

# Star clock

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A **star clock** (or **nocturnal**) is a method of using the stars to determine the time. This is accomplished by measuring the Big Dipper's position in the sky based on a standard clock, and then employing simple addition and subtraction. This method requires no tools; others use an astrolabe and a planisphere.

A clock's regulator can be adjusted so that it keeps the Mean Sidereal Time rate. When it is then set to an observer's Local Mean Sidereal Time then a star will transit the meridian (passing directly north or south) at the sidereal time of the star's Right Ascension.

## See also

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- Sidereal time

## External links

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- Telling Time by Sun and Stars (<http://www.johnpratt.com/items/astronomy/telltime.html>) by John P. Pratt
  - Inquiry.net ([http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/night/telling\\_time.htm](http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/night/telling_time.htm))
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**This page was last edited on 14 December 2014, at 09:11 (UTC).**

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