

## Library - Book Review

More Small Astronomical Observatories

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Edited by Patrick Moore

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Being in the middle of constructing an observatory myself, this volume was a timely addition to the AAQ library. Edited by the great man himself - Patrick Moore- it consists of 18 articles submitted by amateurs who have undertaken a similar task themselves.

A wide selection of different types have been described - everything from a simple plastic sheeted wood frame covering a permanent outdoor pier all the way to elaborate domes built into the roof of multi storied homes.

Variations on roll-off roof / roll-off sheds seem popular, again going from a simple garden shed through to architect designed behemoths with one and a half ton roofs. (and almost as heavy a price tag I would think!)

Many articles described the construction details in great depth, so anyone contemplating building their own observatory need only browse through this book, select the type that appeals, then follow the instructions. For those who may be contemplating building a dome from scratch themselves, a number of excellent step-by-step instructions are given to assist with this relatively complex type of building.

Some writers also included comprehensive descriptions of computer controlled mounts, motorised domes, CCD camera and autoguider configurations. Being a relatively new (2002) publication I should imagine that much of this information would still be current. What I thought somewhat surprising was that there was only one article describing the construction of a commercially available building - a US supplied dome.

Included with the book is a CD-ROM copy of its predecessor - "Small Astronomical Observatories" which is now unavailable in print form. I had limited opportunity to read this in detail, however it does appear to be of similar format, although of some years earlier, so much of the electronics information supplied may no longer be applicable. Perhaps a subject for future review by a club member?

All the articles are by either US or British/European contributors, and upon completing the book, I thought what a pity that no Australian facilities were featured - perhaps an opportunity for an Aussie amateur with a literary streak!

