

How do I...

Create a finding chart for my telescope?

With its imaging coverage of large sections of sky, the SDSS can be useful for planning telescope observations. You can use the SDSS [Catalog Archive Server](#) to generate a finding chart to help plan these observations.

1. Go to the [Finding Chart](#) tool (link opens in new window). From the astronomers' home page, look under *Advanced Tools*. From the public home page, look under *SkyServer Tools*.
2. Look at the **ra** and **dec** input boxes near the top left of the tool. Enter the coordinates of your object. You may enter them either as decimal degrees or as HMS/DMS. If you enter them as HMS/DMS, use the format "hh:mm:ss ±dd:mm:ss". (If you don't know the coordinates, you can get them from name resolver like [SIMBAD](#) or [NED](#) (links open in new window)).
3. In the **scale** input box, enter the scale of your telescope in arcseconds per pixel.
4. In the **width** and **height** input boxes, enter the desired size of the image in pixels.
5. Click on one or more of the **Drawing Options** checkboxes in the left-hand panel to redraw the image with various features selected. It is usually a good idea to check *InvertImage*, to display the image as white-on-black.
6. Click **Get Image**.
7. Click the printer icon to open a printable finding chart. The finding chart print white-on-black, and it will display the ra and dec of the center, as well as the scale. It will also have a space to take notes.