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The Night Sky

Template for a domed star chart showing the best-known constellations visible from the Northern Hemisphere, diameter Ø 12,6 inches (32 cm)

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PDF 4550-EN

The Night Sky

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PRINT SETTINGS

Please use Acrobat Reader to print and make sure that the settings 'Actual size' and 'Auto portrait/landscape' are selected.

SAVE PAPER & TONER

Only print out the pages you need.

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INTRODUCTION

The Night Sky

We call the part of the sky that appears to curve over the horizon the 'celestial vault'. In ancient stories and legends, the appearance of the sky is described as a domed glass bell over the earth. However, since the sky is not at any particular distance from the observer, this 'vault' is an illusion. The stars do appear to be very far away but you can't see the enormous distances between them.

In good viewing conditions on a dark and cloud-free night, you can see about 2,000 stars in the northern night sky with the naked eye, and with binoculars around 20,000 to 40,000. Unfortunately, in big cities you can see only 100 to 500 stars in the night sky because of the many lights.



People have been looking up at the night sky since ancient times. In some constellations, they thought they recognized certain animals and people, for whom they invented myths and stories. These myths were passed on from generation to generation. We still use the names of these stars and constellations today.

In order to be able to orientate yourself in the complexity of the night sky, you can use star charts and apps. This is problematic, however: Star charts and apps are flat - the heavens, on the other hand, are three-dimensional.

This star-filled sky is three-dimensional, which makes it easier to find the stars and constellations... and if you poke small holes in the finished, domed star chart with a pin and light it from the outside, you suddenly have a model of the shining, starry night sky above you... AWESOME!!!

Micha Labbé

HOW TO DO IT

The Night Sky

①



We've designed four different versions of this domed star chart. Version 1: White with the constellations.

②



Version 2: White with the constellations and signs of the zodiac.

③



Version 3: Gray with the constellations.

④



Version 4: Gray with the constellations and signs of the zodiac.

⑤



Print the desired version out on white heavy paper or card. Cut out the twelve trapezoidal segments.

⑥



Score the lines above and below the area with the months using a scoring tool and a ruler. Fold the lower flap of the 12 sky segments backwards.

7



Coat the glueing tabs along the sides of the sky segment with glue. These tabs shouldn't be folded.

8



Stick the tabs to the back of the next sky segment...

9



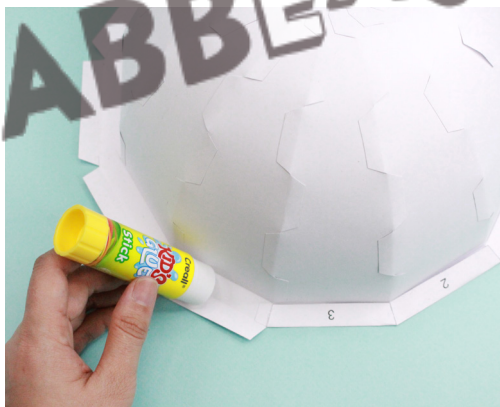
... and slowly the domed star chart takes shape.

10



Stick each glueing tab on the side of the lower flaps to the next flap.

11



Coat the back of the flaps with glue, fold them back, and stick them down.

12



Place the finished, domed star chart on a felt mat and carefully prick out the points of the constellations. Hold the starry sky above you against the light... now the constellations of the northern sky shine above you - AWESOME!!!