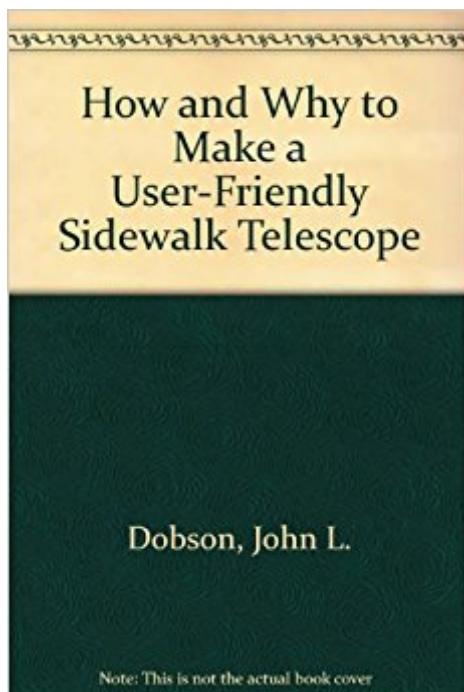


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How And Why To Make A User-Friendly Sidewalk Telescope



Book Information

Hardcover

Publisher: Everything in the Universe (November 1995)

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Average Customer Review: 3.0 out of 5 stars See all reviews (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I got this because I was interested in the man behind the "revolutionary" design of the telescope. What John Dobson revolutionized was large aperture reflectors (thin, plate glass mirrors) on economical, sturdy mounts (plywood and teflon) that anyone could use that would enable one to see the Universe as it really is. As a telescope making manual, it's fair - bare bones and not much theory. As an introduction to Dobson, it's tantalizingly brief. More info by and about Dobson is probably available on the web. The binding is unique, and problematic. The front and back covers are plywood sheets (one of Dobson's prime construction materials) with a glue binding. My copy has several sheets that have become unhinged. Recommended as a Collector's Item.

John Dobson is a character. His book shows how and why he developed a modification to an altitude/azimuth mount for telescopes. John combines his new mount design, he calls it a sidewalk mount, which is a brilliant adaptation of a long existing design, with abandoned technology, the thin plate glass mirror made from poorly annealed portholes from retired ships, to arrive at a rough design that, while good for limited purposes, is largely useless for true scientific work. The design has been improved over the years by countless amateur telescope makers. In this book, John also recounts his life as a monk, and how he came to leave his monastery in San Francisco and go into the world, where he shares his unique cosmology with those who will listen.

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