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# Digital Astrophotography: The State of the Art

David Ratledge (Ed.)

With 125 Figures

Springer

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# Preface

In the years since *The Art and Science of CCD Astronomy* was first published, digital imaging has been transformed from what was, in reality, a minority interest to mainstream. Not even the most committed of CCD devotees could have predicted the few years it would take for digital imaging to supplant film. We all probably guessed that a new age was dawning, but the speed at which silicon sensors came to dominate the photography market was simply staggering. New areas also appeared. No one predicted webcams would become the instrument of choice for imaging the planets. Afocal photography re-emerged in digital format. For mainstream imaging, color has become almost the norm. It was therefore time for a new book – and one in color!

If you read the astronomical magazines, you are, no doubt, familiar with the names and images of our contributors. *Sky & Telescope*, *Astronomy*, *Night Sky*, *Astronomy Now* and other leading magazines from around the world have all included their work, in terms of both images for their gallery sections and feature articles.

The contributors have been selected for their expertise in a particular field although, in fact, most are multi-talented. First and foremost they are image takers – they are not writing about other people's images; they are writing about their own. You are hearing it from the horse's mouth! The big advantage of a book like this is that we have experts in each field rather than a single author who would perhaps be more familiar with some subjects than others. One person could never have the breadth of knowledge that we have incorporated here.

The book is divided into three sections, which broadly increase in sophistication and, unfortunately, in cost. The intention is to have something for every level of interest – and pocketbook! Topics range from using a consumer camera at the eyepiece of an ordinary telescope up to specialist multiple robotic telescopes searching for supernovae. Remember, even those with the most comprehensive setups started more modestly and got where they are today as their interest and knowledge developed over many years.

David Ratledge
Lancashire, UK

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