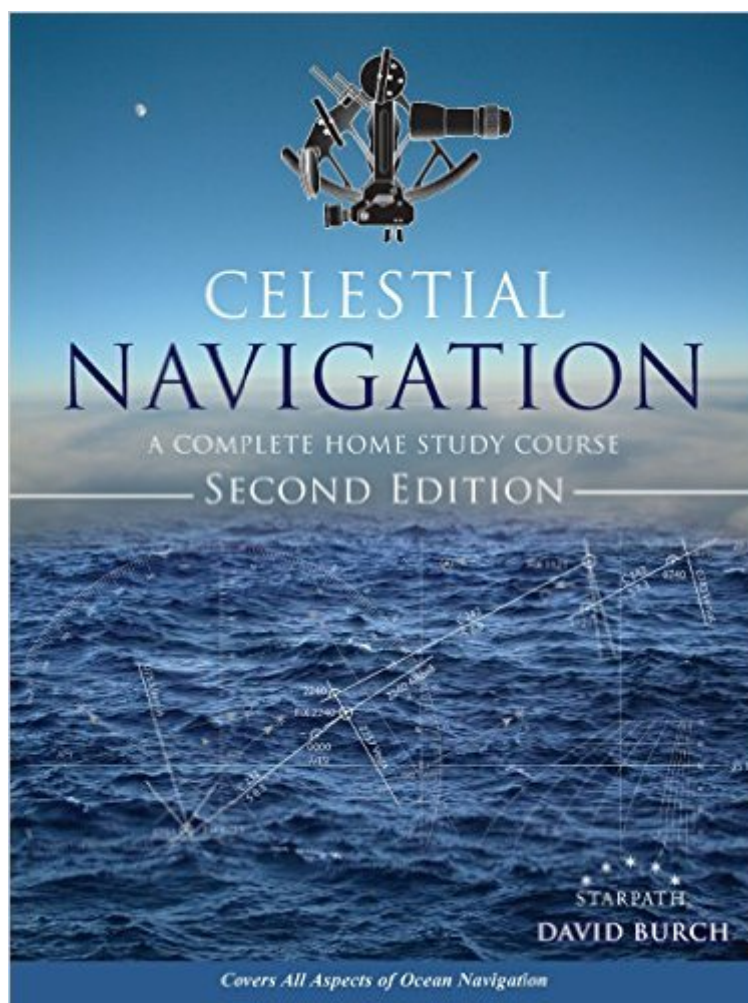


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# Celestial Navigation: A Complete Home Study Course, Second Edition



## Synopsis

This book has been used for 30 years, updated periodically as needed. More than 20,000 students have successfully learned ocean navigation from these materials and gone on to cross oceans or circumnavigate the globe. This book covers how to find position at sea from timed sextant sights of the sun, moon, stars, and planets plus other routine and special procedures of safe, efficient offshore navigation. No previous navigation experience is required. The only math involved is arithmetic (adding and subtracting angles and times). This is a practical, how-to-do-it book, which also includes clear explanations of how it works and how to do it well. Plus this book includes other crucial factors of ocean navigation besides just finding out where you are from the stars, such as logbook procedures, dead reckoning, error analysis, route planning, and more. At the end of this book, you will be ready for ocean navigation. The book includes: text, practice problems, tables selections, detailed glossary, and full solutions. Printable work forms, plotting sheets, and other resources are available at no charge from [www.starpath.com/celnavbook](http://www.starpath.com/celnavbook). Preface to the Second Edition: We are pleased to say that after ten more years of using this text we do not find reason to change the basic approach and methods of the teaching. We still use most of the same examples, which are now quite old, but that is the beauty of celestial navigation. It has not changed, so we do not benefit in any way from making all new examples, which would bring with them more chance of error in a book of many numbers. We have, however, notably improved and expanded the book. Each section has been updated and reformatted for a clearer presentation, often in response to student questions over the years. New graphics have been added and older ones all updated. There is much new content in the text, especially in the In-Depth chapter, including more detailed discussion of the sailings and more background on the principles. New sections were added on general ocean navigation and optimizing the fixes. We have also updated the electronic navigation section, as most ocean navigators will also be using other tools besides celestial.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book presents a very thorough and descriptive discussion of the practice of taking, reducing, and plotting celestial sights so that you can fix your location on the sea (with other topics as well). It is a very practical course and for that I recommend it. You WILL be able to navigate by the heavens when you are done (with some sextant practice). However, it is a bit light on theory and for some people, like me, if they don't understand at least the basics of the theory, then it's hard for them to connect with the practical applications. If you are the kind of person that has to know "why" something works before you can remember "how" to do it, then you need more than this book. I actually did read the neat little primer, *Celestial Navigation for Yachtsmen* by Mary Blewitt before getting this course. Actually I read it twice because it's small, but the concepts are dense. It was an excellent preparation for this much more practical book on how to really use celestial navigation on a real ocean passage. If I hadn't read this first, I think I might have struggled with David Burch's book. Yet, if I had tried to actually practice celestial navigation armed only with Blewitt's book, I don't think I could have really done it either - it just doesn't provide enough detailed guidance. Burch's book anticipates all those little questions that a student would naturally have when he gets ready to actually take a sight and find a line of position. So, Burch's book is excellent, but get some kind of background in the geometric and mathematical theory first. Note: Starpath has on-line classes as well, and that may be where theory is explained, but the full program is much more expensive and this book is the foundation of the course, anyway.

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