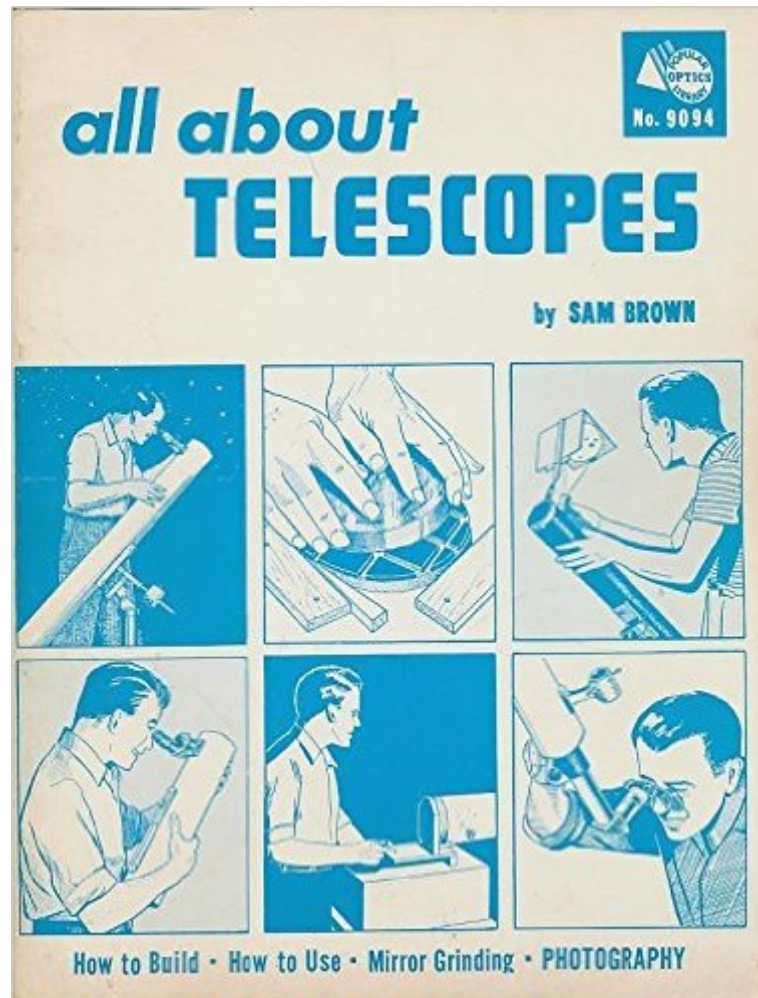


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All About Telescopes



Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (23 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

I want to second what the Fair Oaks reviewer wrote about this book. In my case I bought it 32 years ago at the tender age of 11, right after it came out in 1967. As I've related to my older sister, I've made use of it pretty nearly every week since then, and *that*, as I refer to it, continues to provide food for thought to this day. It has a real appeal to amateur astronomy. For example, just a couple of days ago, I was wondering how small a field could fit Saturn's major moons in it, and I knew where to find out in *that*, on the planets page. This is just 1 example of the numerous tidbits that are hardly in other books.

This book contains a surprising amount of information. While not greatly detailed, it does contain enough information for a beginner to build a small Newtonian from scratch, including doing the mirror grinding and diagonal flattening. I used it as my only reference on my first mirror. While the results were only a bit better than 1/4 wave - that may have been as much due to lack of experience and impatience than anything else.

This has got to be the best all-around book on telescopes and astronomy ever written. It covers everything from the very basics to fairly advanced optics, mirror grinding and telescope construction. I bought my first copy back in 1969 when I was a junior in high school. I have worn out two copies and was ecstatic when I found it was back in print. Bought my third copy immediately. I still use it on a regular basis and would recommend it to anyone at any level of expertise.

This book has to be the best and most illustrative book for the beginning mirror and telescope

maker. I was given a copy by my wife's uncle 30 years ago and though it's been through the wringer, stained with cat urine (when a friend borrowed it), for instance, I still have it. It is not for the advanced mirror maker, but for any beginner, you can't go wrong, despite some erroneous information, as one other reviewer pointed out. However, it is the first book that laid out a table of how to figure a mirror's correction by its focal length if left spherical. It clearly illustrates how the focal length can affect the depth and need for a paraboloid. For those wishing to get by with a spherical mirror, just make sure the focal length is long enough that the correction would be at least 1/4 wave. For a 3" mirror, for instance, it would be an f/9 or so, if I remember right. However, as another reviewer pointed out, the way they rated 1/4 wave was not quite accurate so it would be better to go for what he says is 1/8 wave to be safe. However, if you have an 8" or 10" mirror or larger, the focal ratio would have to be f/12 or higher and your tube would be ten to fifteen feet long! (Excuse my fuzzy memory on exact details, but it should give you the picture.) There are sections on mounts, finders, eyepieces, and even observing. Though mostly outdated, this info could still apply even today. I love this book for its simplicity and excellent illustrations. Today, it might be titled "Telescope Making For Dummies." Highly recommended.

Back in the '60s and '70s I bought most of the Sam Brown booklets from Edmund Scientific along with a 6 inch mirror grinding kit. Heady stuff for a 14 year old to take on single handed, but tremendously educational in ways that still help me in my job. Of course, technology marches on and the Dobsonian revolution has superseded much of what is in here. But the basics are still good to know. I still have the booklets but having all this in a single volume in good shape is a great resource at work. I've recommended it to younger engineers who have used portions as an introduction to optics and imaging. Highly recommended.

As a newbie in the world of amateur telescope makers, I found this book to be fantastic. I love the vintage feel of the drawings and the simple designs that could be improvised from the humblest of scrapings. From designs to theory this book covers it all.

This book was perfect for me as a high school student with an interest in astronomy. It had all the information I needed to grind my first telescope mirror and build my first telescope plus plenty to get me started on observing and celestial photography. This is one of my favorite books and I still use it today, 30 years after I purchased it.

I wish I had this book when I first got my telescope. Still available new from Edmund Scientifics for \$12.95.

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