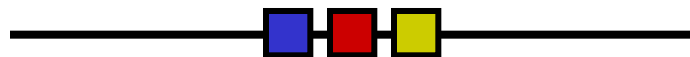


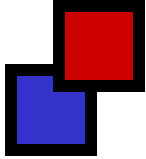
# Building a Backyard Observatory

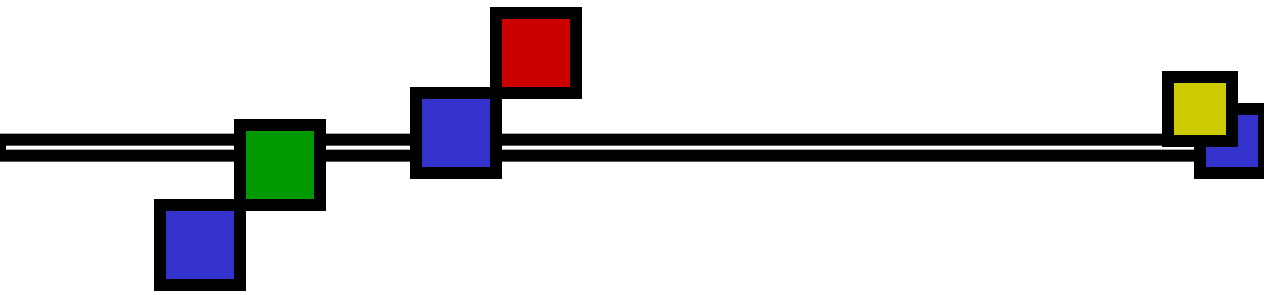


John Jankauskas



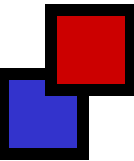
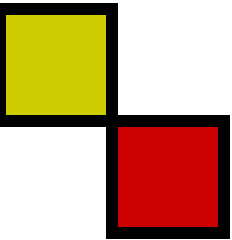
# Why Build an Observatory

- Able to spend more time observing
  - Set up time is minimized
  - No more lugging equipment around
  - Weather rolls in? – Easy close up
  - Some protection from light and wind
  - MORE OBSERVING TIME!!
- 



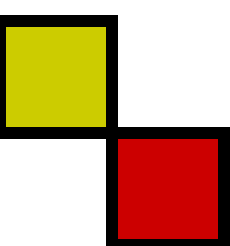
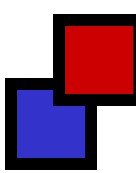
# Planning

- Choose site carefully
  - minimize light intrusion
  - maximize view of sky
- Decide which type you want
- Decide what size you need



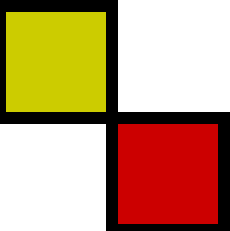
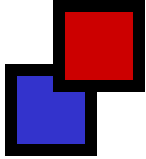


# Types of Observatories

- 
- Pier with an easy removable cover
  - Domed observatory
  - Roll-off roof observatory
  - Numerous types and examples available
    - on the Internet and in books
    - [obs.nineplanets.org/obs/obslist.html](http://obs.nineplanets.org/obs/obslist.html)
- 

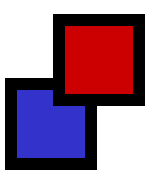


# Pros & Cons

- 
- Pier w/Removable Cover
    - no light or wind protection
    - still must lug some things
    - cheapest
- 

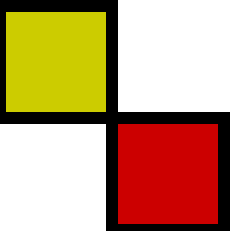
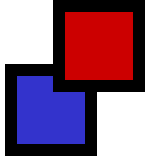


# Pros & Cons

- Domed observatories
    - pretty expensive
    - hard to build in my opinion
    - limited view of sky
    - not good for Dobsonians
    - best protection from light and wind
- 

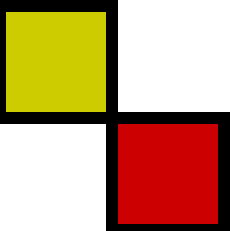


# Pros & Cons


- 
- Roll-off Roof Observatories
    - not best protection from light & wind
    - large view of sky
    - relatively inexpensive
    - can be built to accommodate Dobsonians
- 



# My Choice and Why


- 
- Roll-off Roof
    - ease of construction
    - relatively cheap
    - sets of plans readily available





# Construction Pictures





# Construction Pictures






# Construction Pictures







# Construction Pictures





# Construction Pictures





# Construction Pictures







# Construction Pictures






# Construction Pictures







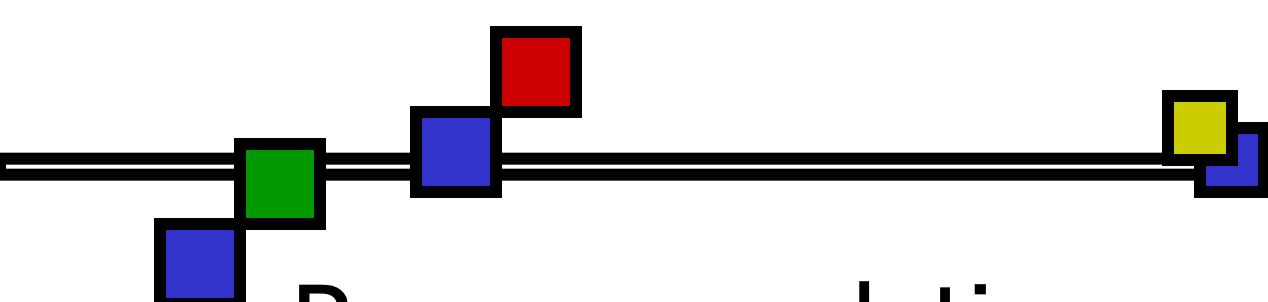
# Construction Pictures





# My Observatory





# Recommendations on Construction

- Check and double and triple check level and square.
  - If money is a consideration, use a concrete pier. They work great.
  - My research showed many developed binding problems. Backyard Observatories plans were used for mine. No problems encountered since built (Three years).
- 