

ANN: Release of LunarPhase Pro Version 3 [Moon Observer's Toolkit]

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Version 3 of LunarPhase Pro has just been released. Full details of the software can be found at: <http://lunarphasepro.nightskyobserver.com>

If you already own LunarPhase Pro and you've changed your email address in the last few months, you'll have missed the above announcement. Maybe you could email me with your current email address so I can keep you in the loop.

LunarPhase Pro (for Win 98/Me/NT/2000/XP) is a software toolkit for anyone who's interested in learning about or observing the moon and contains a wide range of observation planning tools, an interactive Moon Atlas (near and far sides) and a database of over 9,000 lunar features (including several hundred observing notes).

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- LunarPhase Pro CD \$49.95
 - LunarPhase Pro Download [33Mb] \$39.95
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A demo version of the software (Version 2) is available from:
<http://lunarphasepro.nightskyobserver.com/DemoDownload.htm>

Version 3 Enhancements:

* **Moon Charts Screen:** New screen that displays detailed charts of particular lunar features download from the internet. The charts can then be saved locally to your PC so that time and bandwidth is not wasted repeatedly downloading the charts. The screen allows you to pan over the charts, zoom into them and print them out. The screen is called from the Reports menu on LunarPhase Pro's main screen or the Lunar Explorer screen or can be invoked through the popup menu that appears when a feature name in a feature list is right-clicked.

* **Moon In The News Screen:** This screen has been completely revamped. It now presents news in three categories from two news sources. Categories are: Moon in the News, Astronomy & Space News and General Science News. The sources are Webnews (i.e. news stories drawn for a variety of news sources on the internet) and Podcasts (audio/video files that include news, reports, interviews, etc.) Some of the Podcasts are actually

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Vodcasts (play video rather than just audio). Podcasts are categorized in the same way as web news. [Some interesting news stories currently available]

- * Online Moon Books: New screen that lists a number of books about the Moon, Moon Landings, etc. that are available on the internet. Click on a book to open it in your browser.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: New higher 1280x994 screen resolution option added.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: New Top-Down facility added. Lets you see features on the Moon from directly overhead. Can be called from the main toolbar or from the popup menu when you click on a feature name in one of the feature lists.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: New Moon Rotation option added. Rotate the Moon to get the views we can't here on Earth.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: The Grid Overlay colour for 3D views can now be changed.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: The feature identify ring has been revamped.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: When changing to a view of the opposite side of the Moon, the Near or Far side now rotates into view.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: Search for feature name in a feature list by keying in part of that feature's name.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: New chart icons beside feature names in feature lists indicate that that feature has at least one Moon Chart associated with it.

- * Lunar Explorer Screen: In the pane that displays feature information when a feature has been identified, the camera, notes and chart icons (when available) can be clicked as a shortcut to open the associated screens.

- * Lunar Features Database: Data on this screen can now be sorted (in ascending or descending order) by clicking on the column titles on the screen.

- * Feature Search Screen: Rows are now sorted by name to make things easier to find. A row clicked on the screen now becomes highlighted in navy so you don't lose track of where you were.

- * Main Screen: LST Clock previously only showed LST for the current time (based on you PC's clock). Now updates to show LST for selected time/date. This includes changes in Daylight Savings Time.

- * Configuration Screen: New option added to allow selection of Overlay Grid colour (on Lunar Explorer screen).

- * Configuration Screen: New option added to allow selection of the default screen resolution when the Lunar Explorer screen opens.

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<http://lunarphasepro.nightskyobserver.com>

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