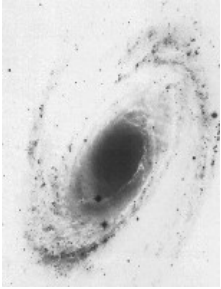


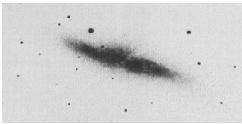
M92 Distance: 26,400 ly RA: 17:17.2 Dec: 43.13

Comments: Very nice object, nearly as bright as the Hercules cluster, but smaller visually. Estimated mass of cluster is up to 330,000 times our sun.



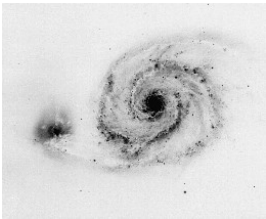
M81 Distance: 12,000,000 ly RA: 9:56.6 Dec: 69.03

Comments: Paired with M82 for a very interesting contrast in galaxy appearances. The 2 galaxies are physically close (at least by astronomical distances) at 150,000 ly. The 2 galaxies passed very close to each other some 10s of millions of years ago which deformed M82 significantly.



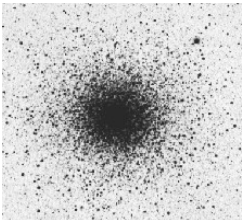
M82 Distance: 12,000,000 ly RA: 9:56.6 Dec: 69.65

Comments: Also called the Cigar Galaxy because of the shape. Found to have a strong radio source which may have been caused by gravitational stress from its close encounter with M81 millions of years ago.



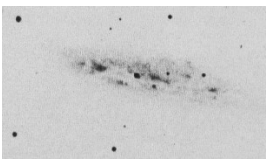
M51 Distance: 37,000,000 ly RA: 13:30.3 Dec: 47.16

Comments: Also called the Whirlpool Galaxy. One of Charles Messier's first discoveries. The companion galaxy can usually be seen as well if the skies are dark.



M3 Distance: 33,900 ly RA: 13:42.3 Dec: 28.35

Comments: An outstanding globular cluster estimated to contain a half million stars.



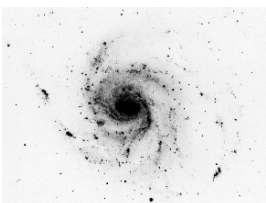
M108 Distance: 45,000,000 ly RA: 11:12.4 Dec: 55.63

Comments: Mottled, dusty galaxy not well defined shape. Careful observation can reveal quite a bit of detail.



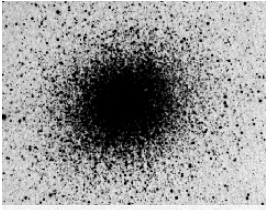
M104 Distance: 50,000,000 ly RA: 12:40.4 Dec: -11.66

Comments: The Sombrero Galaxy looks like it's namesake in images and very large telescopes. In smaller scopes, some imagination is required, but you can clearly see the basic galaxy shape. The galaxy has an unusually large bulge.

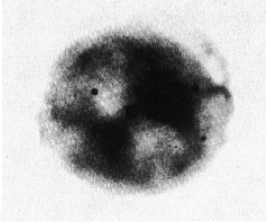


M101 Distance: 27,000,000 ly RA: 14:03.3 Dec: 54.31

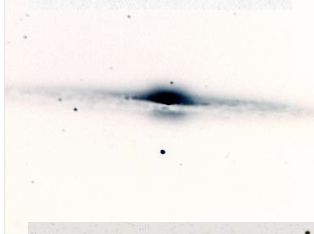
Comments: The Pinwheel Galaxy was one of the last objects that Messier added to his list. It was one of the first 'spiral nebulas' identified in 1851. Only the central region will be visible in smaller telescopes.



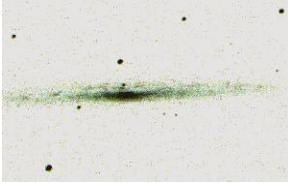
M13 Distance: 25,100 ly RA: 16:42.3 Dec: 36.45
 Comments: The biggest and brightest globular cluster in the Northern Hemisphere. This is a can't miss object for all telescopes. It's estimated to contain a half-million or more stars.



M97 Distance: 2,600 ly RA: 11:15.4 Dec: 54.98
 Comments: Owl Nebula. The 'eyes' in the owl nebula are difficult to observe unless you have a large scope and very dark skies.



NGC 4565 Distance: 31,000,000 ly RA: 12:36.4 Dec: 25.94
 Comments: Edge-on Spiral Galaxy. Relatively bright as galaxies go. Often used in textbooks because it is thought to resemble our galaxy.



NGC 5907 Distance: ly RA: 15:15.9 Dec: 56.3
 Comments: Splinter Galaxy. Discovered in 1788 by William Herschel.



NGC 3242 Distance: 2,500 ly RA: 10:25.4 Dec: -18.67
 Comments: Ghost of Jupiter Nebula. Discovered in 1785 by William Herschel.

Mizar Distance: 78 ly RA: 13:24.2 Dec: 54.89

Comments: 2nd Star from the end of the Big Dipper's Tail. Not known if a true binary or just optical. They are more than ¼ light year apart from each other.

IOTA CNC Distance: 297 ly RA: 8:47.1 Dec: 28.73

Comments: Yellow and white true binary. North of the Beehive cluster in Cancer

Venus Distance: ~12 light minutes

Comments: Note the phase!

Saturn Distance: ~1.2 light hours

Comments: Enjoy the Show!