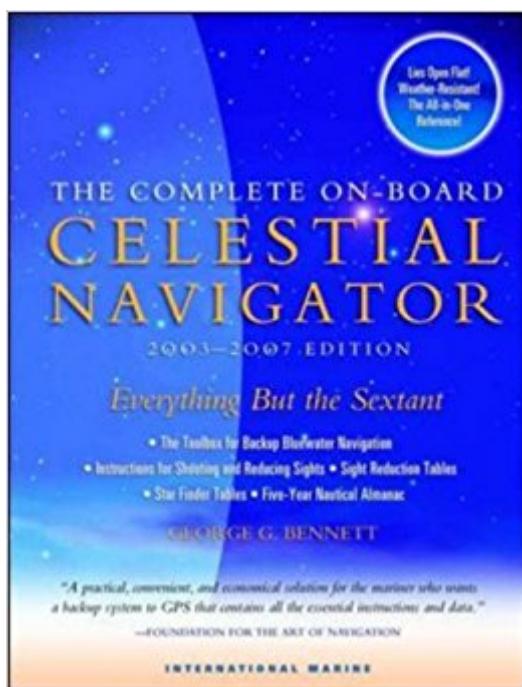


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# The Complete On-Board Celestial Navigator : Includes 2003-2007 Nautical Almanac



## **Synopsis**

The perfect backup navigation system for the serious cruiser in a GPS era, this all-in-one tool kit supplies everything a celestial navigator needs except the sextant. The Complete On-Board Celestial Navigator replaces \$300 worth of guides and almanacs traditionally required by celestial navigators and includes a star finder; a five-year (2003-2007) nautical almanac for determining precise star, sun, moon, or planet locations at the time of sighting; and sight reduction tables for crunching the numbers and producing the fix. Designed with the novice or rusty celestial navigator in mind, it even includes a celestial navigation primer.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"A practical, convenient, and economical solution for the mariner who wants a backup system to GPS that contains all the essential instructions and data."--Foundation for the Art of Navigation Your All-in-One Navigational Toolkit The ancient skill of celestial navigation has reliably guided seafarers for centuries and is still a source of pride and respect among mariners. In this era of electronic navigation, it remains the perfect backup system, enabling you to determine your position if the GPS malfunctions or your boat loses electrical power. Specifically designed for the novice or rusty celestial navigator, The Complete On-Board Celestial Navigator replaces \$300 worth of guides and almanacs traditionally required by celestial navigators, and includes a star finder; a five-year nautical almanac (2003 - 2007) for determining precise star, sun, moon, or planet locations at the time of sighting; and sight reduction tables for crunching the numbers and producing a fix anywhere

in the world. "The only complete self-contained work available. When your electronic navigation fails, 'steering by the stars' will guide you safely to your destination."--Sydney Afloat (Australia)

Dr. George G. Bennett is the owner and director of CN Systems, which produces navigational calculator and computer software. The former head of the School of Surveying, Faculty of Engineering, at the University of New South Wales, Australia, he holds graduate degrees in surveying and geography. He has written extensively on geodesy, navigation, and surveying in international journals. An elected Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors and the Institute of Navigation, he has served as a visiting scientist at Her Majesty's Nautical Almanac Office at the Royal Observatory. He has sailed in nine Sydney - Hobart races as a navigator and has taught navigation at the Cruising Yacht Club of Australia and the Royal Sydney Yacht Squadron.

This excellent "manual" contains everything needed to perform celestial navigation at sea, or to practice the skills at home. The manual contains an instructional section at the beginning describing the process, followed by complete tables and nautical almanac for 2003-2007, providing everything needed to plot one's position with nothing more than a pencil, paper, and of course the sextant. I took this book on my single-handed cruise to the Bahamas in 2006, as a back-up to my GPS, and also for practice and the fun and challenge of navigating by the stars. While my GPS never failed me in open water sailing, I still plotted my position by sun and stars several times on the trip, and was very greatful to have everything I needed in one compact book, given how extremely precious space on a small sailboat can be. One consideration is that the instructions at the beginning will not give nearly as in-depth a lesson into the theory and complexities of celestial navigation as other purely instructional books will give. The book will, however, provide complete instruction for a rusty mind that hasn't performed a sight reduction in a long time, or someone who otherwise has some grasp on the concept. I personally learned celestial navigation simply from a few online instructional sites that give general overviews along with the instructions in this book. I rate the book at 5 stars because I think the "instructional" section is the perfect length for a book of this purpose. The Complete On-Board Celestial Navigator is an excellent "everything but the sextant" handbook to use for recreational or back-up celestial navigation in today's world.

I bought this because it combines the functions of nautical almanac and sight reduction tables in one slender volume. It provides five years of star data, sample worksheets and lots of worked out examples. So it's a lot easier than hauling around Nautical Almanacs and 3-volume sight reduction

tables. The tables trade compactness for accuracy. Sights and positions are taken to the nearest minute of latitude or longitude, rather than 10ths of minutes in the standard celestial navigation tables. I don't mind the loss of accuracy; my sights are pretty loose to begin with, and it's hard to imagine an emergency short of nuclear war where I'd actually have to depend on celestial navigation. I'm learning it only because I want to do a Transpac race and the rules require that four lines of position be determined during the race. Also, to keep the tables small, the sight reduction methodology is non-standard and requires a few extra steps compared to the normal "Bowditch-approved" method. The geometry behind them is completely opaque, so you have to take them on faith unless you are a true expert in celestial navigation techniques. But, once you get the hang of it, it's a straightforward sequence of arithmetic sums. The author includes a couple of methods for determining azimuth, one by table lookup and one by the use of "Weir diagrams." The latter look interesting but the explanation in the book is completely incomprehensible and I couldn't find another reference that even mentioned them.

While Mr. Bennett clearly qualifies as an authority in celestial navigation, this book is not well suited for beginners. The narrative is a bit too succinct, forcing the reader to try and "fill in the blanks" in order to understand what the author has stated. Modern publishing makes it easier to present tables and examples with the narrative; however, in this book the tables and examples are at the rear of the book, which makes switching back and forth difficult. The main advantage of this book are the tables. In my opinion this is a good resource book and a celestial navigation reference guide, but not as your first celestial navigation primer.

I used this as a beginner, and although I found the explanations at times confusing, working through the practice problems and making my own sights made it clear what to do. A great resource to have, though not one to learn basic theory from. But then again, this is not the purpose of this publication, either.

Excellent resource if you wish to manually navigate or if you find yourself in a situation which precludes using GPS.

so fast, receive it next day . my brother like it , Very sharp and strong product. It was my first kind of cutting product for food and I am very impressed. I've had it for a few months now and its sharpness is still the best of all the knives I have. it is recommend. help me a lot.

Per , 2 Stars = "I don't like it." I like the book.The power of the book is that it crunches pounds of tables and almanac information into a compact 200 page spiral bound notebook. The cost of compaction is, per the author (and I agree), an acceptable reduction of accuracy. Included also is a brief review of celestial nav basics.However, it is now 2012 and the tables in all versions carried by are outdated. The search brings up the oldest (2003) version without including the dates. A non-copyright protected (therefore hassle-free) PDF file version covering 2011-2015 is available at Boat Books Australia [...] ( - please take note!)

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