

# Astronomical Navigation – Noon-Fix for Latitude and Longitude (years 2020-2040)

**Ships position around noon (locally) by sextant and noon-fix for noon-sight latitude and noon-sight longitude.**  
 Time needed about 2 hours. Precision only +- 3 naut.miles, in N/S and E/W-direction due to longtime prediction 2040.  
 The tabulated calculation followed Jean Meeus, Astron. Algorithms, p.165.: diff. +10 arcseconds against VSOP87.  
**Equipment:** Sextant, clock (running on UTC), this sheet of paper and a pencil. Ship should not change its position!  
 Example: 5. Apr. 2022, estimated position: 39°10'N, -014°10' W, noon around 13 hours UTC (sun at highest altitude).

## Measuring noon-sight longitude and noon-sight latitude.

In total three times **T1,T2,T3** must be measured, and two sextant-angles **S1,S2** noted.

About one hour before local noon: Take declination-value from **Tables DEC** for 5. April 2022 (note year!): **+6° 11'**.  
 Guess sextant-angle S1 like this: 90°- approx.Latitude + DEC=90°-39°+6°=57°. Adjust sextant to this angle. Search horizon, until the sun comes into mirrors sight. Turn drum of sextant until lower rim of sun touches horizon. Note the time **precisely** by second (e.g. **T1=UTC 12:12:41**). Read sextant-angle S1 and **note it** (e.g. **S1= 54°53'**).

Now adjust the drum about every 5 min to keep the sun touching the horizon. When no further changes occur, wait for 2 min (= noon Latitude-fix), read sextant-angle and note this as angle S2 (**culmination-angle S2= 56°52'**).  
 Also note the time (**T2=** about 13:00h) to estimate, when approximately the sun again will sink down to the previous altitude-angle **S1** (in our case about 13:45h, as a guess).

Now reset the sextant back to angle **S1=54°53'**. Check the sun regularly at fixed sextant-angle **S1**. As soon as the sun touches the horizon again at this angle **S1**, **take notice** of the precise time (**T3= UTC 13:47:25**).  
 (Height correction, below: If height-of-eye is 10m instead of 2m, reduce the height-correction (13', etc.) below by 3'. Linear interpolation for different height-of-eye). Then calculation as follows:

### CALCULATION for LATITUDE NOON-FIX:

Sextant-reading (angle <b>S2</b> )	56°52'
Index-error of sextant (check individually!)	+ 02'
Height-correction at <b>2m</b> height of eye	+ 13' (for angle from: 20°=>11', 30°=>12', 50°=>13', until 80°=>13')
Sextant-altitude, cleaned, therefore:	=57°07'
Zenith-height (Def.: 90°)	89°60'
subtract sextant-altitude:	-57°07'
Zenith-distance accordingly:	=32°53' *)
Declination on 5.April 22 ( <b>Table DEC</b> )	+ 6°11' N
Sum:	= 38°64' N
<b>LATITUDE noon-fix:</b>	= <b>39°04' Nord</b>

### CALCULATION for LONGITUDE NOON-FIX:

For two instances of time (T1=12:12:41) and (T3=13:47:25) we have the same sextant-reading (angle S1= 54°53'), before and after the sun reaches maximal height (=culmination). Time of culmination then must be in the middle:  
 First recording of time T1 (angle S1) 12h 12m 41s  
 Time T3 (sextant angle again S1) +13h 47m 25s  
 simply added: = 25h 59m 66s  
 or better notation: 26h 00m 06s (Attention when adding secs or mins !)  
 divide by 2 = culmination-time (exact) = **13h 00m 03s**  
 minus 12h (west of Greenwich [east: +12!]) - 12h 00m 00s  
 Time rel. to Greenwich: = **01h 00m 03s**  
 = different notation (!): **00h 59m 63s** (1h = 60m)  
 GHA-correction on 5.4. (**Table GHA**) - **02m 41s** (Attention when subtracting sec or mins !)  
 True time at ships position = **00h 57m 22s (West)**

**Conversion of this time into degrees of longitude: 1h=15°, 1m=15', 1s=15"** [Time-min= m, Angle-min= ' ]

And so: 00h = 00° = 00° (see also auxiliary table)  
 57m = 855' = 14° 15' (855 / 60 = 14,25)  
 22s = 330" = 6' (330 / 60 = 5,5)  
**LONGITUDE = 14° 21' WEST**

**Resulting position of ship in Latitude and Longitude at 13:00:03 UTC accordingly:**

⇒ **Latitude φ= 39°04' Nord, Longitude λ= -014°21' West**  
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\*) Latitude and declination bear a sign. Adding a negative number to a positive number is a subtraction!  
 Southern hemisphere: Zenith-distance is to be taken negative!

