

# ***SKY AND TELESCOPE PLANISPHERE (STAR WHEEL)***

## **How to Make It**

Each part for the Star Wheel is sized to fit on a single sheet of letter-size paper. Print out both sheets and cut out the parts. For the **sky map** (Part 1), trim away the gray corners so that you're left with a circle 8 inches across. For the **outer sleeve** (Part 2), make sure you keep the large white rectangle at the bottom; also, cut out the white oval in the middle.

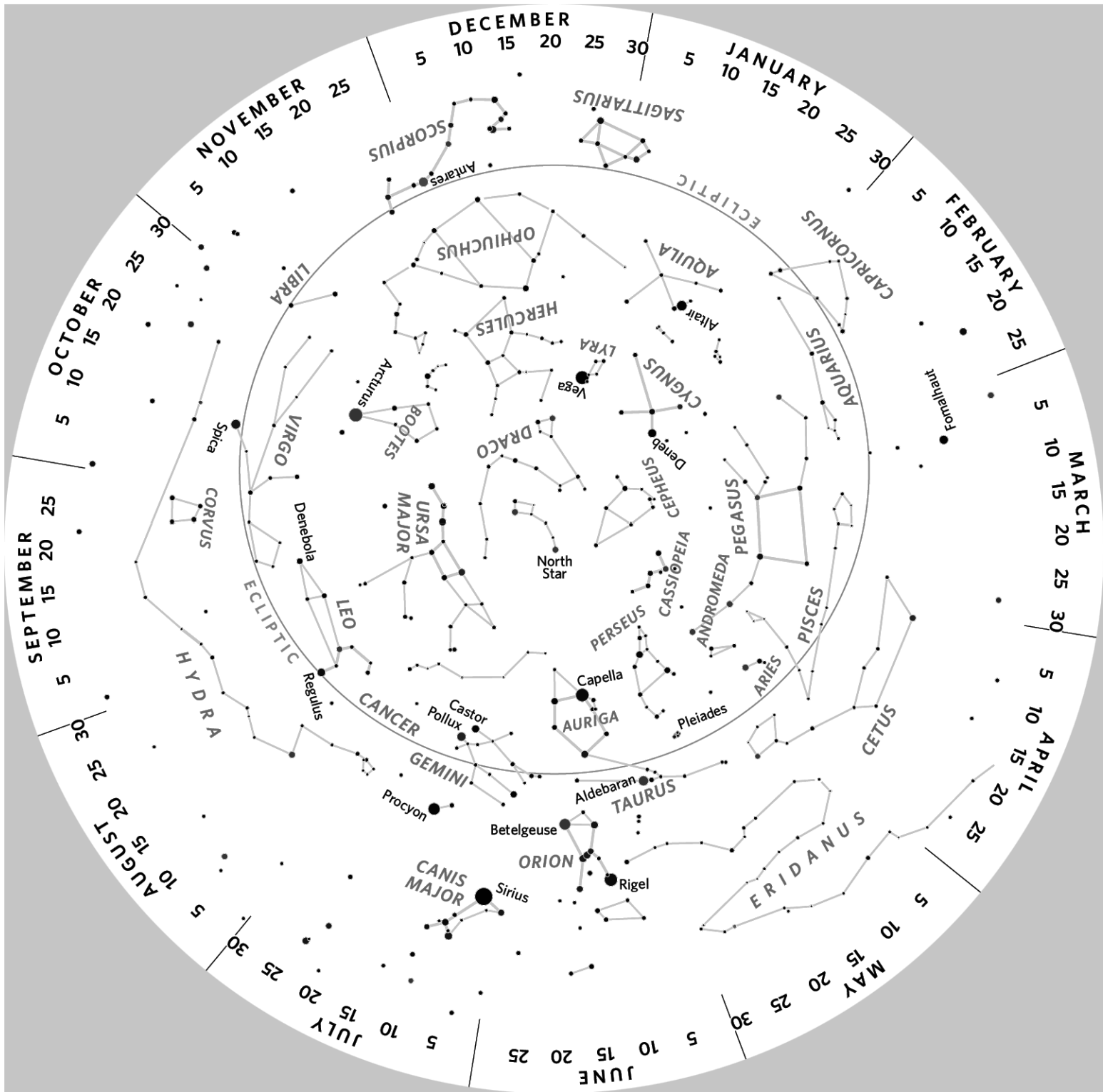
To assemble your Star Wheel, fold the white rectangle at the bottom of the outer sleeve so it's underneath the front. Then staple the rectangle to the front at the locations marked by short white lines to either side of the oval. Now slip in the circular sky map so it shows through the oval. That's it!

## **How to Use It**

A **planisphere** is a type of star chart that can be used to show the sky at particular dates and times. It consists of an inner circle showing the constellations, and an outer part that lines up the date and time.

First, rotate the inner circle until today's date lines up with the time on the outer piece. Times shown are Standard Time; for Daylight Savings Time, rotate the wheel to an hour earlier. (Example: For 9 pm DST, line up the date with 8PM on the wheel.)

Next, find the direction you are facing on the planisphere. Hold the planisphere in front of you so that this direction is at the **bottom**. The stars in the center section will now be shown as they look in the sky. The center of the opening is the *zenith*, which is the point straight over head. The edge of the outer piece represents the horizon.



# STAR WHEEL

Standard time  
Daylight-saving time

Facing North

Facing East

Facing West

Facing South

HORIZON

HORIZON

**SKY**  
& TELESCOPE

