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Book Review: Spectral Atlas for Amateur Astronomers: A Guide to the Spectra of Astronomical Objects and Terrestrial Light Sources

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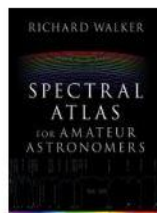
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Spectral atlas for amateur astronomers : a guide to the spectra of astronomical objects and terrestrial light sources



Walker, Richard. Cambridge, 2017

277p bibl index, 9781107165908 \$89.99, 9781316731048 \$72.00

LC Call Number: QB883



Most people think of astronomy as an image-making profession, but its real workhorse is spectroscopy: the spreading of light into its component wavelengths (colors) and the analysis of the patterns that emerge. Spectroscopy is to astronomy what fingerprints are to forensic investigators. Walker has put together one of the most comprehensive references on the subject published to date. Relying on his own small telescope, he has compiled an atlas of spectra from a variety of astronomical sources that can be used to classify almost any object observable with telescopes that are typically available to amateurs. This book nicely bridges the vast gap between what students will find in most textbooks and the references used by practitioners. Want to tell a white dwarf star from a red giant star? A nebula from a galaxy? Here's how! This richly illustrated atlas of spectra makes the identification process relatively easy. Moreover, the introduction to each chapter provides an accessible primer on the astrophysics behind the spectra. An extensive bibliography will lead the novice spectroscopist into as much detail as desired. A companion volume focuses on the instrumentation, reduction, and analysis of spectra. This labor of love belongs on any serious amateur's desk—even professionals will find it quite useful.

Summing Up: Highly recommended. All readers.

Reviewer: T. D. Oswalt, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Recommendation: Highly recommended

Readership Level: All Readership Levels

Interdisciplinary Subjects:

Subject: Science & Technology - Astronautics & Astronomy

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