Years = 2020 ... 2040  
 GHA - Greenwich Hour Angle, Zeitgleichung, 12.00 UTC  
 in Minutes M and Seconds S (=below the Minutes)



Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 M	-3	-13	-12	-3	2	2	-3	-6	0	10	16	10
S	34	33	18	51	53	8	54	21	0	20	25	58
2 M	-4	-13	-12	-3	3	1	-4	-6	0	10	16	10
S	2	40	6	33	0	58	6	17	18	39	26	35
3 M	-4	-13	-11	-3	3	1	-4	-6	0	10	16	10
S	29	47	54	16	6	48	17	13	38	58	26	12
4 M	-4	-13	-11	-2	3	1	-4	-6	0	11	16	9
S	57	53	41	58	12	38	27	7	58	17	25	48
5 M	-5	-13	-11	-2	3	1	-4	-6	1	11	16	9
S	24	58	27	41	17	28	38	1	18	35	24	23
6 M	-5	-14	-11	-2	3	1	-4	-5	1	11	16	8
S	50	2	13	24	22	17	48	55	38	53	22	58
7 M	-6	-14	-11	-2	3	1	-4	-5	1	12	16	8
S	16	5	0	7	26	6	58	48	58	10	19	33
8 M	-6	-14	-10	-1	3	0	-5	-5	2	12	16	8
S	41	8	45	50	29	54	7	40	19	27	15	7
9 M	-7	-14	-10	-1	3	0	-5	-5	2	12	16	7
S	6	10	30	34	32	42	16	31	40	44	10	40
10 M	-7	-14	-10	-1	3	0	-5	-5	3	12	16	7
S	31	11	14	18	35	31	25	23	1	60	5	13
11 M	-7	-14	-9	-1	3	0	-5	-5	3	13	15	6
S	55	11	59	2	36	18	33	13	22	16	58	45
12 M	-8	-14	-9	0	3	0	-5	-5	3	13	15	6
S	18	11	43	-46	38	6	41	3	43	31	51	18
13 M	-8	-14	-9	0	3	0	-5	-4	4	13	15	5
S	41	10	27	-31	38	-6	48	52	4	45	43	49
14 M	-9	-14	-9	0	3	0	-5	-4	4	13	15	5
S	3	8	10	-16	38	-18	55	41	26	60	34	21
15 M	-9	-14	-8	0	3	0	-6	-4	4	14	15	4
S	24	5	53	-1	38	-31	1	30	47	13	24	52
16 M	-9	-14	-8	0	3	0	-6	-4	5	14	15	4
S	45	2	37	12	37	-44	6	17	8	26	14	23
17 M	-10	-13	-8	0	3	0	-6	-4	5	14	15	3
S	5	57	19	26	35	-57	12	5	30	39	2	54
18 M	-10	-13	-8	0	3	-1	-6	-3	5	14	14	3
S	24	53	2	39	33	10	16	52	51	50	50	24
19 M	-10	-13	-7	0	3	-1	-6	-3	6	15	14	2
S	42	47	44	52	30	23	20	38	13	2	37	55
20 M	-11	-13	-7	1	3	-1	-6	-3	6	15	14	2
S	0	41	27	5	27	36	24	24	34	12	23	25
21 M	-11	-13	-7	1	3	-1	-6	-3	6	15	14	1
S	17	34	9	17	23	49	27	9	55	22	8	55
22 M	-11	-13	-6	1	3	-2	-6	-2	7	15	13	1
S	34	27	51	29	18	2	30	54	17	31	52	26
23 M	-11	-13	-6	1	3	-2	-6	-2	7	15	13	0
S	49	19	33	40	13	15	31	38	38	40	36	56
24 M	-12	-13	-6	1	3	-2	-6	-2	7	15	13	0
S	4	10	15	51	8	28	33	22	59	48	19	26
25 M	-12	-13	-5	2	3	-2	-6	-2	8	15	13	0
S	18	1	57	1	2	41	33	6	20	55	1	-3
26 M	-12	-12	-5	2	2	-2	-6	-1	8	16	12	0
S	31	51	39	11	56	54	33	49	40	2	42	-33
27 M	-12	-12	-5	2	2	-3	-6	-1	9	16	12	-1
S	43	40	21	21	49	6	33	32	1	7	23	2
28 M	-12	-12	-5	2	2	-3	-6	-1	9	16	12	-1
S	55	29	3	30	41	18	32	14	21	12	3	32
29 M	-13	-12	-4	2	2	-3	-6	0	9	16	11	-2
S	6	18	45	38	34	31	30	-56	41	17	42	1
30 M	-13	##	-4	2	2	-3	-6	0	10	16	11	-2
S	15	##	27	46	25	42	28	-38	1	20	20	30
31 M	-13	##	-4	##	2	##	-6	0	##	16	##	-2
S	25	##	9	##	17	##	25	-19	##	23	##	58

