The Driftway Observatory

# Doubles are no trouble! My field notes

Stars have color – and many times that color is simply white. But it is common for a star to be white, blue, yellow, orange, red, or even green or violet. Draw what you see **– not what you think you are supposed to see, and not what your friends see. Sometimes we'll all agree on a star's color, but not always. That's OK.** Learn to be a good observer and believe your eyes**.**

**Step 1**: Put a large dot – or small circle – in the center of the oval below to represent the brighter star of the pair. **Think of that star as being at the center of a clock face.**

**Step 2: Observe the double and decide how far out from the center – and where on the clock face - your second star should go.**

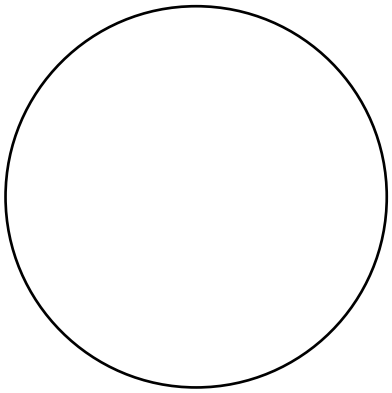
**Step 3: Estimate how bright the second star is compared to the brighter one** – then draw your second star - a dot or circle – so that it's size represents the brightness of the second star, and shows the space that separates one star from another and the place on a clock face where that second star is located.

**I've listed the smallest practical telescope – in my opinon – for a beginner to use to split these stars under average seeing conditions**.

## Albireo, Beta Cygni - 60 mm

**Color of brighter star:**

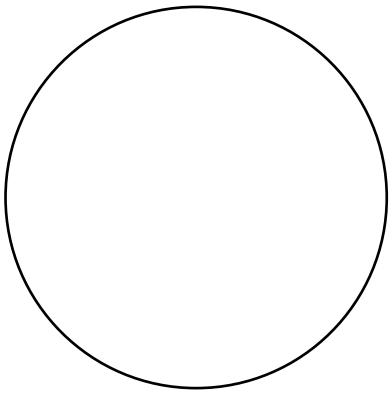
**Color of other star:**



## Almach, Gamma Andromeda - 80mm

**Color of brighter star:**

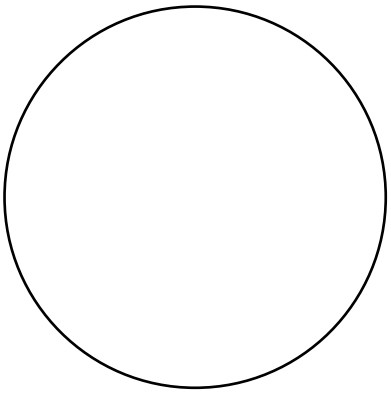
**Color of other star:**



**Eta Cassiopeia 80 mm**

**Color of brighter star:**

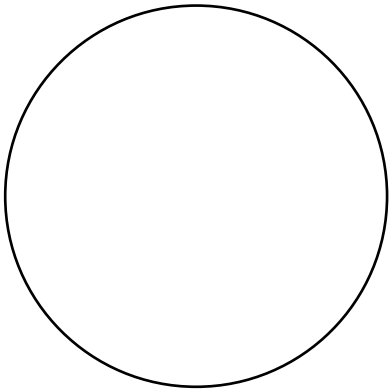
**Color of other star:**



**Gamma Aries 80 mm**

**Color of brighter star:**

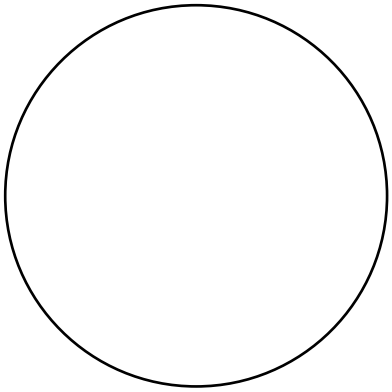
**Color of other star:**



**Polaris, Alpha Ursa Minor – 150 mm (6-inch)**

**Color of brighter star:**

**Color of other star:**



**Iota Cassiopeia (triple) - 200mm 8-inch for all three, though smaller will easily show two of the three**

**Color of brighter star:**

**Color of other star:**