

***A Practical Guide to Lightcurve
Photometry and Analysis***

Brian D. Warner, 266 pages, Bdw Publishing,
Colorado Springs, Colorado, 2003; ISBN
0-9743849-0-9; paperback, \$30.

This book's author (same name as me, but no relation!) is one of the world's leading amateur astronomers in the area of CCD photometry. His book combines lots of experience with clear instructions. Any owner of a small telescope and CCD photometer will feel encouraged to try to make such professional scientific contributions as the author's.

He covers practical aspects of CCD photometry, almost without equations, because they are incorporated into the software that runs the photometer system. Warner distills years of experience into a readable, even laid-back, text that should present no barriers to the novice and will be valuable even to veterans.

The book concentrates largely on light curves of asteroids, but it applies equally to variable stars. It has extensive procedural details supplemented by appendices with examples and with finding charts and magnitudes for photometric standard stars. The latter is a great asset.

The only weak area is the glossary. For example, the definition of "parallax" applies only to the Moon, not in general. The definition of "center of mass" is incorrect. The description of the various kinds of novae is confusing. And the definition of "alias" is too restrictive — the text actually deals with aliasing more satisfactorily.

But this is altogether a delightful book, which I hope will inspire all owners of small telescopes and CCD cameras.

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