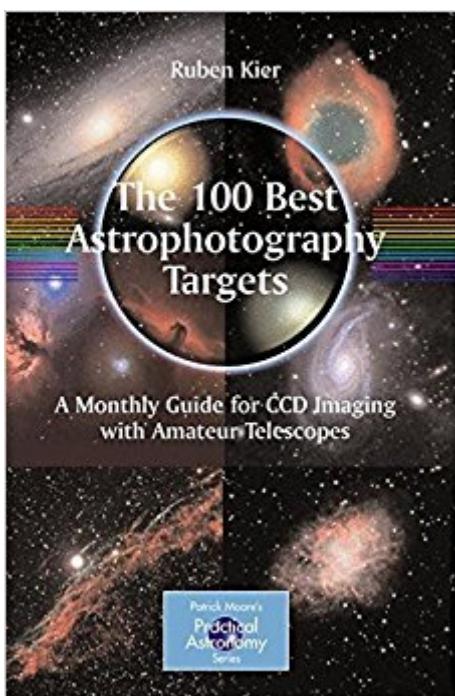


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# The 100 Best Astrophotography Targets: A Monthly Guide For CCD Imaging With Amateur Telescopes (The Patrick Moore Practical Astronomy Series)



## Synopsis

Any amateur astronomer who is interested in astrophotography, particularly if just getting started, needs to know what objects are best for imaging in each month of the year. These are not necessarily the same objects that are the most spectacular or intriguing visually. The camera reveals different things and has different requirements. What objects in the sky tonight are large enough, bright enough, and high enough to be photographed? This book reveals, for each month of the year, the choicest celestial treasures within the reach of a commercial CCD camera. Helpful hints and advice on framing, exposures, and filters are included. Each deep sky object is explained in beautiful detail, so that observers will gain a richer understanding of these astronomical objects. This is not a book that dwells on the technology of CCD, Webcam, wet, or other types of astrophotography. Neither is it a book about in-depth computer processing of the images (although this topic is included). Detailed discussions of these topics can be found in other publications. This book focuses on what northern latitude objects to image at any given time of the year to get the most spectacular results.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the reviews: "Kier comes to the rescue with targets that are well placed at different times during each month. | Each target has a colour image and a description, plus advice on the equipment you'll need. There's useful advice on processing too. | seasoned imagers will

enjoy this book.â • (Steve Richards, *Sky at Night Magazine*, February, 2010) â œThis book is one of the Patrick Mooreâ ™s Practical Astronomy series from Springer, aimed at the practising â | amateur astronomer. â | The bookâ ™s intent is to provide a visually compelling list of the 100 most interesting deep sky objects from the perspective of a digital imager, more precisely of the CCD user. â | This book is a good starter for going beyond the early shots and provides a reasonable reference on what to expect from each target â | .â • (Andrea Tasselli, *Journal of the British Astronomical Association*, Vol. 120 (1), 2010) â œRuben Kier, a highly accomplished astrophotographer, has compiled an impressive list of 100 objects, arranged in order of when they are best placed for observers in the Northern Hemisphere. â | Though the book is clearly aimed at the established imager â | . I was particularly impressed at how well some deep sky objects can now be imaged even with the full moon in the sky. The book will serve as an inspiration to those wishing to take their CCD imaging to the next level.â • (Neil English, *Astronomy Now*, May, 2010)

Astronomical observing and photography are favorite pastimes of yours. You want to combine the two, but youâ ™re not sure how. Or perhaps you have dabbled in astronomy for a while and want to take another step. What do you photograph? Will something that looks amazing as you peer at it through a telescope look the same in a photograph? There are so many dazzling sights in the night sky. How to choose? Ruben Kier has some answers for you. With his technical expertise and wide experience as both a visual observer and a photographer, he can help you attain some of the best images you can imagine, perhaps ones you will want to send to a magazine or proudly put up on your website. And the secret is â “ itâ ™s not that hard! Itâ ™s mostly a matter of choosing the right subjects and then doing the necessary post-processing to get results that will dazzle. So get out there on the next clear night and create something to show for your efforts. Your friends will be impressed, and you will be thrilled at how you are able to combine the two passions of your life into one.

Out of several hundred texts in my astronomy library, Kier's work is among the top ten titles. The book is dog-eared and loaded with sticky notes from continued use in the field. The work is very well organized and the author's comments and suggestions offered in a compact and insightful manner based on hundreds of hours devoted to imaging the objects presented. This book should be a mainstay for the beginning imager and the most experienced astrophotographers alike. Particularly appreciated are the recommendations for both RGB and single-shot color techniques. Kier anticipated the growth and increasing sophistication of single-shot color sensors even though the

guide was written in 2009. Don't let the publication date deter you from purchasing this book--it remains relevant, although it would be great to see what the author could come up with in a second edition. More than anything, Kier's how-to guide is a cookbook for imagers, with every 2-3 pages providing the recipes needed to produce solid results. Great concept, great book.

There are a large number of 5 star reviews here for a reason - this is a great book I come back to time and again. The deep space targets in this book are arranged by date of transit, so as you thumb the pages you can also be developing an imaging plan. Targets cover the very small to very large - there is something for everyone. Roughly 1/3 are wide-field targets best imaged with a camera lens, 1/3 medium sized targets for an APO refractor, and 1/3 are small targets best imaged using a long focal length scope. Not only is each target discussed in terms of imaging, but also in terms of processing. Is the target good for One-shot color cameras or DSLRs? It's covered! Which filters work best? Covered! On top of everything else, at the end of the book is a brief guide to basic processing techniques I found helpful. Bottom line, I look through this book at least once a week. I've found 2 dozen targets to image and I'm enjoying getting out of the Messier collection into other challenges because of this book.

I have collected many lists of astronomy targets. This is the best list for people that want to take pictures. With a fair section of the book telling you the basics of how to take pictures (equipment, S/W, techniques). However, you will want to read additional books to tell you more details on equipment, methods, and post processing). The targets are objects that are big enough and bright enough to be seen with an average amateur telescope without needing many hours of exposure, and are also pretty to look at, and in the Northern hemisphere. (The book isn't as useful if you live in New Zealand or Australia). I really like the order in which the objects are listed, by the month/day they will be in the sky. So if want to know what you can image this month, it is very easy to find your targets and plan your session. Each target has a picture, and a good description. I'm pleased with this book, and recommend it to anyone starting off in astro photography in the Northern hemisphere.

I shoot with a DSLR camera and not a CCD camera. This book is designed for use with a monochrome CCD, therefore it was of limited use to me. That's not necessarily bad. The book is so good, that even limited use rates a five stars from me. It helps me to know the best targets that are out at any given time and how to best frame them. I consult the book nearly every week. I am glad that I purchased it. If you shoot either a CCD or DSLR camera you know the difference and what I

am talking about. If you think the price of the book is worth the price of a guide book that shows you what is up and how to frame it, then purchase the book. If you think the book is going to give you tips on imaging and processing with your DSLR, then don't purchase the book. If you shoot a CCD, there is no question. Get the book.

Back in the 1960's I wanted so badly to photograph the beautiful things I was seeing in my home made, hand ground 6 inch telescope. I rushed the exposed film to the drug store and a week later when they came back I was so disappointed. It never got much better. When I read this book my interest was renewed. Today the cameras and equipment have been improved so much that it is possible and a lot easier to get the wonderful pictures I have always wanted. I followed this author's methods, dusted off my old telescope and spend a lot of time in the dark. I am very happy, but my wife wants me to come back inside.

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