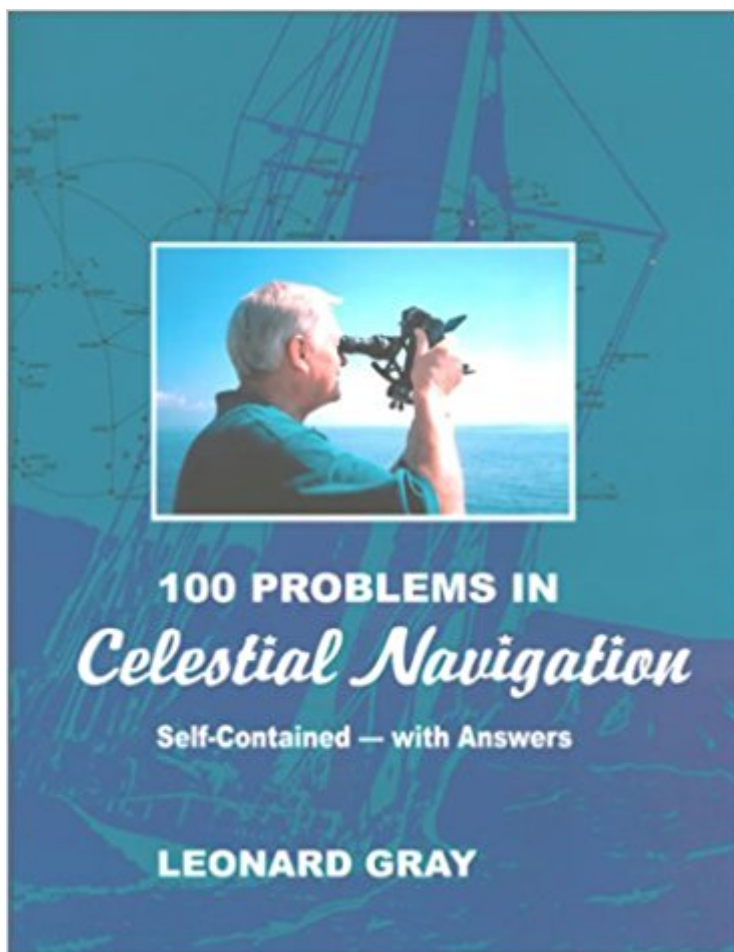


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# 100 Problems In Celestial Navigation, 2nd Ed.



## Synopsis

This revised and expanded edition of this popular CN book now introduces simple tabular sight reductions first, followed by calculator methods for those wishing to take full advantage of their flexibility. Of course it retains the same unprecedented clear and accurate explanation of CN mysteries, such as the role of the assumed position, and how positions and celestial LOPs can be plotted with no assumptions. The section on stars has been expanded, and star and planet identification and viewing have been added. It explains nine special sights, such as Polaris sights, meridian sights, and even sights without a sextant. Lunar distance sights are explained from the ground up, using only basic concepts, with no special formulas or tables. The book has a unique chapter on sextants and their properties, explaining the workings and effects of different horizon mirrors and telescopes, and their associated advantages and disadvantages. Related topics include: integrating CN with GPS for improving skill and safety; constructing plotting sheets; making superior running fixes; designing special LOPs for landfalls; and performing compass deviation checks at sea. Beginners will like the clear and authoritative explanations, arriving at a complete sight reduction in just 40 pages, accompanied by 72 exercises for plenty of practice and confidence building all in the most comprehensive CN book ever written. Experienced navigators will appreciate the comprehensive fresh treatment of all topics, many never seen elsewhere. SC, 2011, 310 pages.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a great book if you want to practice the technique of "sight reduction" (calculating your position based on the altitudes of heavenly bodies) without having to do sextant sights of your own.

The book is entirely self-contained; meaning you won't need any additional material aside from a pencil, ruler/protractor, calculator and/or scratch paper. Different types of problems are presented in scenario format, including Sun, Moon and Star sights, "running fixes", noon sights, etc. All necessary data is given for each problem and relevant pages from the Nautical Almanac and H.O. 249 are reprinted in the appendices. There is, however, only very brief instruction on how to perform the calculations. I would recommend this book only after the reader has a decent grasp of the concepts involved. A sample sight reduction form and answers to the problems are also given in the appendices. Perfect for keeping those skills sharp!

This book allows the students to experience the celestial navigation problems at sea instead of going to the sea to experience the problems. At beginning of this book, I was bit confused and I struggled with some problems. Some time later I managed to solve the problems. I wish there are more solutions shown and explanations available about the answers to the 100 problems. Also I prefer to see the pictures of the works on the maps for the answers. However, there are the answers provided by a list of the latitude and longitude coordinates with brief explanations. Overall, I am satisfied with this book.

Absolute requirement whether you take a course or teach yourself Celestial Navigation.

It is a good teaching aid because it contains deliberate errors. The joy of finding them can't be downplayed. Not a cookbook. Some familiarity with the subject is needed.

The text arrived quickly and in good shape. The material got its arms around the subject very, very nicely; The artwork was outstanding. But I think the presentation could be strenghtened with inclusion of intermediate mathematical steps

I am in the process of teaching myself Celestial Navigation. I bought this book to help my learning process by having problems with answers to work through. And therein lies the problem. I applaud Mr. Gray's approach to set up realistische navigation problems. However, only THE ANSWER is given. Here we have a multi-step problem involving many aspects of navigation and by only giving the answer without showing solutions or partial solutions your left twisting in the wind if you didn't come up with the answer. You have no guidance on where you have erred. This has been extremely frustrating. It would have been so easy for the book to have at least included filled out

sight reduction forms for each problem. This addition would have enabled a "just learning neophyte" to see where his errors were. If you are an accomplished celestial navigator looking for practice or have access to an expert to mentor you then the book would be of value. To the beginner trying to learn the craft it comes up very short....too bad, it could be so much better. I would have gladly paid more for additional pages that showed the solution process for the problems.

The book provides excellent problems in celestial navigation, and the final answer, ie longitude and latitude location or "fix", for each problem. The shortcoming is that no explanation is given. The solution to a celestial navigation problem involves more than a few steps, each of which must be done correctly. Providing a complete explanation of every step in each of the 100 problems would be space prohibitive, but somewhat more explanation would make the book more useful to the student of celestial navigation.

The problems in the book flow from one sight to the next with different situations like a requirement for a back sight. The problems are not too involved so study can easily be interrupted. I use the book in conjunction with CelestNav software and enjoy working 2-3 problems before taking a break.

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