Day Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
 EXAMPLE: 5 April, 12.00 UTC <v.:2026>  
 Eq.-of-Time = Time-Minutes: -2 Time-Secs: 41

h.	o	h.	o	m.	o	m.	o	s.	o	s.	o	s.			
1	15	13	195	1	0	15	16	4	00	1	0	15	16	4	00
2	30	14	210	2	0	30	17	4	15	2	0	30	17	4	15
3	45	15	225	3	0	45	18	4	30	3	0	45	18	4	30
4	60	16	240	4	1	00	19	4	45	4	1	00	19	4	45
5	75	17	255	5	1	15	20	5	00	5	1	15	20	5	00
6	90	18	270	6	1	30	24	6	00	6	1	30	24	6	00
7	105	19	285	7	1	45	28	7	00	7	1	45	28	7	00
8	120	20	300	8	2	00	32	8	00	8	2	00	32	8	00
9	135	21	315	9	2	15	36	9	00	9	2	15	36	9	00
10	150	22	330	10	2	30	40	10	00	10	2	30	40	10	00
11	165	23	345	11	2	45	44	11	00	11	2	45	44	11	00
12	180	24	360	12	3	00	48	12	00	12	3	00	48	12	00
				13	3	15	52	13	00	13	3	15	52	13	00
				14	3	30	56	14	00	14	3	30	56	14	00
				15	3	45	60	15	00	15	3	45	60	15	00

Umrechnung  
 Zeit (Stunden, Minuten)  
 in  
 Winkel (Grad, arcmin, arcsec)

# DEC

YEARS= 2020 2024 2028 2032 2036 2040  
DEC = Declination, 12.00 UTC  
in degrees d and minutes(= below the degrees)

