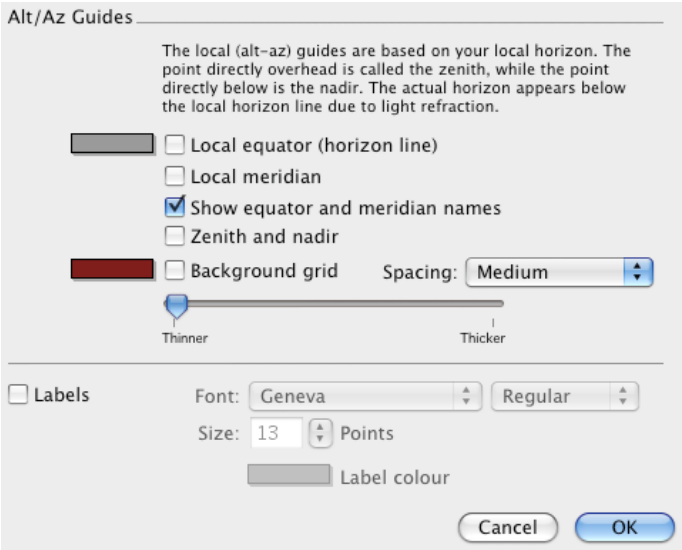
Exercise 11: Guide Properties

The Guides layer in the Options pane allows you to display reference points and grids for different astronomical co-ordinate systems. These co-ordinate systems can be used to help you locate objects in the sky.

In this exercise, you will turn on the Alt-Az guides and change some of its properties such as color, line thickness and spacing.

Instructions:

1. Press the **Home** button.
2. Change the time to 10:00 PM.
3. Open the View **Options** side pane.
4. Place your cursor over "Alt-Az Guides" and click on it. This will bring up the Alt-Az view options window.



Let's change a few guide properties.

5. Check the "Background Grid" box. Notice that a red grid now appear behind the window.
6. Click on the red color bar to the left of the "Background Grid" checkbox. Select a different color for your grid.
7. Next, make your grid lines thicker by sliding the "Thinner/Thicker" slider to the right.
8. To make sense of the grid, check the "Labels" box. Change the font to Arial and the font size to 20 points.
9. Finally, check the "Local meridian" box. This line runs from north to south and divides the sky in eastern and western half's.
10. Press the **Ok** button to close the window.

11. Save your work as a new Favourite file.

Question: Find polaris. What is the altitude of Polaris at 10:00 PM on July 20th from Philadelphia? ***Hint:*** *Use the Alt-Az grid and the meridian.*

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Question: What is the relationship between the altitude of Polaris and your latitude on Earth? ***Hint:*** *Philadelphia's latitude is 40 degrees north.*

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