

Become a Star Gazer!

A planisphere (also called a star wheel) is a simple tool to help you see what stars are in the sky at a specific time. To use a planisphere:

Rotate the wheel in the pocket so that the current time [on the inner ring] lines up with today's date, shown on the outer ring. [Note that this planisphere was created for

mid-southern latitudes and does not reflect Daylight Saving Time. If the region you are observing from is using Daylight Saving Time when you are observing, subtract 1 hour from the time shown on the planisphere. For example, if you are observing at 10 PM on June 1 from an area using Daylight Saving Time on that date, line up 9 PM with June 1].

Face south so that where the sun rises [East] is over your left shoulder and where it sets [West] is over your right shoulder. Hold the star wheel above you so that the front label "International Observe the Moon Night" is the right way up.

Use your flashlight to look at the stars shown in the window. This window represents the stars you will see directly overhead. The stars near the Eastern horizon are those that are just rising and the stars on the Western horizon will soon be setting. Now look into the sky. Can you see any of the bright stars and star formations shown on the chart?

For more information and fun activities go to observethemoonnight.org.

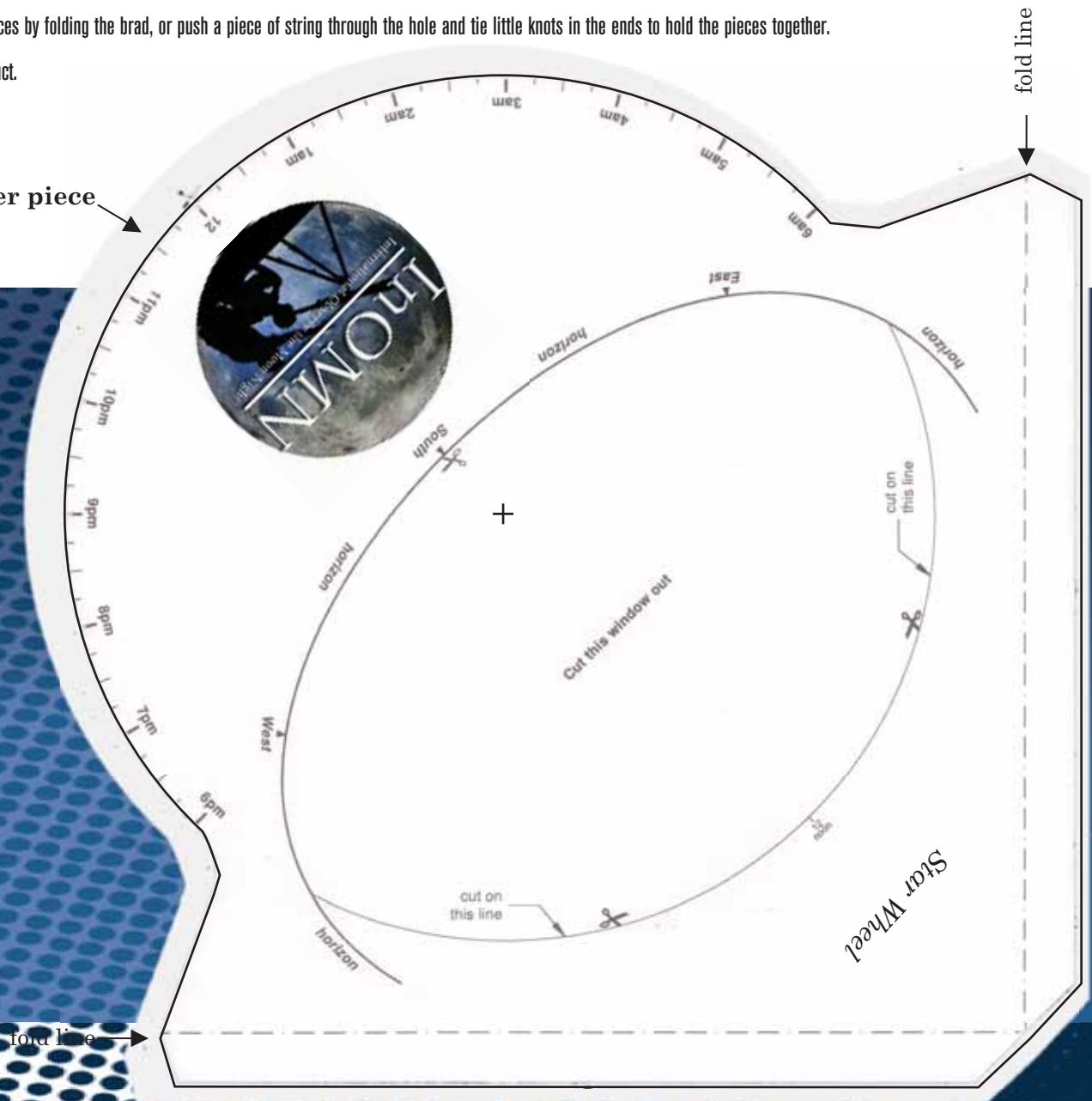
BACK COVER PIECE →



Instructions to make your own star wheel:

1. Print out these pages and paste them to tagboard or cardboard to make rigid.
2. Cut out the star wheel and two (front and back) cover pieces.
3. Cut out the window on the front cover piece. Insert the point of the scissors at the label "cut this window out," then cut around the solid line.
4. Fold the edge tabs on the front cover piece back along the dashed lines. Slide the back cover piece into the front piece until it stops.
5. Tape or glue the back cover piece to the front cover piece. Be careful not to tape past the end of the tabs.
6. Slide the star wheel into the completed cover so that the stars show through the window.
7. Push a brad or pin through the cross in the center of the wheels and push it through to the other side.
8. Secure the pieces by folding the brad, or push a piece of string through the hole and tie little knots in the ends to hold the pieces together.
9. The final product.

