

2020 Jupiter Saturn Planetary Conjunction

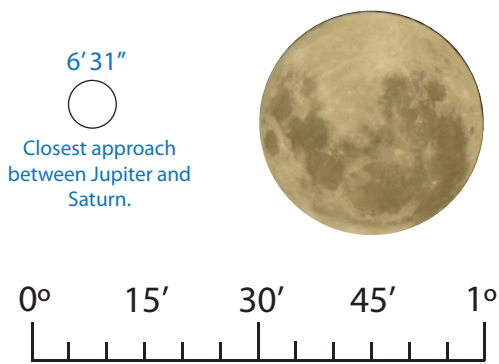
In December 2020, the planets Jupiter and Saturn will appear to almost merge as one to the unaided eye. The planets have not been this close since July 1623*. Owners of small telescopes will be able to view both Jupiter and Saturn simultaneously in the same eyepiece view.



Jupiter & Saturn close conjunctions	Angular separation*
16 July 1623	0° 05' 48.1"
21 December 2020	0° 06' 31.8"
14 March 2080	0° 06' 12.5"
6 July 2477	0° 06' 55.3"
25 December 2874	0° 02' 49.6"

* Angular separation values are for an observer on the Gold Coast, Queensland. Calculated using The Sky Student Edition (Software Bisque).

How big is a degree?

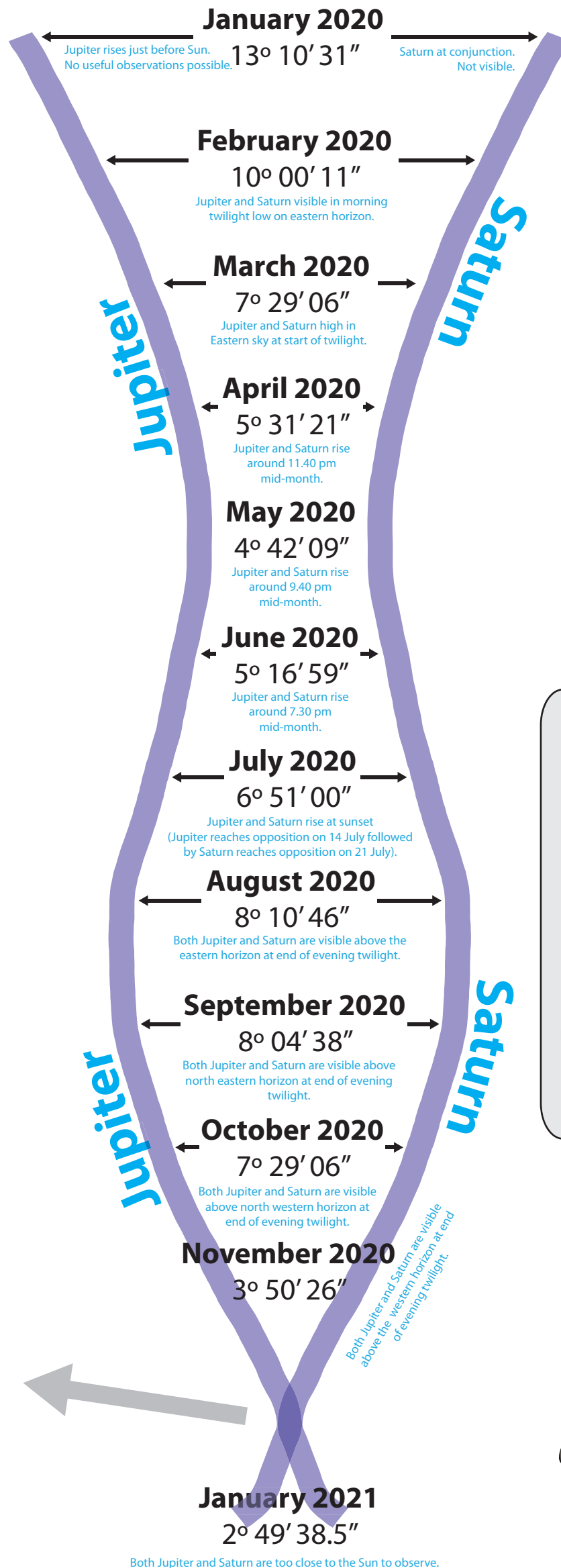


Astronomers use degrees (symbol °) to measure the distance between objects in the sky. A degree can be divided into 60 arcminutes (symbol ') and an arcminute can be divided into 60 arcseconds (symbol ").

15 December 2020
0° 42' 45.7"
Both Jupiter and Saturn are visible low above the western horizon at end of evening twilight.

21 December 2020
0° 06' 31.8"

**Jupiter and Saturn
closest approach**



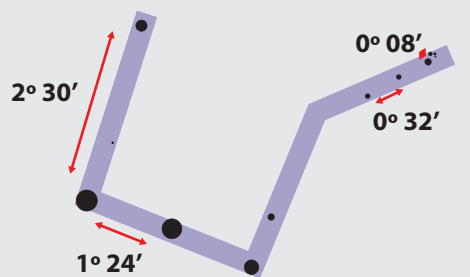
Don't miss this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to see this rare conjunction.

Both Jupiter and Saturn can easily be seen with the unaided eye. Jupiter appears as a brilliant white star and Saturn as a pale yellow one.

Finder charts for locating Jupiter and Saturn throughout 2020 can be found at www.nightskyonline.info.

* Reference pg 251, Meeus, J., Mathematical Astronomy Morsels, Willmann-Bell Inc., Virginia, 2000.

How good is your eyesight?



Use the 'Summer Saucepan' (located above the eastern horizon at the end of December twilight) to test your eyesight when the planets are at their closest.

