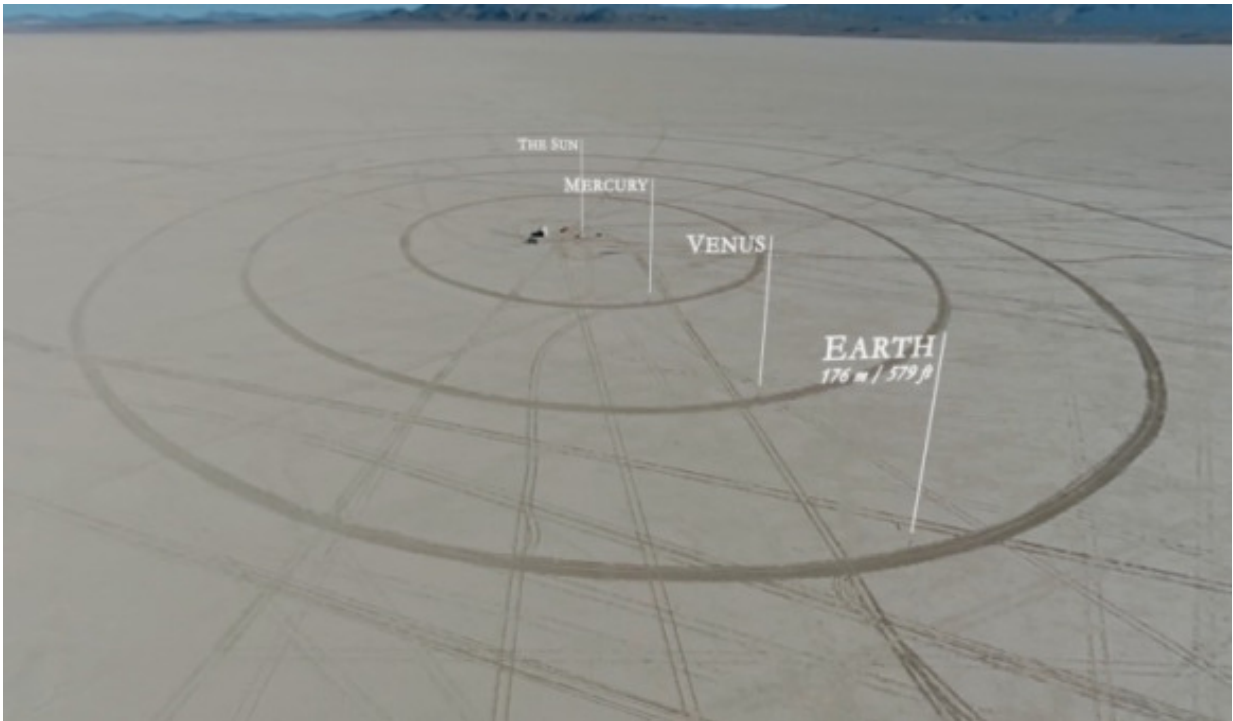


This is a scale model of the solar system like you've never seen before

September 18 2015, by Jason Major



Five friends traveled to a dry lake bed in Nevada to create an accurate scale model of the planets' orbits. (Screenshot) © Wylie Overstreet and Alex Gorosh

We've all seen illustrations of the solar system. They're in our school textbooks, on posters, on websites, on t-shirts... in some cases they're used to represent the word "science" itself (and for good reason.) But, for the most part, they're all wrong. At least where scale is concerned.

Sure, you can show the sun and planets in relative size to each other accurately. But then the actual distances between them will probably be way off. And OK, you can outline the planets' concentric orbits around the sun to [scale](#) pretty easily. But then there's no convenient way to make sure that the planets themselves would actually be visible. In order to achieve both, you have to leave the realm of convenience behind entirely and make a physical model that, were you to start with an Earth the size of a marble, would stretch for several miles (and that's not even taking Pluto into consideration.)

This is exactly what filmmaker Wylie Overstreet and four of his friends did in 2014, spending a day and a half on a dry lake bed in Nevada where they measured out and set up a scale model of the [sun](#) and [planets](#) (not including Pluto, don't tell Alan Stern) including their respective circular orbits. They then shot time-lapse images of their illuminated cars driving around the orbits. The resulting video is educational, mesmerizing, beautiful, and overall a wonderful demonstration of the staggering scale of space in the solar system.

Watch the video below:

For some reason whenever I think about the sheer amount of space there actually is in [space](#), it gets me a little choked up. These guys get an "A+" for effort, execution, and entertainment!

More information: www.wylieoverstreet.com/
www.alexgorosh.com/

Source: [Universe Today](#)

Citation: This is a scale model of the solar system like you've never seen before (2015, September 18) retrieved 19 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2015-09-scale-solar-youve.html>

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