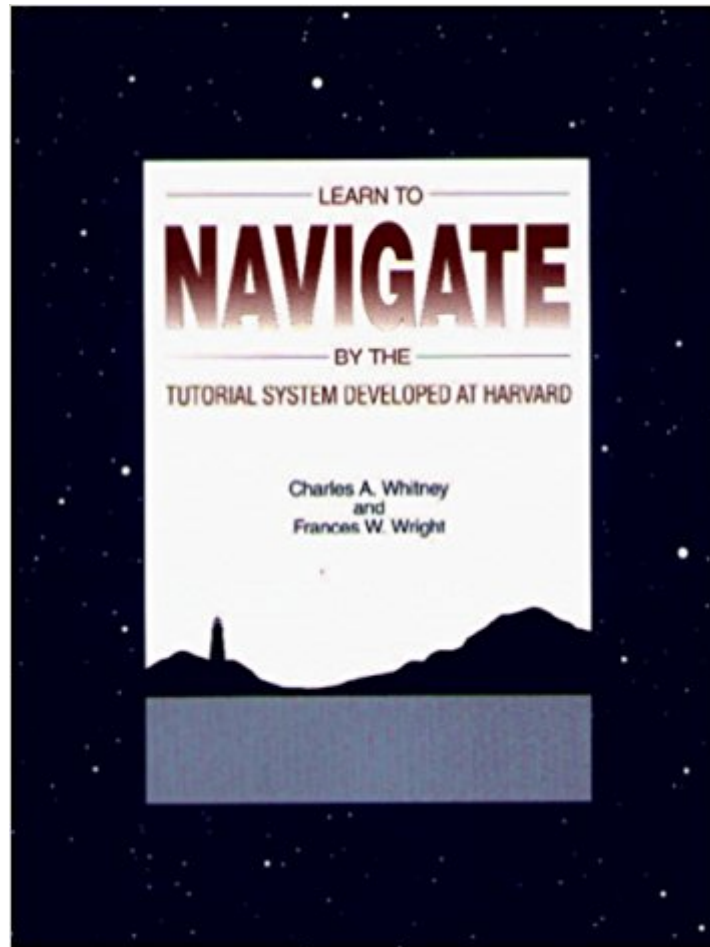




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Learn To Navigate: By The Tutorial System Developed At Harvard



Synopsis

Here is a book on piloting and celestial navigation that approaches these subjects from a new direction. Although it has a textbook structure, the authors have attempted to give it a tutorial slant so that it can be used by individuals outside the classroom. Their goals were to provide an understanding of principles, so the sailor can invent new methods when required, as well as to give help in the practical matters, such as reading the Almanac and carrying out sight reductions while tossing about on the sea. Most books that are not intimidating tend to provide minimalist descriptions of forms and how to fill them out. Whitney and Wright have directed their writing to the sailor who is interested in the principles but is not particularly comfortable with geometry. Another feature that makes this book unique is the use of pretest questions to get readers involved in each topic before they dig in.

Book Information

Paperback: 317 pages

Publisher: Schiffer Publishing; 1st edition (July 24, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0870334263

ISBN-13: 978-0870334269

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 1 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (2 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This book has two main parts: One on coastwise navigation and a second on celestial navigation. I bought the book for it's celestial navigation section (about ten chapters) and that's the only part I've read and can review. The teaching method of the authors is excellent. They offer "pre-tests" or thought provoking questions prior to introducing new material, which help to confront and correct mistaken preconceptions. The subject is presented clearly and concisely with excellent diagrams, although the use of color would help. Scenarios are reviewed to firm-up the theory and generate new insights. Chapters end with "post-tests" or exercises to give you a chance to bring it all

together. My initial enthusiasm for the material and methods soon faded as I discovered error after error in many chapters. They ranged from mathematical errors to referencing the wrong figure to not including the necessary table or chart excerpt needed to complete an exercise. Many of the errors are harmless and can easily be detected while a few are hidden and may lead the beginner astray. Because of this, I could not recommend it as a sole source of learning celestial navigation. Correct the errors and misprints and I raise my rating to 4-stars. Add multicolor diagrams and I'd give it 5-stars.

While probably not the best first navigation text, for the semi experienced boater, Learn to Navigate gets down to the nitty-gritty of the subject. The numerous examples and practice problems at the beginning and end of each chapter challenge the student and reinforces learning.

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