

Re: Can I see ISS from Sydney–Australia?

Source: <http://sci.tech–archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005–08/msg01755.html>

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 - *Date:* 20 Aug 2005 13:40:22 +0100 (BST)
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In article <43071b7b\$0\$25984\$afc38c87@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>, Roska Gozwild <rg@xxxxxxx> wrote:

>Hi

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>Is it possible to see the International Space Station from Sydney/Australia
>with an 250 mm Dobsonian telescope of type as shown in the following link
>(<http://www.bintel.com.au/BT252.html>) ?

You can *see* it with the naked eye; it's as bright as Alpha Centauri.

The ISS appears about forty arc–seconds across, so with that telescope and a 9mm eyepiece it would look about twice the size of the Full Moon; you'd probably be able to see the solar panels.

However, the ISS moves fast enough across the sky that I suspect it would be extremely difficult to move the telescope smoothly and quickly enough to track it within the field of the eyepiece (which is a region of sky about the size of a thumbnail held at arm's length). The observations I've seen of ISS have been using telescopes with quite elaborate computer–controlled mountings.

It's not impossible, but I'd be very impressed if you could do it; you get one ISS pass a night to practice on and they only last a couple of minutes. I'd start by finding a good prediction of where the ISS would be and star–hopping to that region, then wait for the station to appear (it'll only be in the field for a few seconds) and desperately try to follow it. You could also practice on reasonably low–flying planes or moderately distant birds.

Tom

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- *References:*

- ◆ *Can I see ISS from Sydney–Australia?*

- ◆ *From:* Roska Gozwild

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