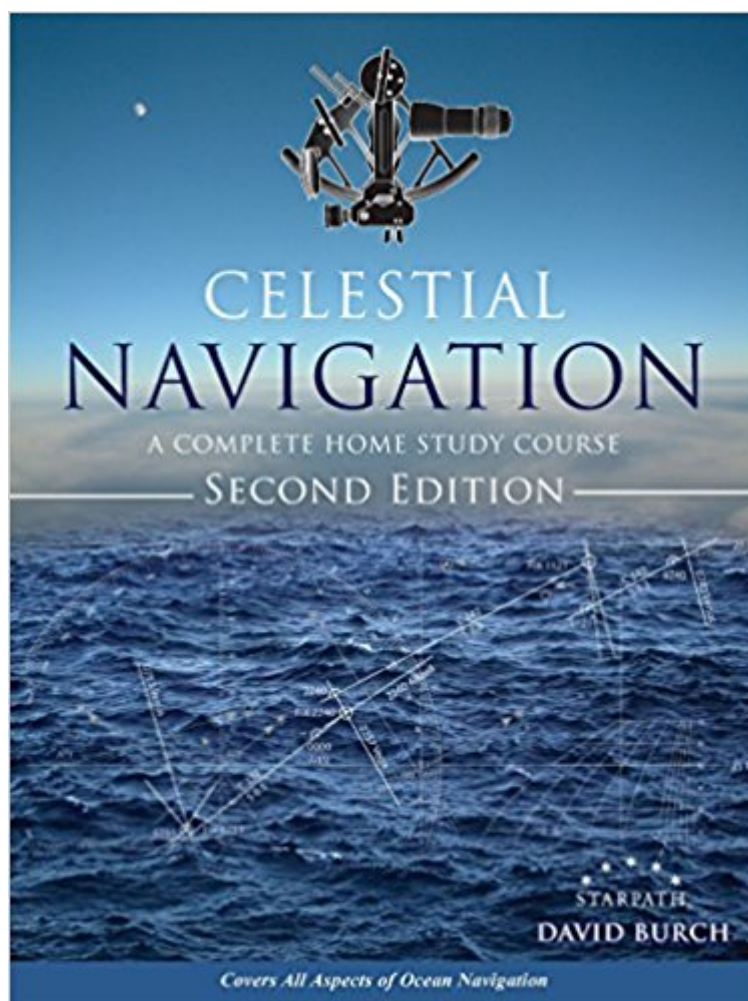


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Celestial Navigation: A Complete Home Study Course, Second Edition



Synopsis

This book has been used for 30 years, updated periodically as needed. More than 20,000 students have successfully learned ocean navigation from these materials and gone on to cross oceans or circumnavigate the globe. This book covers how to find position at sea from timed sextant sights of the sun, moon, stars, and planets plus other routine and special procedures of safe, efficient offshore navigation. No previous navigation experience is required. The only math involved is arithmetic (adding and subtracting angles and times). This is a practical, how-to-do-it book, which also includes clear explanations of how it works and how to do it well. Plus this book includes other crucial factors of ocean navigation besides just finding out where you are from the stars, such as logbook procedures, dead reckoning, error analysis, route planning, and more. At the end of this book, you will be ready for ocean navigation. The book includes: text, practice problems, tables selections, detailed glossary, and full solutions. Printable work forms, plotting sheets, and other resources are available at no charge from www.starpath.com/celnavbook. Preface to the Second Edition: We are pleased to say that after ten more years of using this text we do not find reason to change the basic approach and methods of the teaching. We still use most of the same examples, which are now quite old, but that is the beauty of celestial navigation. It has not changed, so we do not benefit in any way from making all new examples, which would bring with them more chance of error in a book of many numbers. We have, however, notably improved and expanded the book. Each section has been updated and reformatted for a clearer presentation, often in response to student questions over the years. New graphics have been added and older ones all updated. There is much new content in the text, especially in the In-Depth chapter, including more detailed discussion of the sailings and more background on the principles. New sections were added on general ocean navigation and optimizing the fixes. We have also updated the electronic navigation section, as most ocean navigators will also be using other tools besides celestial.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Among all the books in print on modern celestial navigation, including mine, this one is far and away the most comprehensive, more so than even the classic tomes-Bowditch's American Practical Navigator and Dutton's Navigation & Piloting. It is rich in graphics, detailed in explanation, extensive in examples. At logical points, there are quizzes to let you track your progress." --Hewitt Schlereth, Author of Celestial Navigation in a Nutshell, teaches celestial navigation at the Maritime Institute in San Diego, CA.

Also by David Burch
How to use Plastic Sextants -- with application to metal sextants and a review of sextant piloting
and The Star Finder Book -- A guide to the many uses of the 2102-D Star Finder
--This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book. Clearly written with more in-depth sections at the back of the book. Plenty of exercises with answers and all required excerpts of nautical almanac and sight reduction tables to do the exercises.

For those taking a uscg exam. For those doing home study instead of a classroom instruction. Great instruction, well written, well thought out presentation on how to do fixes and plots. I dont believe it goes over the sailings however.

My husband has taken this and run with it. He loves the book and makes me leave the room while he studies. Perfect.

For a beginning navigator, this book was extremely helpful in providing the tools and techniques for navigating by the stars at sea. Of course, a GPS is the most practical now, but to pass exams and to be able to navigate when a GPS battery stops working, this is a necessary skill. This book provides an excellent treatment of the subject, so I must recommend it.

Best cel nav course for your money. Easy to understand, concise and complete. Will help you understand navigation even if you never go to sea.

OMG this is more than I expected. It is truly a celestial navigation home course that teaches you as if you were sitting there in the class. Starts out with the basics and progresses in a very concise and understandable manner. Because there is no student-instructor interaction (to clarify problems or explain material) I thought this might be overwhelming. The examples given and the explanations that follow allow you to review, re-do, re-do, and re-do the problems until you have a complete and thorough understanding of the processes. StarPath (of Seattle) is the school that uses this text and I actually contacted them when I had a question. They gave me a free 1-month WebCard pass to their public discussion board on-line and I was able to ask the instructor to explain something - and he did in a very quick manner. I would say that this book works well for me because I spent a lot of time looking at celestial navigation tutorials on-line and Googled everything - so I at least had a basis of understanding before starting. I'm not sure how easy it would be to start with this book (or any book) absolutely cold on the subject. If you are interested in this subject I suggest you buy "The Barefoot Navigator" by Jack Lagan first, watch the tutorials on celestial navigation at THE PRACTICAL NAVIGATOR ([...]), and then buy this book and your equipment needed.

I purchased this book after taking David Burch's class on weather. I found this to be a great brush up on Celestial Navigation and referred to it during the 2017 Transpacific Yacht Race.

Great book to learn celestial navigation. Very detailed from the basics to more complex subjects.

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