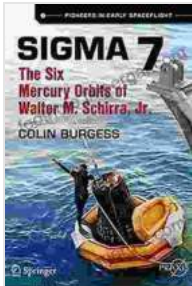


Astronaut Walter Schirra Jr.: Six Mercury Orbits That Changed Space Exploration



Sigma 7: The Six Mercury Orbits of Walter M. Schirra, Jr. (Springer Praxis Books) by Colin Burgess

★★★★☆ 4.8 out of 5

Language	: English
File size	: 11287 KB
Text-to-Speech	: Enabled
Screen Reader	: Supported
Enhanced typesetting	: Enabled
Word Wise	: Enabled
Print length	: 465 pages
Hardcover	: 288 pages
Item Weight	: 14.1 ounces
Dimensions	: 6.75 x 1 x 9.5 inches



Walter Schirra Jr., one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts, played a pivotal role in the early days of space exploration. Through his six Mercury orbits, Schirra pushed the boundaries of human spaceflight and made groundbreaking contributions to NASA's mission.

Early Life and Career

Walter Marty Schirra Jr. was born on March 12, 1923, in Hackensack, New Jersey. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1945, he served in the Navy for several years before becoming a test pilot in 1953.

In 1959, Schirra was selected as one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts. These seven men were chosen to be the first Americans to fly

in space.

Mercury Missions

Schirra made his first spaceflight in October 1962, on the Mercury-Atlas 8 mission. During this mission, he became the first American to orbit the Earth three times. He also conducted several experiments during his flight.

Schirra's second spaceflight was in October 1965, on the Gemini 6A mission. During this mission, he and his crewmate, Thomas Stafford, performed the first space rendezvous with another spacecraft, Gemini 7.

Schirra's third and final spaceflight was in October 1968, on the Apollo 7 mission. During this mission, he and his crewmates, Donn Eisele and R. Walter Cunningham, tested the Apollo command and service modules in Earth orbit.

Contributions to NASA

Schirra's contributions to NASA were not limited to his spaceflights. He also served as a member of the Astronaut Selection Board and the Apollo Spacecraft Review Board. He also helped to develop the Space Shuttle program.

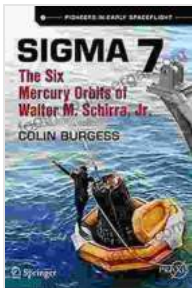
Legacy

Walter Schirra Jr. is remembered as one of the pioneers of human spaceflight. His six Mercury orbits paved the way for future space exploration and his contributions to NASA helped to make the United States a leader in space.

Walter Schirra Jr. was a true pioneer in human spaceflight. His six Mercury orbits and his contributions to NASA helped to make the United States a leader in space exploration. He will always be remembered as one of the greatest astronauts of all time.

For more information about Walter Schirra Jr. and his six Mercury orbits, please see the following resources:

- NASA biography of Walter Schirra Jr.
- Space.com article about Walter Schirra Jr.
- The Six Mercury Orbits of Walter Schirra Jr. by Frank H. Winter and Robert D. van der Linden



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