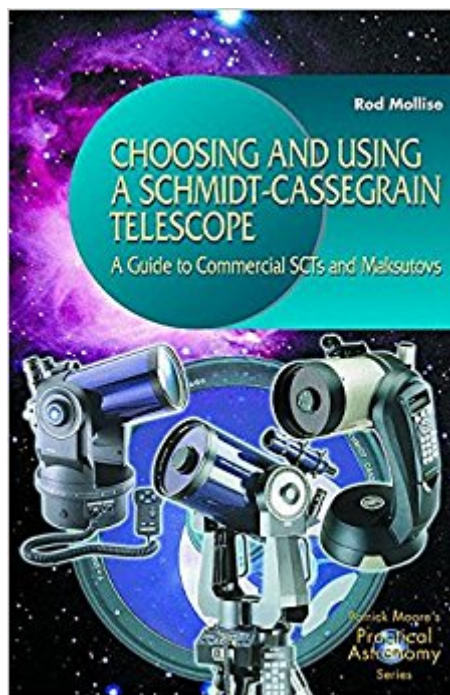


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# Choosing And Using A Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope : A Guide To Commercial SCTs And Maksutovs (Practical Astronomy.)



## Synopsis

Amateur astronomy is becoming increasingly popular, mostly because of the availability of relatively low-cost astronomical telescopes such as the Schmidt-Cassegrain and Maksutovs. The author describes what these instruments will do, how to use them, and which are the best - he draws on 25-years of experience with telescopes. There are sections on accessories, observing techniques, and hints and tips on: cleaning, collimating, maintaining the telescope, mounting, using the telescope in various conditions, computer control, and imaging (wet, digital and CCD). This is the perfect book for amateur astronomers who are about to invest in a new Schmidt-Cassegrain or Maksutov telescope, or for those who already have one and want to get the most out of it.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

From the reviews of the first edition: "This new addition to the growing collection of practical astronomy books in the Springer-Verlag Patrick Moore collection is devoted to the ubiquitous Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope (SCT). American author Rod Mollise has been using these telescopes for over 25 years and has provided an excellent primer for those intending to purchase an SCT or Maksutov telescope. Much useful information and advice is included â I would certainly recommend this book to all current and prospective SCT owners." (The Deep Sky Observer Magazine, Issue 128, 2002) "I think it's fair to say the Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope â is one of the most popular in the world. It is immediately clear that the author does indeed have 25 years

experience of SCTs; this book is very well written and one of the best of its kind that I have read. â | I wish this book had been available when I bought my first SCT and even though I now consider myself an experienced SCT user, I still found much useful advice." (Mark Armstrong, Astronomy Now, August, 2002) "Rodâ™s book is extremely comprehensive; covering everything you need to know about what must be the most popular telescope configuration on this planet, the Catadioptric or CAT. â | I really enjoyed this book. I highly recommend it to any aspiring or experienced observer â | . The vast majority of the information on the book is applicable to any observer regardless of the scope she owns. â | the freshness of approach and the incredible sense of enthusiasm will energise the most jaded telescope user." (Kevin Berwick, Cloudy Nights Telescope Reviews, July, 2002) "For Internet astronomy newsgroup readers, Rod Mollise needs little introduction. He is one of the most knowledgeable guys around on anything to do with Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes â | . It is not surprising that he has now put pen to paper and written this guide to commercial SCTs and Maksutovs. â | In my opinion, Choosing and Using a Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope is the most informative and authoritative guide to SCTs and Maksutovs available and is an absolute â^must haveâ™ for both prospective purchasers and existing owners." (Gordon Nason, Astronomy & Space, December, 2001) "Astronomy magazines are full of advertisements for Schmidt-Cassegrain telescopes. â | this book provides an excellent guide to all its various components, and the different accessories which can be added. â | Thereâ™s a sensible guide to the objects that can be observed, and a realistic assessment of what is likely to be seen. â | New owners, of a Schmidt-Cassegrain will learn almost everything they need to know; and old ones (like this reviewer) will be inspired to get out there again, with new techniques and goals." (Fiona Vincent, The Observatory, Vol.121 (1165), 2001)

The author provides a complete review of SCT and Makstovs covering all the basics of operation. The chapters on setup, testing and observing are much clearer than the manuals that come with a new scope. If you are considering spending a \$1000+ on a new scope you should get this book first. The section on "keeping Your Cat Happy" shows ways to improve your scope's operation without spending a lot. This is stuff that works from dew shields to warning lights. The only limit I have seen in the book is that the goto technology described is changing yet again with new scopes. Celestron has just introduced units with a built in GPS & electronic compasses that find their own location and time. I am sure that Meade can not far behind in introducing their own version. Exploring the stars with SCTs has never been easier, but don't start the trip without this book.

This is the book I wish I had read before I purchased my SCT (to understand what I was getting into) and that I wish had come as its user's guide. While it provides great explanations and many useful tips on setting up and using an SCT, it also honestly describes potential drawbacks (e.g., weight, transportability). Mr. Mollise also understands -- and wryly comments on -- "reality" for many amateur astronomers: At one point he describes the many amateurs who talk about astrophotography but never quite get to the point of taking a picture -- which is true of many amateurs.

I am in the market for a new SCT and this book came in handy in helping me make my choice. Having direct access to the author through a user group helped also, which leads me to the only negative remark I have to make...time for a second edition! My the times are changin and there are new scopes which need reviewing and explaining. So please Mr. Mollise, come out with a revised edition! Thanks!!

Very informative book. Uncle Rod is a great asset to astro geeks like me!

This book has been replaced by the book by the same author and publisher but with the name Choosing and Using a New CAT. The new book is current as of 2015 and is the one to get. The earlier version was poorly printed and pre-digital and the information was already dated with the 2004 printing.

Learning about telescope,how they work ,what you will spend, this is a great first time /review of things you forgot and thing you just didn't know how book.very helpful.

The book has great information, including, how to set up your scope, tips on filters, how to collimate the scope, how to transport and care for your telescope, choosing a telescope, and much more. The book is targeted toward owners of Meade and Celestron telescopes with fork mounts, but this should not dissuade you. Much of the information in the book is useful for owners of equatorially mounted scopes, as well. Examples of tips are-- to reduce tripod vibration, hang a gallon jug of water from the bottom of the mount or the tray. Or, to safely transport your scope to a dark site, use a foam-lined cooler. Very comprehensive, well-written, and far reaching in its coverage of all aspects of telescope ownership and use. Highly recommended!

This is an awesome book. It answered about a million questions that I had about equipment, accessories, a bit of telescope history, etc.. It held my hand step-by-step during the search for a new telescope and then again once I had my new telescope in my hands. I found the author's writing style to very very good for the person brand new to Astronomy. I've already recommended this book to 5-6 other folks. It contains enough information that it will be useful for quite a while as there are many aspects of my new telescope that I'm not ready to try yet. This book is pretty darn expensive but worth every penny. With good telescopes costing from [X], the price of this book isn't much. The tips alone on new telescope assembly, setup, checkout, etc.. are invaluable.

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