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 d	-23	-17	-7	4	15	22	23	17	7	-3	-14	-21
m	1	10	17	50	19	10	3	49	59	29	40	55
2 d	-22	-16	-6	5	15	22	22	17	7	-3	-14	-22
m	56	53	54	14	37	17	59	33	38	53	59	4
3 d	-22	-16	-6	5	15	22	22	17	7	-4	-15	-22
m	51	35	31	37	54	24	54	18	16	16	18	12
4 d	-22	-16	-6	5	16	22	22	17	6	-4	-15	-22
m	45	17	8	59	12	31	48	2	53	39	36	20
5 d	-22	-15	-5	6	16	22	22	16	6	-5	-15	-22
m	38	59	45	22	29	38	42	45	31	2	55	28
6 d	-22	-15	-5	6	16	22	22	16	6	-5	-16	-22
m	31	41	22	45	45	44	36	29	9	25	13	35
7 d	-22	-15	-4	7	17	22	22	16	5	-5	-16	-22
m	24	23	58	7	2	50	30	12	46	48	30	41
8 d	-22	-15	-4	7	17	22	22	15	5	-6	-16	-22
m	16	4	35	30	18	55	23	55	24	11	48	48
9 d	-22	-14	-4	7	17	22	22	15	5	-6	-17	-22
m	8	45	12	52	34	60	16	37	1	34	5	53
10 d	-21	-14	-3	8	17	23	22	15	4	-6	-17	-22
m	59	25	48	14	50	4	8	20	38	56	21	59
11 d	-21	-14	-3	8	18	23	21	15	4	-7	-17	-23
m	50	6	24	36	5	8	60	2	15	19	38	3
12 d	-21	-13	-3	8	18	23	21	14	3	-7	-17	-23
m	41	46	1	58	20	12	51	44	53	41	54	8
13 d	-21	-13	-2	9	18	23	21	14	3	-8	-18	-23
m	31	26	37	20	35	15	42	25	30	4	10	12
14 d	-21	-13	-2	9	18	23	21	14	3	-8	-18	-23
m	21	6	13	41	49	18	33	7	7	26	25	15
15 d	-21	-12	-1	10	19	23	21	13	2	-8	-18	-23
m	10	45	50	3	20	24	48	43	48	41	18	
16 d	-20	-12	-1	10	19	23	21	13	2	-9	-18	-23
m	59	25	26	24	17	22	14	29	20	10	56	21
17 d	-20	-12	-1	10	19	23	21	13	1	-9	-19	-23
m	47	4	2	45	30	24	4	10	57	32	10	23
18 d	-20	-11	0	11	19	23	20	12	1	-9	-19	-23
m	35	43	-39	6	43	25	53	50	34	54	24	24
19 d	-20	-11	0	11	19	23	20	12	1	-10	-19	-23
m	23	21	-15	27	56	26	42	31	11	15	38	25
20 d	-20	-10	0	11	20	23	20	12	0	-10	-19	-23
m	10	60	9	47	8	26	31	11	47	37	52	26
21 d	-19	-10	0	12	20	23	20	11	0	-10	-20	-23
m	57	38	33	7	21	26	19	51	24	58	5	26
22 d	-19	-10	0	12	20	23	20	11	0	-11	-20	-23
m	44	17	56	28	32	26	7	31	1	19	18	26
23 d	-19	-9	1	12	20	23	19	11	0	-11	-20	-23
m	30	55	20	48	44	25	54	10	-23	40	30	25
24 d	-19	-9	1	13	20	23	19	10	0	-12	-20	-23
m	16	33	43	7	55	24	42	50	-46	1	42	24
25 d	-19	-9	2	13	21	23	19	10	-1	-12	-20	-23
m	1	10	7	27	5	22	29	29	9	22	54	22
26 d	-18	-8	2	13	21	23	19	10	-1	-12	-21	-23
m	46	48	31	46	16	20	15	8	33	42	5	20
27 d	-18	-8	2	14	21	23	19	9	-1	-13	-21	-23
m	31	26	54	5	26	17	2	47	56	3	16	18
28 d	-18	-8	3	14	21	23	18	9	-2	-13	-21	-23
m	15	3	17	24	35	14	48	26	20	23	26	14
29 d	-17	-7	3	14	21	23	18	9	-2	-13	-21	-23
m	59	40	41	42	44	11	33	4	43	42	36	11
30 d	-17	##	4	15	21	23	18	8	-3	-14	-21	-23
m	43	##	4	1	53	7	19	43	6	2	46	7
31 d	-17	##	4	##	22	##	18	8	##	-14	##	-23
m	27	##	27	##	1	##	4	21	##	21	##	2

Day Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
EXAMPLE: 5. April, 12.00 UTC <v.:2024>  
Declination = degrees: 6 minutes: 22

YEARS= 2021 2025 2029 2033 2037  
DEC = Declination, 12.00 UTC  
in degrees d and minutes(= below the degrees)

