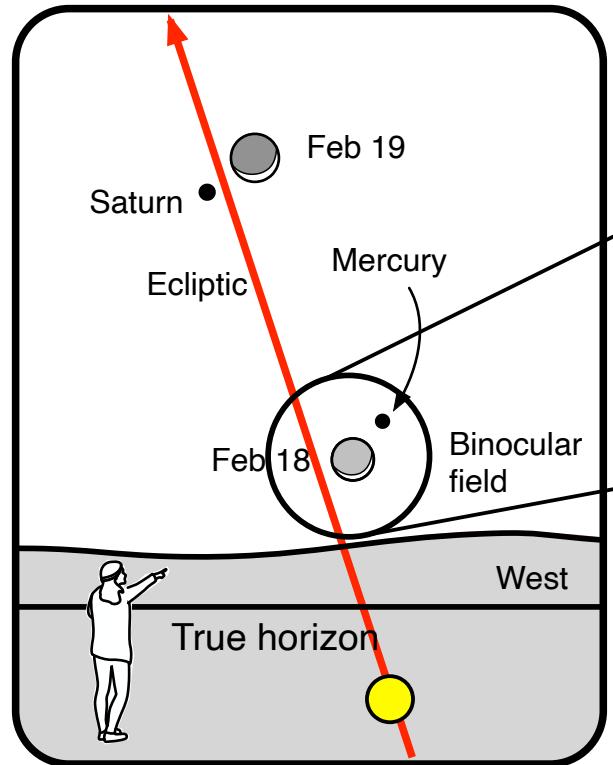
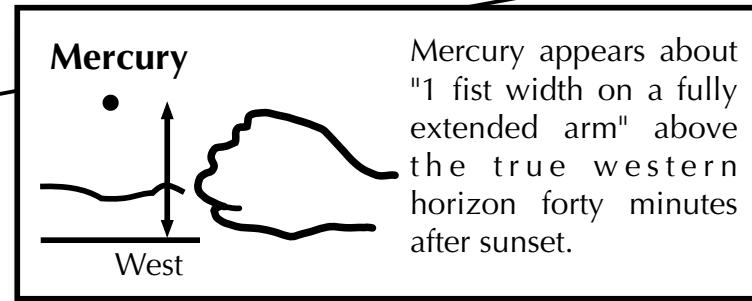
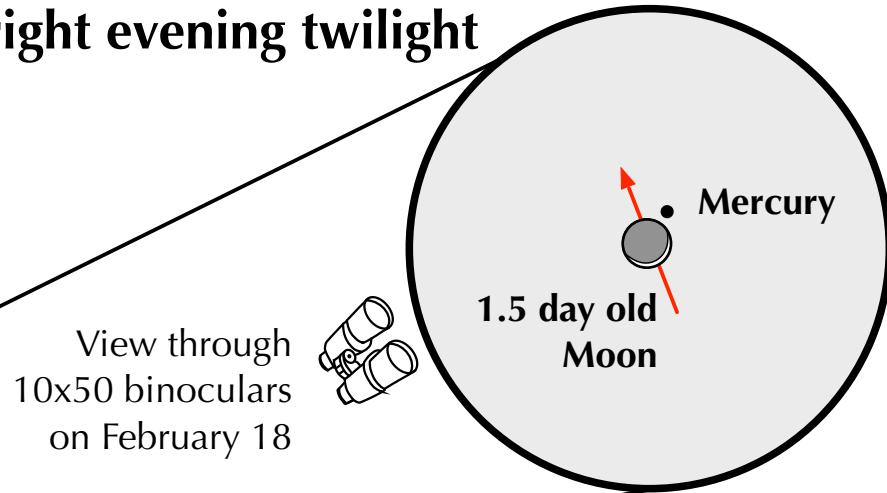


Mercury and the young moon in the bright evening twilight



**February 18 and 19, 2026:
Mercury and the young crescent moon
forty minutes after sunset in the west**



The young moon & Mercury in the evening twilight

Have you ever spotted Mercury? Many stargazers have not. The early evening scene on February 18 presents a good opportunity to catch the elusive little planet. Look low into the western twilight forty minutes after sunset.

- Using binoculars, look on February 18 for the very thin crescent Moon floating either below or left of Mercury. Can you see Earthshine on the Moon's dark side or is the twilight too bright? The Moon may be difficult to spot appearing as a washed-out sliver. Some areas in the extreme southcentral US might see the moon occult the planet before the twilight brightens too much.
- On the next evening, Mercury is in the same place, but the moon has moved higher and next to Saturn.