Front cover piece

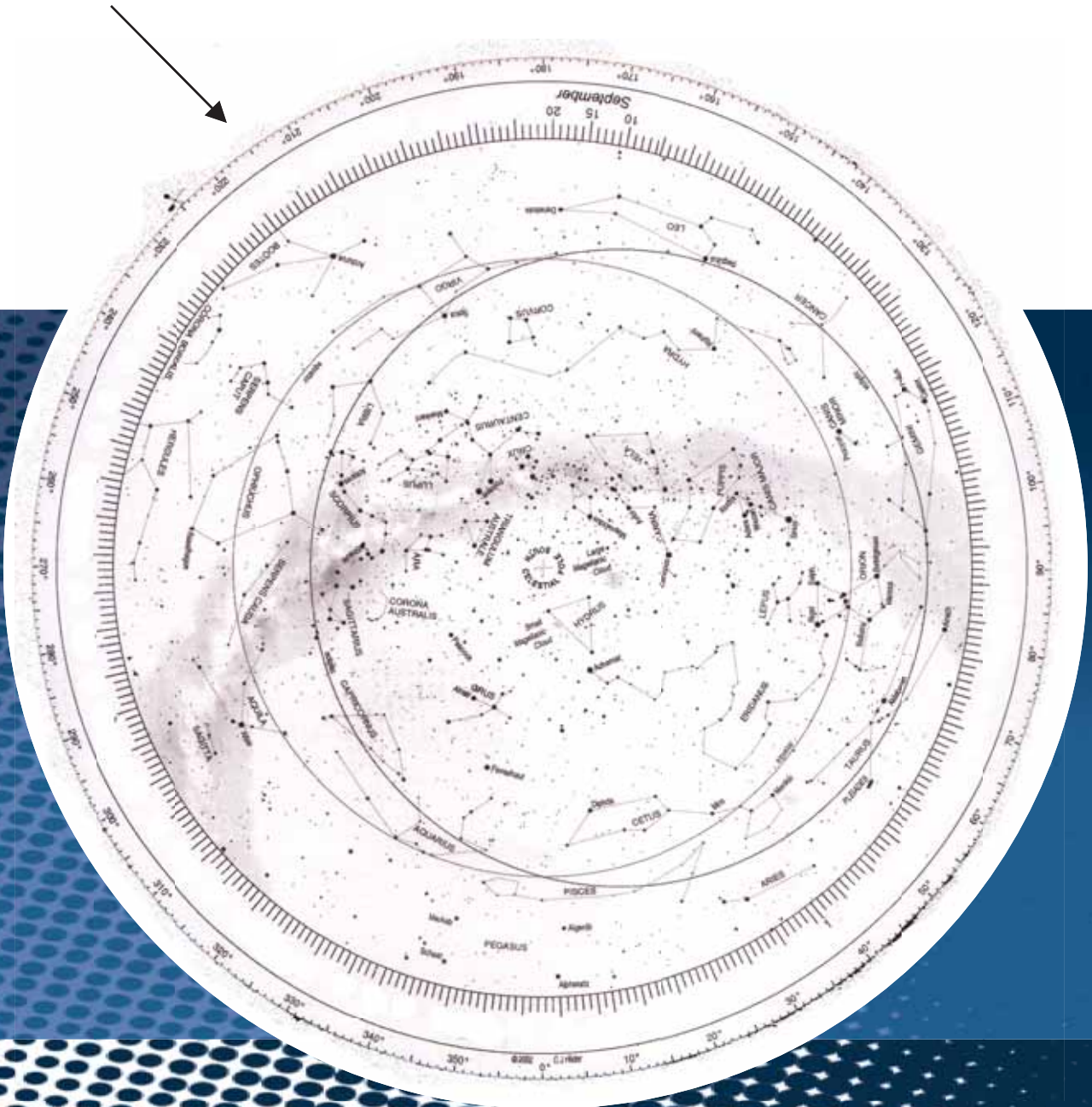


To assemble and use this star wheel, you will need:

- * scissors
- * tape or glue
- * brad or pin & string
- * flashlight

Hint: use a rubber band to cover the front of your flashlight with a piece of red cellophane. It will be easier to see without the bright glare from the direct light.

Star Wheel



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- * scissors
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This Star Wheel is for International Observe The Moon Night on Sept. 18th, 2010. The approximate locations of the Moon and Planets are for Sept. 18th, 2010 only.

