

Deepsky 2000
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With the ease of use of a spreadsheet and the power of a database, this is one great piece of software. This package includes planning, logging, and star charts.

For planning, you can search the 413,000+ object database of variable/double stars and deepsky objects. You can use built in queries to select Herschel or Messier objects including a "What's Up?" wizard. It also has a very powerful query builder to search for objects, or you can write your own query using SQL. When using the query builder, you can select objects by constellation, catalog, and object type. You can filter by magnitude, size, R.A., Dec. Once you have the objects displayed you can just select the "PLN" column to add the object to your observing plan. Once you have your plan, you can save it for later use.

If you own a Meade LX200 or Autostar, or a Celestron Nexstar system you can even guide your telescope using the plan and a slide show. You can control the selection of the objects from the hand-controller. From your plan, you can easily add items to your logbook by clicking the "OBS" column (which records the current date/time) of each object viewed or you can select the EZ Logbook to update objects with more information including telescope, eyepiece, seeing, etc.

The logbook section allows you to record information about the objects that you have viewed. You can create multiple logbooks to store your information. You can log general information on the object (Date/Time, etc.), along with notes about your session and your observation. You can record images (CCD/photography). Your observation and session notes are recorded using Rich Text (word processing) tools that allow you to change fonts, size, and styles of your text.

With all of the planning and logging capabilities, Deepsky 2000 also includes a very powerful star charting section. You can have it plot all items listed on your spreadsheet along with plotting the Messier and Herschel objects. You can zoom in and out with standard one-click sets of 1, 5, 10, 25, 50, & 75 degrees and +/- buttons for anything above and between. Right click centers on the object, left click brings up a window with information about the current object. You can also put up Telrad circles and eyepiece circles using your telescope and eyepiece to size the circle. You can print star charts, and also print three panel finder charts.

These just scratches the surface of what you can do with this powerful software. Other things include:

- Solar System info
- Image Processing
- Internet Features/Links
 - ◆ Digital Sky Survey
 - ◆ NGC Online
 - ◆ Skyrover Sketches
- Nightvision Mode

Once of the best parts is the cost! This software costs \$45 for the CD version, and \$25 for the download version. You can download a demo of it from www.deepsky2000.com.

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