

Planisphere

- To use the planisphere:
1. Line up your observation date and time.
 2. Compare the star positions on the map with those in the sky.

The word planisphere (or "planisferium") means "celestial plane," defined as the flat plane representation of the star-filled sky.

The instrument was first described in the early 11th century by the Persian astronomer, Abū Rayhān al-Bīrūnī.



The first star chart to have the name "planisphere" was made in 1624 by the son-in-law of Johannes Kepler, Jacob Bartsch. Kepler was the discoverer of Kepler's laws of planetary motion.

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