

Make a Planisphere

1. Cut out the circle containing the constellations. This is the inner part of the planisphere.
2. Cut out the Star Wheel, including the box at the bottom. Then, cut out the center white circle. This makes the outer piece.
3. Fold up the white box behind the upper section. Staple together on the sides, marked by the white lines, making a pocket.
4. Insert the inner piece into the outer piece. You just made a planisphere!

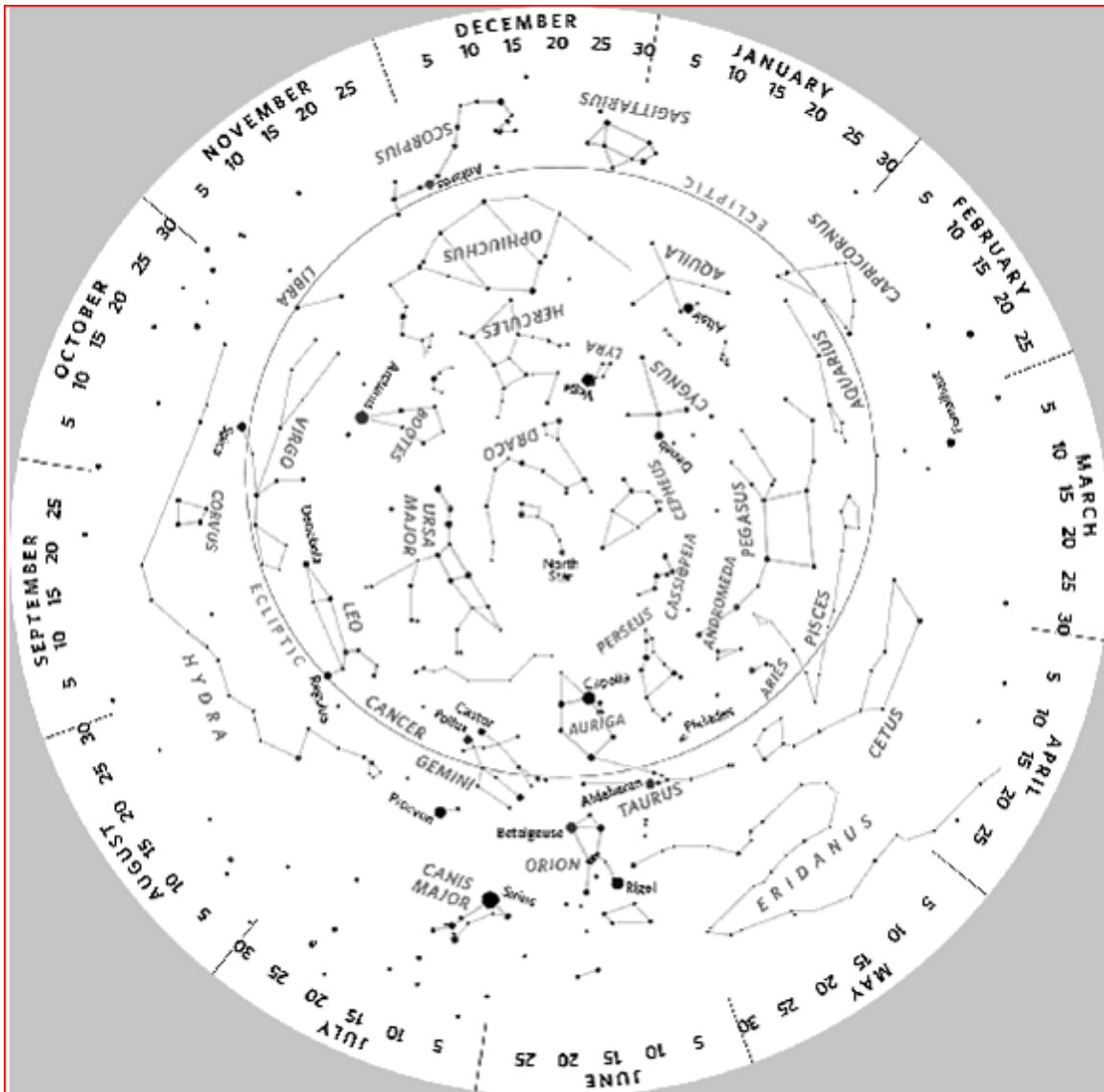
How to Use a Planisphere

A ***planisphere*** is a type of star chart that can be used to show the sky at particular dates and times. It consists of an inner circle showing the constellations, and an outer part that lines up the date and time.

First, rotate the inner circle until today's date lines up with the time on the outer piece. Times shown are Standard Time; for Daylight Savings Time, rotate the wheel to an hour earlier. (For 9 pm DST, line up the date with 8PM on the wheel.)

Next, find the direction you are facing on the planisphere. Hold the planisphere in front of you so that this direction is at the **bottom**. The stars in the center section will now be shown as they look in the sky. The center of the opening is the *zenith*, which is the point straight over head. The edge of the outer piece represents the horizon.

That's all there is to it!



Inner piece



Outer piece

Planisphere sections provided by Sky & Telescope magazine.