

THE AZEREDO RODRIGUEZ "STAR IDENTIFIER"

(IDENTIFICADOR DE ASTROS)

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This diagram is of great practical use for star observation.

In the first place, an auxiliary scale is given permitting of the transformation without calculation of local mean time into local sidereal time by means of a simple graphical construction using, according to the date in the year, a certain spacing with the dividers which takes into account, for such date, of the value of the R.A.M.S.

The Star Identifier itself furnishes automatically the transformation of horizon coordinates (azimuth and altitude) into hour coordinates of the celestial sphere (polar angle and declination) by means of a fixed and of a translucent disk.

Each of these disks represents the local meridian plane on which, in stereographic projection, are figured on the one hand : the azimuth great circles and the altitude small circles on the fixed disk (upper hemisphere); on the other hand : the great hour circles and the small declination circles on the movable disk (complete sphere).

The position of the observed star in azimuth and altitude is marked on the fixed disk with a pencil.

Onto this projection is superimposed the translucent disk figuring, on the same scale, the lattice of polar angles and declinations, orientated so that the pole (same name as the latitude) of the movable disk may coincide with the altitude division of the hemisphere circle, equal to the value of the latitude of the observation point North or South.

By means of transparency, the values of the declination and of the polar angle of the star in question are respectively picked up on the lattice of the movable disk.

Then the Right Ascension is obtained and an auxiliary table of the diagram shows the declination and R.A. of 56 principal stars of the North and South hemispheres.

This *Identificador* is similar to the "J. E. MacGegan Star Identifier and Protractor" published some time ago by the Hydrographic Department of the British Admiralty.

H. B.

