

## 1: Introduction

One of the most difficult things for newcomers to astronomy and astrophotography is finding objects in the sky. We can pretty much all find the sun and moon, but everything else is simply different degrees of frustration.

It doesn't have to be!

In this book I will show you the three primary ways of finding things in the night sky: star hopping, altitude azimuth, and right ascension & declination.

Star hopping is exactly what it sounds like, finding a known object and "hopping" to the next one. There is a little more to it than that but that is pretty much how it works. No, you do not have to memorize a lot of objects, or really any objects to start using this method.

Altitude azimuth is really easy to wrap your head around, each object is X number of degrees up from north, and X number of degrees up from the side. Unfortunately that changes every minute but is still easy to use.

Right ascension and declination is the "hard way", but even then there are some tricks to make it much easier than you might have thought.

Once you finish this book you should be able to find any object in the night sky that you can find a star chart for, and that is all of them.

So let's get started!