

## Markarian's Chain

This is a two panel mosaic of Markarian's Chain - a string of galaxies in the Virgo Cluster. Wikipedia reports that the Virgo Cluster center is about 53 million light years away and consists of 1300 to 2000 galaxies. The Local Group (which includes the Milky Way) and the Virgo Cluster are part of the Virgo Supercluster. I understand that our Local Group is moving toward the Virgo Cluster but it will never actually merge because of the expansion of the universe.

As I said, this is a two panel mosaic which means that I had to image two separate sections of the cluster then stitch them together. Fortunately, my acquisition and processing software made that relatively easy. The link below will take you to my AstrobIn page of this object. If you tap on that image in your phone screen (or hold the cursor over a computer screen), you will see an annotated version which I think is very interesting. You will see that the two largest galaxies at the bottom right are M86 and M84 and there are a number of NGC's like the two in the middle which are called the eyes. I encourage you to zoom in on some of the smaller galaxies like the eyes and the edge on above M86 - you will see dust lanes in them and other structures.

AstrobIn page:

<https://www.astrobin.com/u0fd41/>

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