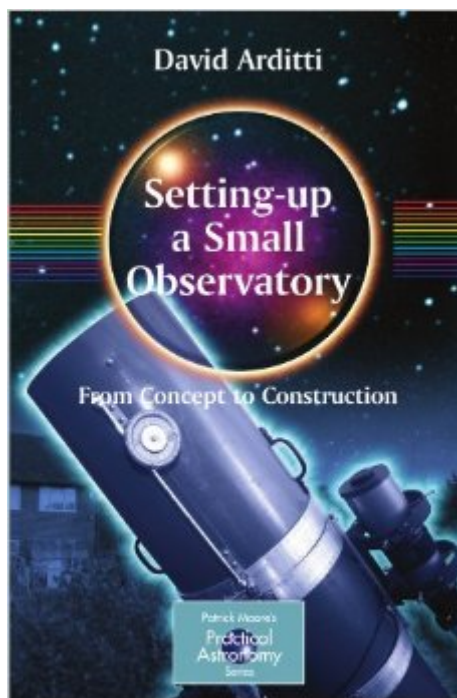


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# Setting-Up A Small Observatory: From Concept To Construction (The Patrick Moore Practical Astronomy Series)



## Synopsis

This is the book to tell the intermediate-level amateur astronomer what he needs to know about observatories. It draws on the author's practical experience and that of many other experienced amateur astronomers. It is an ideal complement to Patrick Moore's *More Small Astronomical Observatories* which is a compendium of ideas for different observatory designs. *Setting-up a Small Observatory* covers the details of design, siting and construction 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 – 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 that is most of them!) will find this book absolutely invaluable both during the planning and the construction stages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

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 great basic introductory book. If you're looking for ideas and don't want to re-invent the wheel, and make the same mistakes that others have made when THEY made their observatory, buy this book. I highly recommend it; easy reading, with good author support! 5 of 5 stars.

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.

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 examples 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.

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.

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.

I made a mistake buying this book; I didn't read the title carefully enough and I took too much notice of good reviews which lacked detail (the "useful book, I like it" type of review). What I failed to take sufficient notice of is that the title is "Setting up...", not "Building..." a small observatory. There is almost nothing about building an observatory in this book. Instead it covers aspects such as why you would want an observatory, which type of observatory to have, what to put in it, etc. I suppose that may be of use to a complete beginner who has no idea about observatories at all, but to someone like me who had already decided to build a roll-off roof observatory, the book has very limited value. Buying the book was not entirely my fault, however. The sub-title (From Concept to Construction) is extremely misleading, hence my 2 stars rating. There is virtually nothing about construction in the book. The chapter about techniques of construction is short, and contains fairly useless information about such things as different types of timber joints. There are no plans. The photographs are all low-definition and monochrome. The writing is rather old-fashioned and overly formal. For someone like myself, building a roll-off roof, which by the way happens to be the most popular type of amateur observatory, the most critical aspect of the project is the rolling mechanism. What are all the options, and how do you construct the rollers and tracks? This book has almost nothing about that. I had to make an alternative purchase "Building a Roll-Off Roof or Dome Observatory - 2nd ed." by John Hicks. As the name implies, this has much more about construction.

The half of the book about domes is no use to me, but the other half is. And the photos are in colour.

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