

PocketCW2

What is it? Why would it be a good addition to your setup? How have we launched it into the market?

So you're wondering if you should get a pocketCW2. Or maybe you have already decided to get one, but you're not sure how it is going to work. Allow us to explain...

1. Progressive launching

We named the way we launched this product “progressive launching”. What this means is that the first units included all the functions the previous pocketCW included (aside from Bluetooth connection, which has been replaced by Wi-Fi connection), plus all the components necessary to incorporate the new features. However, these ones are being released progressively, **in the form of software updates**. It goes without saying that all of these updates will be free, and that full PC connectivity is already available (ASCOM driver, Windows software, etc).

Should you wait to buy the pocketCW2 until all the features are all implemented?

Not at all! In fact, purchasing a pocketCW2 now will only have benefits compared to purchasing it later in time. These benefits are:

- ★ Saving money, as pre-purchased units will come at a reduced price.
- ★ The possibility to participate in a vote to choose the order in which the improvements will come out.
- ★ Being able to enjoy the new features as soon as they come out.

2. Features

In a nutshell, the pocketCW2 has the same function as its predecessor and as the CloudWatcher itself, which is **monitoring the sky and ambient conditions** so you can rest knowing you will be warned if anything goes wrong. But, let's take a look at the pocketCW2's features more specifically. As mentioned before, it will include both the features from the old pocketCW, and its own new ones. In the following list, features that haven't yet been implemented are in italics.

From the original pocketCW:

- ★ Configurable alarms for any of the readings—safe, unsafe, battery level and data age (“watchdog” function), however you want to set them—with snooze, ignore period.
- ★ PC compatible and smartphone app (details below*).
- ★ Full ASCOM compatibility.
- ★ Power supply now through USB-C; or with a rechargeable LIPO battery (optional, purchased separately).

- ★ Cloud detection.
- ★ Relative humidity measurements.
- ★ Ambient temperature readings.
- ★ Brightness readings (the units have changed!**).

New features:

- ★ Ability to measure sky quality.
- ★ Wi-Fi.
- ★ *PC connection through USB-C, *the smartphone app will be improved.*
- ★ **Sky brightness measurements in mpsas (magnitudes per square arc second).
- ★ *GPS.*
- ★ *Wind detection (crude).*
- ★ Atmospheric pressure readings (available for the PC software but *not yet for the smartphone*).
- ★ *Ability to publish data online (no need for the [SOLO](#) with this one!).*

3. Some other details

The new pocketCW2 is as tiny as 71×71×27 mm, and weighs less than 85 g! It's no wonder we named it a "pocket" CW2, this will certainly be one of the most manageable items among your doubtlessly bulky equipment.

Note, however, that it's not designed to be permanently installed outside (that's what its older brother, the [CloudWatcher](#), is for). It is not rain resistant either, so it's probably a good thing that it'll warn you if it gets cloudy so you can save it from the first droplets, along with the rest of your equipment.

4. Still unsure if you should get it?

The pocketCW2 will monitor just about everything so you can rest—*actually* rest, not the kind of rest astronomers are used to getting ;)—while your equipment is doing its thing. Not only that, but its new sky quality measurements will enable you to pick the best spot for astroimaging. And, to top it all off, it's small and easy to handle.

Don't hesitate to reach out to us at support@lunaticastro.com if you have any questions, we're here to help!