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 d	-22	-16	-7	4	15	22	23	17	8	-3	-14	-21
m	57	57	23	45	14	8	4	52	5	24	36	53
2 d	-22	-16	-7	5	15	22	22	17	7	-3	-14	-22
m	52	39	0	8	32	15	60	37	43	47	55	2
3 d	-22	-16	-6	5	15	22	22	17	7	-4	-15	-22
m	46	22	37	31	50	23	55	21	21	10	14	10
4 d	-22	-16	-6	5	16	22	22	17	6	-4	-15	-22
m	40	4	14	54	7	30	50	5	59	33	32	18
5 d	-22	-15	-5	6	16	22	22	16	6	-4	-15	-22
m	33	46	51	17	24	36	44	49	36	56	50	26
6 d	-22	-15	-5	6	16	22	22	16	6	-5	-16	-22
m	26	27	27	39	41	42	38	33	14	19	8	33
7 d	-22	-15	-5	7	16	22	22	16	5	-5	-16	-22
m	18	8	4	2	58	48	31	16	52	42	26	40
8 d	-22	-14	-4	7	17	22	22	15	5	-6	-16	-22
m	10	49	41	24	14	54	25	59	29	5	43	46
9 d	-22	-14	-4	7	17	22	22	15	5	-6	-17	-22
m	1	30	17	47	30	59	17	11	6	28	0	52
10 d	-21	-14	-3	8	17	23	22	15	4	-6	-17	-22
m	52	10	54	9	46	3	10	24	44	51	17	57
11 d	-21	-13	-3	8	18	23	22	15	4	-7	-17	-23
m	43	51	30	31	1	7	2	6	21	13	34	2
12 d	-21	-13	-3	8	18	23	21	14	3	-7	-17	-23
m	33	31	7	53	16	11	53	48	58	36	50	7
13 d	-21	-13	-2	9	18	23	21	14	3	-7	-18	-23
m	23	11	43	15	31	14	45	30	35	58	6	11
14 d	-21	-12	-2	9	18	23	21	14	3	-8	-18	-23
m	12	50	19	36	46	17	36	11	12	21	22	14
15 d	-21	-12	-1	9	18	23	21	13	2	-8	-18	-23
m	1	30	56	58	60	20	26	53	49	43	37	17
16 d	-20	-12	-1	10	19	23	21	13	2	-9	-18	-23
m	50	9	32	19	14	22	16	34	26	5	52	20
17 d	-20	-11	-1	10	19	23	21	13	2	-9	-19	-23
m	38	48	8	40	27	24	6	14	3	27	7	22
18 d	-20	-11	0	11	19	23	20	12	1	-9	-19	-23
m	26	27	-44	1	40	25	55	55	39	49	21	24
19 d	-20	-11	0	11	19	23	20	12	1	-10	-19	-23
m	13	5	-21	22	53	26	45	35	16	10	35	25
20 d	-20	-10	0	11	20	23	20	12	0	-10	-19	-23
m	0	44	3	42	6	26	33	16	53	32	48	26
21 d	-19	-10	0	12	20	23	20	11	0	-10	-20	-23
m	47	22	27	3	18	26	22	56	30	53	2	26
22 d	-19	-9	0	12	20	23	20	11	0	-11	-20	-23
m	33	60	51	23	30	26	10	36	6	14	15	26
23 d	-19	-9	1	12	20	23	19	11	0	-11	-20	-23
m	19	38	14	43	41	25	57	15	-17	35	27	25
24 d	-19	-9	1	13	20	23	19	10	0	-11	-20	-23
m	5	16	38	2	52	24	45	55	-41	56	39	24
25 d	-18	-8	2	13	21	23	19	10	-1	-12	-20	-23
m	50	53	1	22	3	22	32	34	4	17	51	23
26 d	-18	-8	2	13	21	23	19	10	-1	-12	-21	-23
m	35	31	25	41	13	20	19	13	27	37	2	21
27 d	-18	-8	2	14	21	23	19	9	-1	-12	-21	-23
m	19	8	48	0	23	18	5	52	51	58	13	18
28 d	-18	-7	3	14	21	23	18	9	-2	-13	-21	-23
m	3	46	12	19	33	15	51	31	14	18	24	15
29 d	-17	-7	3	14	21	23	18	9	-2	-13	-21	-23
m	47	23	35	38	42	12	37	10	37	38	34	12
30 d	-17	##	3	14	21	23	18	8	-3	-13	-21	-23
m	31	##	59	56	51	8	22	48	1	57	44	8
31 d	-17	##	4	##	21	##	18	8	##	-14	##	-23
m	14	##	22	##	60	##	8	26	##	17	##	3

Day Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec  
EXAMPLE: 5. April, 12.00 UTC <v.:2025>  
Declination = degrees: 6 minutes: 17

YEARS= 2022 2026 2030 2034 2038  
DEC = Declination, 12.00 UTC  
in degrees d and minutes(= below the degrees)

Day	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 d	-22	-17	-7	4	15	22	23	17	8	-3	-14	-21
m	59	1	28	39	10	6	5	56	10	18	31	51
2 d	-22	-1										