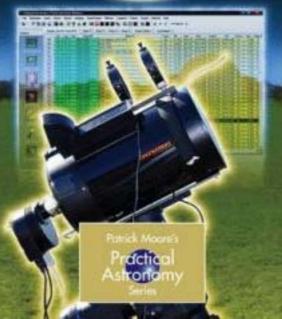
## **Rod Mollise**

# Choosing and Using a New CAT

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## Getting the Most from Your Schmidt Cassegrain or Any Catadioptric Telescope

Rod Mollise



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Rod Mollise is an engineer by profession. He is also the author of numerous books and magazine articles on every aspect of amateur astronomy. Known to his fans as "Uncle" Rod Mollise, he is most well known for his books about catadioptric telescopes (CATs), which aim to help new CAT owners get past the inexperience and anxiety that often accompanies their entry into this wonderful hobby. In addition to his books and Internet sites, Rod's writings can frequently be found in *Sky & Telescope, Night Sky Magazine, Astronomy Technology Today*, and many other publications.

Rod also finds time to teach astronomy to undergraduates at the University of South Alabama in Mobile. When he is not on the road attending and speaking at star parties, he shares a rambling old Victorian home in Mobile's Garden District with his wife, Dorothy, two (four-legged) cats, and, at last count, 11 telescopes.



Thirty-five years of using and loving Schmidt Cassegrain telescopes (SCTs) has taught me a few things about these wonderful telescopes, but I hardly know everything. This book would not have been possible without the assistance of many kind and generous members of the amateur astronomy community.

The input from my online catadioptric telescope (CAT) user groups proved invaluable from start to finish. These individuals have taught me far more about SCTs than I could ever have learned on my own. Special recognition is due these outstanding amateur astronomers: Bob Berta, Cal Beard, Matthias Bopp, Paul Cezanne, Steve Clayworth, John Clothier, Richard Edelson, "Poppa Fred," Tanveer Gani, Steve Jaynes, Andrew Johansen, Leonard Knoll, Joe Kuhn, Jim Norton, Robert Piekiel, David Polivka, R. Richins, Dick Seymour, "Doc" Clay Sherrod, Rick Thurmond, Gord Tulloch, and many more.

One of the greatest things about the SCT community is the close and supportive relationship that exists between telescope users and telescope makers. The following astronomy business pros provided me with the images and software I needed to make this book a reality: Paul Rodman (AstroPlanner); Michelle Meskill (Celestron); Steve Tuma (Deepsky Astronomy Software); Paul Hobbs (Meade); Terry D'Auray, Claire Kleffel, and Peter Moreso (Imaginova/Orion Telescopes and Binoculars); John Pemberton and all the good folks at Orion Optics UK; and Greg Crinklaw (SkyTools).

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