Planets

Phillips – Stars and Planets

More advanced – Star Atlases – book form

Cambridge – Nortons

Advanced – Sky Atlas 2000

Look out for authors of high reputation – Wil Tirion for example provides exceptionally good star charts

Hartung – Stephen O'Meara books are excellent reference texts.