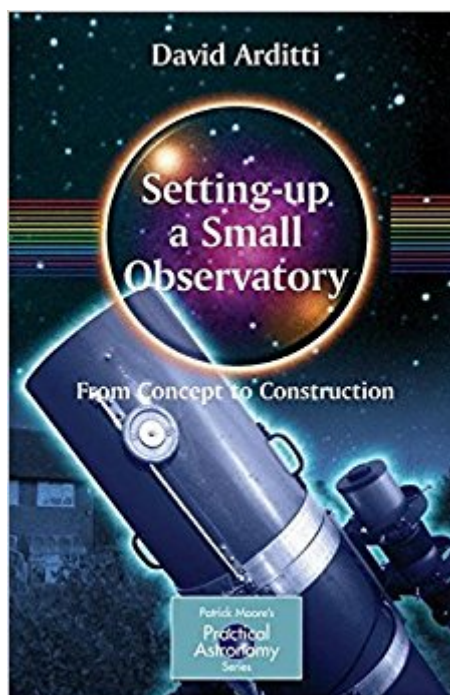




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Setting-Up A Small Observatory: From Concept To Construction (The Patrick Moore Practical Astronomy Series)



Synopsis

Arditti's approachable work covers all the details of design, siting and construction of a basic type once a basic type has been decided upon. It is written in a way that is equally applicable to the USA and UK (where there are slightly different building regulations) and deals with matters that are basic to building and commissioning any amateur observatory. Uniquely, David Arditti also considers the aesthetics of amateur observatories and fitting them in with family and neighbors, and maybe disguising them as more common garden buildings if necessary. Every amateur astronomer who wants a purpose-built observatory (and let's face it, which one of them doesn't?) will find this book invaluable.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

From the reviews: "David Arditti's book is the fourth volume in Patrick Moore's Practical Astronomy series that spotlights how to construct telescope enclosures. If you want a quick overview of the pros and cons of erecting your own, as well as a practical guide to the different designs, construction techniques, and building codes and zoning requirements, then this book will prove handy. This book will help you get started on the right path." (Edwin Aguirre, Sky and Telescope, Vol. 116 (3), September, 2008) "David Arditti takes a whole new and practical approach to planning and building a permanent home for your telescopes. In step-by-step fashion he walks the reader through how his very impressive, yet practical, observatory

was set-up. In short, it's superbly written, with great anecdotal short stories complementing the hard facts and authoritative black and white images where needed. This book is a true must have for anyone who is in the process of, or considering, setting up a small observatory." (Nick Howes, *Astronomy Now*, August, 2008) "The book addresses all the aspects of this complex problem, even the most technical ones. A detailed Index is also helping in locating the various subject occurrences. The book is clearly written for England and the United States. This makes it a treasure for the interested reader and evidently a highly needed and recommended addition." (Jean-Marie Gilles, *Physicalia Magazine*, Vol. 30 (4), 2008) "It covers various telescopes and mounts available to the amateur, types of observatory both run-off and domed, and their siting within the owners' gardens. A positive bonus of this volume is the author's writing style that makes for very easy reading, with some complex concepts well conveyed without the use of diagrams – quite a feat in itself. This is a comprehensive overview of all the options and considerations needed for a permanent observatory, and any observer considering building one should consult this book." (Maurice Gavin, *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, Vol. 118 (4), 2008)

Every amateur astronomer who is considering a purpose-built observatory will find this book absolutely invaluable during both the planning and the construction stages. Drawing on David Arditti's practical experience and that of many other amateur astronomers, it gives invaluable help in making all the important decisions. To begin with, *Setting up a Small Observatory* addresses what you really need from an observatory, whether to build or buy, what designs you should consider, and where you should site it. Uniquely, it also considers the aesthetics of an amateur observatory: how to make it fit in with your home, garden, and yard, even disguising it as a more common garden building if necessary. There's also a wealth of practical details for constructing and equipping your small observatory – everything from satisfying local planning laws and building codes through to making sure that your completed observatory is well-equipped, convenient, and comfortable to use. Whether you are considering a simple low-tech DIY approach to a fixed observatory, or aspiring to a sophisticated domed building, there is something here for you.

I really enjoyed reading this book. It differs from the other Patrick Moore Series books on home observatories in that the selection is limited more to things mere mortals might actually build, with

enough detail to get you thinking. The examples in this book range from domes (both homemade and commercial) to a box just big enough to stow a 10" Dob on the patio (nicknamed the "Sentry Box"). There several other very clever small format schemes shown too. In general, the emphasis is on getting the most bang for your buck and keeping the observatory appearance in keeping with it's surroundings. Several memorable "garden shed" like buildings are purpose-built observatories. One of my favorites is a fellow how hacked out a piece of his garage roof and slapped a sliding panel over it. It worked fine for him because there were streetlights nearby and the high walls were needed to block out those lights anyhow. And while I wanted more, there were actually quite a few example of remote control. Some of the "observatories" were little more than telescope houses perched near the house and run by remote control. This book is a keeper as far as I'm concerned. There are lots of practical hints I want to refer back to if I ever undertake building my own observatory.

I totally enjoyed this book! There were many helpful tips and observations from authors that have "been there and done that!" One of the other reviewers noted that he thought this was "padded" with extraneous information. I would disagree because I found much of the surrounding information thoughtful and additive to my project. Ultimately, some of the "additional information" has already saved me some serious money! The topic is well described and has some brilliant ideas. I am buying a second copy for my son's project. Perhaps it will cover an item or two that was not obvious and save an expensive mistake!

Well, the book definitely provided the information it promised. I feel much more prepared to build my own observatory now. But it strayed from the stated subject often and filled up pages with astronomy and telescope information that is available elsewhere. I got the feeling that it was padded - or maybe just mistitled. Maybe it should have been called "Setting-Up a Small Observatory: From Concept to Construction and a Bunch of Other Stuff You Probably Already Know Since You Are Considering an Observatory of Your Own Anyway". Don't hesitate to buy it for the information you need. Just be prepared for a bit of wandering.

This is a good overall book on small observatories. I gave it 4 stars because some of the information is dated. The text is also small. I have a number of books by this same publisher and the text is small on all of them. Highlights are shown in even smaller text on a grey background. Not good and somewhat tedious to read. However, if you want to find out the basics of what's needed in a small

observatory and see some examples around the world, this is it.

This book is well written in a down to earth manner so that the concept of setting up a small Observatory is easily comprehended. Loaded with examples and reasons why you should or should not do certain things. Hints on making Observatories and their pluses and minuses can help those thinking of building their own Observatory. A worthwhile read.

Couldn't hardly wait for it to get here. I read it in one evening and started clearing away a spot the next day. I am now going to pick up the lumber and cement. It is really a great read and answered many of my questions.

Very Good book - Nice case studies from a wide variety of designs. Super descriptions. Lacks a little on the observatory diagram side but the narrative does cover many of the pitfalls. if you are thinking of setting up a home observatory - you could do worse ! I Like it !

Helpful reading.

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