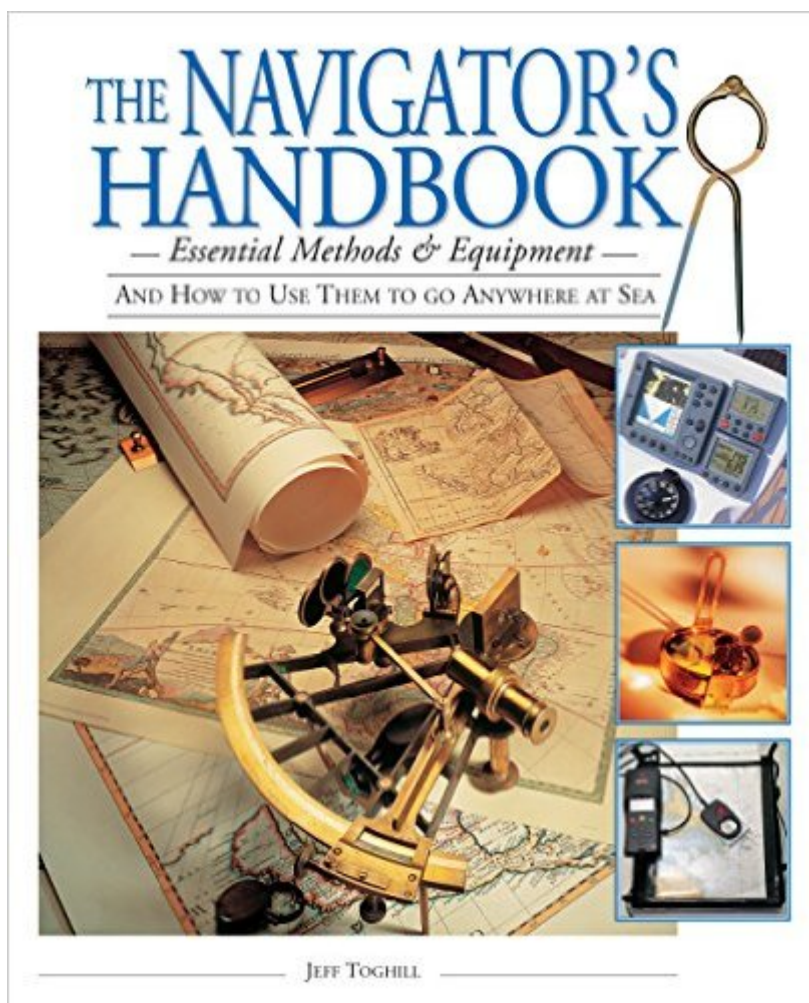


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The Navigator's Handbook: Essential Methods And Equipment--And How To Use Them To Go Anywhere At Sea



Synopsis

Since the beginning of time, humans have felt the need to define their position in relation to the environment--to be in control and have a means to guide their movements. Ancient mariners navigated by the stars, studying constellations and wind directions. Medieval navigators added cardinal points to the simple charts that allowed them to set off on epic journeys and return home safely. Today, our planet harbors few secrets, and no unknown seas remain to be sailed. Computers, the Internet, and satellites have all helped to shrink our world, providing instant feedback with astounding accuracy. Yet, modern adventurers still embark on journeys of exploration, and the challenge remains unchanged--to venture into the unknown, overcoming fear and doubt, and chart a safe course home. Modern equipment has made ocean voyages safer and simpler, but traditional navigation still presents a unique challenge. THE NAVIGATOR'S HANDBOOK offers a step-by-step guide to mastering the art, giving an overview of sophisticated modern navigation methods including GPS and radar, navigating using compasses and charts, and studying ocean currents, seasonal winds, and safety techniques. Whether you are a novice or an experienced sailor looking for a refresher course, THE NAVIGATOR'S HANDBOOK offers crucial instruction and is sure to become an essential reference guide.

Book Information

Paperback: 128 pages

Publisher: Lyons Press; 1st edition (May 1, 2003)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1585747912

ISBN-13: 978-1585747917

Product Dimensions: 11 x 8.5 x 0.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.6 pounds

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (3 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,470,305 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #54 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing > Navigation](#) #167 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Sailing > Instructional](#) #2341 in [Books > Sports & Outdoors > Outdoor Recreation > Boating](#)

Customer Reviews

I was rather disappointed with this item, since I was looking for something that I could use to learn how to navigate. Unfortunately, this book has just barely enough information on navigation to

remove it from coffee table book status, but just barely enough. Most of the text is merely a summary of what methods and equipment exist, not how to use them. Lots of nice pictures, though, despite the one with the man taking a sight with his sextant in broad daylight but not facing the sun.

Jeff Toghill's THE NAVIGATOR'S HANDBOOK is a handsome, large format paperback that makes a nice gift for the novice or would be sailor. Mr. Toghill suggests at the outset (p. 8) that this book is "designed to introduce the art of navigation to boat owners who are new to the subject, and will also provide a useful reference volume for those who want" to know the latest in navigational methods and equipment. He succeeds at this goal. It is not really, however, a handbook of navigation.

Though Mr. Toghill does cover navigational computations, if he really means the reader to understand the steps as he presents them, then I have failed his course! THE NAVIGATOR'S HANDBOOK covers 1. Charts and Publications; 2. Instruments & Aids to Navigation (N.B.: his interesting description of the sextant seems incomplete...until you realize that he completes his discussion of the use of the sextant in Chapter 5); 3. Harbor Navigation; 4. Coastal Navigation; 5. Celestial Navigation; 6. Computations (oh what fun!); 7. (Weather and Communications) Crossing the Oceans; and 8. Electronic Navigation (thank God for the modern electronic tools of navigation). Illustrations, primarily photos and charts, dominate the book. Almost all of these are reproduced with high resolution and rich colors. This is essentially a small craft-to-large yacht navigation coffee table picture book (albeit paperback) that also manages to do a fairly nice job giving the reader an overview of traditional and contemporary navigational methods and aids. It's a fun book that makes you want to take up boating if you haven't already. Just make sure that this is the beginning of your boating library, and not your one-volume guide to navigation.

This book was a gift for my husband. As we sail, he loved it and read it in just a couple of days. He says that it was great and provided a lot of useful info. Would highly recommend to others.

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