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Latitude Hooks and Azimuth Rings: How to Build and Use 18 Traditional Navigational Tools

Dennis Fisher

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Dennis Fisher : Latitude Hooks and Azimuth Rings: How to Build and Use 18 Traditional Navigational Tools
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paperback was not damaged during shipping. Just saying. On top of that, this book fuels my desire to build! I suppose it takes 'a life-time to master' these instruments. The whole field of navigation is huge! I'm still glad I purchased this book. It's understandable. It opens doors to navigation. It opens doors to mathematics! I so wish my math teachers had started courses by introducing me to angles and arcs with something as tangible and useful as a tool that a sailor used to live by. And that we still can use! I wonder if I'd have understood trigonometry (did I spell it right?). In high school it was just a system that mathematicians used. That was pointless. But knowing folks actually had real-life reasons, like knowing pretty well where you are in the trackless waters, and that these reasons birthed the math, wow!

Latitude Hooks and Azimuth Rings is for people who like to work with their hands and who appreciate traditional nautical craftsmanship. You don't have to be the master of any craft to undertake any of these projects--from a simple kamal or latitude hook to the more complex pelorus or octant--just a careful and enthusiastic worker. These 18 projects fall roughly into three categories: decorative, useful, and somewhere in between. Some, such as the astrolabe, are mainly for display. On the other hand, the sounding line is an important and practical tool for small-craft navigation, particularly in the absence of an electronic sounder. The cross-staff falls somewhere in between, equally at home in the den or the ditch kit. Each of the devices discussed here--with simple, proven building instructions complemented by clear illustrations--has at one time or another been used for the practical business of navigation, and each is worth reviving for its beauty, historic value, or sheer usefulness. Dennis Fisher has designed these projects with an emphasis on simplicity and reasonable cost. Everything can be scratch-built using easily obtainable materials and tools, and each is true to the spirit and function of the original instrument.

This is a nifty book that will appeal to a wide variety of yacht owners.##For those who like simple solutions to complex situations and those who like to create their own devices, this book with its straightforward diagrams and comprehensive information would make a delightful gift."##for people who like to work with their hands and appreciate traditional nautical craftsmanship.##Each project emphasizes simplicity and reasonable cost and is true to the spirit and function of the original instrument."From the Back CoverNavigation is the story of the evolution of tools, of practical people making the best use of the materials and means at hand. As each generation of mariners sought to answer the question, "Where am I?", the instruments in this book were invented, rediscovered, and redesigned in a diversity that defies the imagination. Latitude Hooks and Azimuth Rings is for people who like to work with their hands and who appreciate traditional nautical craftsmanship. You don't have to be the master of any craft to undertake any of these projects--from a simple kamal or latitude hook to the more-complex pelorus or octant--just a careful and enthusiastic worker. The 18 projects fall roughly into three categories: decorative, useful, and somewhere in between. Some, such as the astrolabe, are mainly for display. On the other hand, the sounding line is an important and practical tool for small-craft navigation, particularly in the absence of an electronic sounder. The cross-staff falls somewhere in between, equally at home in the den or the ditch kit. Each of the devices discussed here--with simple, proven building instructions complemented by clear illustrations--has at one time or another been used for the practical business of navigation, and each is worth reviving for its beauty, historic value, or sheer usefulness. Dennis Fisher has designed these objects with an emphasis on simplicity and reasonable cost. Everything can be scratch-built using easily obtainable materials and tools, and each is true to the spirit and function of the original instrument. Navigate a boat using the same tools as the Polynesian islanders, the Arab monsoon traders, or Christopher Columbus. Latitude Hook Kamal Astrolabe Quadrant Astronomical Ring Sundial Nocturnal Cross-Staff Backstaff Dry-Card Compass Traverse Board Hand Lead Heaving Line Chip Log Weatherglass Pelorus Sun Compass Octant About the AuthorNew Hampshire native Dennis Fisher has built and used all the instruments in this book, some during a recent cruise from New England to Bermuda and the Virgin Islands. A graduate of Maine's Colby College who has written about navigation for New England Coastal News, he runs a printing business when not at his workbench building traditional navigational instruments.