



ASE-24

Observing list for beginners

Often people get a new telescope, perhaps for a birthday present or for Christmas, and then don't know where to begin. ASE-24 is a simple list, numbered for our founding year of 1924, which gives you a starting point in astronomy, identifying some of the most interesting and easy to observe objects in the night sky. It will help you to decide on what aspects of astronomy interest you most, allowing you to specialise more in the future should you wish to. Some of them are very easy, some quite a bit harder, but all will help you to get useful observational skills, most importantly how to find objects in the night sky. All should be visible with a small beginner's telescope. You will need to be able to identify a few of the brighter constellations to use the finder charts.

We have deliberately not included the Sun in this list because it is potentially dangerous to observe and you should always take advice on what equipment to use first. Never look at the Sun directly as you will damage your eyesight permanently! When done safely, the Sun is a fascinating object to study.

Here is a checklist where you can mark off the ones you have done.

MOON			NEBULAE AND GALAXIES		
ASE-1	Lunar seas and ray craters		ASE-13	M42 – Orion nebula	
ASE-2	Copernicus and Plato		ASE-14	M31 – Andromeda galaxy	
ASE-3	Other craters and features		ASE-15	M27 – Dumbbell nebula	
ASE-4	Appenines and Alpine valley		ASE-16	M57 – Ring nebula	
DOUBLE STARS			GLOBULAR CLUSTERS		
ASE-5	Albireo – Cygnus		ASE-17	M13 - Hercules	
ASE-6	Epsilon Lyrae		ASE-18	M15 - Pegasus	
ASE-7	Mizar, Alcor – Ursa Major		ASE-19	M2 - Aquarius	
PLANETS			OPEN CLUSTERS		
ASE-8	Jupiter moons and cloud belts		ASE-20	M45 Pleiades - Taurus	
ASE-9	Saturn rings		ASE-21	M35 - Gemini	
ASE-10	Venus phases		ASE-22	M34 - Perseus	
ASE-11	Mars		ASE-23	M44 Beehive - Cancer	
ASE-12	Uranus and Neptune		ASE-24	Double cluster - Perseus	

More details and how to observe them are on the following pages or on our website at:
www.astronomyedinburgh.org/ase-24