

COELI

AdastraTM

Ad Astra - Toward the Heavens

**Zero-dollar shareware from Swimming Elk Software,
creators of the widely acclaimed Stella 2000 Virtual Observatory**

Approach the skies with this accessible and easy-to-use 32-bit planetarium. Adastra's varied and powerful functions are a significant **subset** of the acclaimed astronomy shareware package **Stella 2000**, offering highly realistic views of the night sky from any place on Earth or point in time. Adastra presents an intuitive toolbar-driven interface promoting flexible manipulation of its real-time sky display, with efficient center, zoom, unzoom, directional and panning functions.

A single mouse click will bring a comprehensive report on any object visible in the sky at the moment of observation. Adastra will smoothly animate solar system objects in two modes against a stellar backdrop, create printable finder charts, search for constellations, DSOs, stars, and objects within the Solar System, in either point-source, spotlight, or the new photoplate display styles. Added to all of which, registration of this version of Adastra is completely free.

Free but, please note, **NOT** Public Domain. Swimming Elk Software retains all rights. \$0 Shareware - even Freeware - might be a more accurate way of describing Adastra, since **registration is required** from anyone who decides to continue using our software beyond its 60-day evaluation period. Registration reminders, accompanied by the absence of selected functions, will become apparent after expiration of the evaluation license, as in any other bona-fide shareware package.

Please refer to the Adastra **Guide [F1]** for details of all program operations. Functions present in Adastra will be marked *Adastra*. Others are integral to Adastra Plus or **Stella 2000**, a *fully functional* trial copy of which can be downloaded right here or from the site where you obtained Adastra.

At the outset, it will be worth perusing the Stella 2000 **Overview** from the Help menu and running through the section entitled **A Quick Excursion around Stella 2000**. Many of the facilities and functions introduced here are also accessible from Stella's 'little sister' Adastra, and by following the tutorial you will learn a lot not only about the array of shortcut keypresses, but also about the mechanics and movement of the heavens in general.