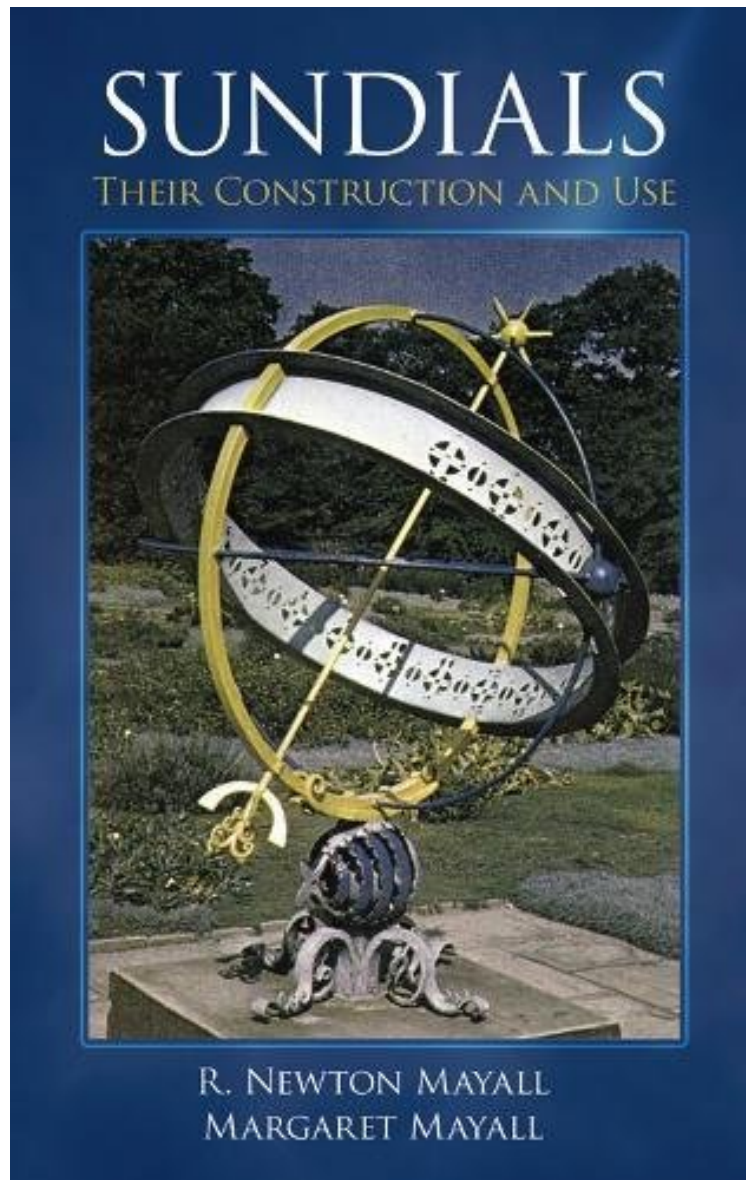


(Download) Sundials: Their Construction and Use

Sundials: Their Construction and Use

R. Newton Mayall, Margaret W. Mayall

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#1145517 in Books R Newton Mayall M W Mayall 2000-06-20 2000-06-20 Format: Unabridged Original language: English PDF # 1 8.46 x .70 x 5.38l, .79 #File Name: 048641146X320 pages Sundials Their Construction and Use | File size: 57.Mb

R. Newton Mayall, Margaret W. Mayall : Sundials: Their Construction and Use before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sundials: Their Construction and Use:

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Excellent how-to By wiredweird The Mayalls start this book with a fanciful Mrs. Caveman (this was written in 1934, remember) reminding Mr. to bring his shadow-stick so he'd be home

from the hunt in time for chores. That gets the first aspect of the book off to good start, describing the incredible variety of sundials known through history. The menagerie includes everything from pocket-sized "shepherd's" dials to major pieces of architecture. It includes dials that show only morning hours (on an east wall of a building), a garden laid out like a sundial with topiary gnomon, and even a moon-dial for night-time hours. The other major feature of this book, interleaved with the first, gives detailed directions for making many kinds of sundial: wall-mounted, horizontal, and many more. The instructions show how to adapt dials to any northern longitude or latitude, giving time accurate to the minute. I imagine the dedicated reader could adapt the directions to the southern hemisphere, where the shadow's direction is reversed. The intermediate latitudes, between the tropics of cancer and capricorn, present interesting problems that I did not see addressed, however. In that equatorial band, the sun acts "northern" for part of the year and "southern" for the rest. I would have liked to see examples of how this challenge is overcome. That's nit-picking, though. It's an approachable book with fascinating examples and clear instruction without daunting math. I recommend it to anyone interested in making sundials of their own, or who just want to know more about their history.

//wiredweird0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Pretty good. Instructions are a little confusing
By Maria Folsom
Pretty good. Instructions are a little confusing, and are better explained in other books on this topic. Nice history section and entertaining reading.
6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. A real classic for the tyro or enthusiast.
By George Forsythe
Superb book!! One of the classics and one I have been hunting for quite a while. Discussion of history and usage is good and the simplified calcs for all occasions are very useful. Lots of ideas for the DIY crowd or to just fool around with.

To many people, the construction of a sundial implies laborious mathematical calculations and a knowledge of astronomy. Nothing could be farther from the truth. This fascinating handbook, used in conjunction with ordinary tools and materials found around the home, makes it easy to design and construct a sundial on almost any surface and in virtually any position. Introductory chapters offer a wealth of information on the sundial's development from ancient times to the present, why the sundial tells time, how to design and make a dial, and more. These chapters are followed by full instructions on how to construct the hour lines for many kinds of sundials, by the graphic or geometric method. The use of this method doesn't require a knowledge of mathematics or astronomy. Its simplicity and accuracy, together with the ease and quickness of delineation, make it very practical. Readers will also find fascinating chapters on dial furniture, portable sundials, constructing a heliochronometer (a highly precise solar timekeeper), sundial classification, and other topics. Accompanying the text are 150 well-chosen illustrations, many published for the first time. They depict scale models, as well as a moon dial, a cathedral dial, and other actual dials from around the world, including the world's largest, in Jaipur, India. If you've ever wanted to build your own sundial, or if you simply want to know more about these ancient timepieces that can show the time of day as accurately as many clocks, this clearly written, easy-to-follow guide is "the best book available." Commonweal.

About the Author
R. Newton Mayall contributed to nature guides from Golden Guides and St. Martin's Press.