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Astrophotography, Just The Facts!



Synopsis

The purpose of "Astrophotography, Just the Facts!" is to outline a brief, but comprehensive approach to the collection and processing of astrophotography imagery aimed at the beginning astrophotographer. While there is no single approach to the art of astrophotography the author's method will produce excellent results and is easily completed in a few evenings. PixInsight and Photoshop are used for the processing of raw astronomical image data. The book takes a step by step approach using the same methods the author uses for all his astrophotography imagery. The author's astrophotography has been featured by National Geographic, The Discovery Channel, Sky & Telescope magazine, Astronomy magazine, Better Photography and many online outlets such as Space.com. The processing approach outlined in the text will work regardless if you're using a \$1,000 portable setup from your front yard or a \$50,000 observatory for your data collection. While each set of imagery data has its own unique set of challenges, the processing approach remains the same. The author will use a set of imagery data that was collected from his Owl Mountain Observatory as the basis for this processing tutorial. After you complete this tutorial you should have a sound understanding of PixInsight on which to base an exploration of the many other features that PixInsight offers. Please join and follow along as we reveal and explore our amazing Universe.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

As an experienced PI and photoshop user, this book provided some useful info on when to use each as well as solving a problem I was having with the psf function. Thanks!

Highly recommended for anyone interested in getting into astrophotography. As the title says: Just the facts!

Too short of be of much use as an intro to PixInsight for astroimage processing. The first 15 pages or so of the book concerns CCD camera data acquisition. The section on image calibration which follows is OK, but its brevity might be a problem for those just starting to use PI. There are many online tutorials which do a better job of outlining these processes. Finally, the last part of the book which covers the actual processing of monochrome images to an LRGB image is again, very brief. The author doesn't even cover the Dynamic Background Extractor which is one of the most useful tools in PixInsight. Most reference recommend running DBE (or as Fred recommends, ABE) followed by background neutralization and color calibration. However the author recommends running the latter two prior to ABE. It is generally best to get rid of gradients prior to running color calibration. And then in the end he relies on Photoshop for combining the Luminance and RGB images when this can be done in PI quite well (in my experience) using the LRGB combination tool.

Great for the beginners to start using PixInsight with no frustration and to achieve pleasant result.

Loved it very thorough

Good information

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