

A planisphere is a tool that provides a convenient way to know what is visible in the night sky at any time and any date throughout the year. You can make your own planisphere with the materials provided!

Use scissors to cut out the circles on both the piece of paper and the transparency.

Fasten the two circles together with the transparency on top (right-side up!) using the metal fastener. The fastener will go through the small asterisk (*) on each circle. Note the asterisk is on top of a star named Polaris on the paper circle.

You can now spin the transparency around to show different views of the sky. Match up the time on the edge of the transparency circle to the date on the paper circle to see what the sky looks like at that date and time. For example, if you match 10PM up with July 15th, that's what the sky will look like at 10PM on that date!

Objects in the middle of the transparency window will be close to overhead in the sky, while objects at the edge of the circle will be near the horizon. Cardinal directions (N-S-E-W) are printed around the edge of the transparency window for reference.



