

M33 The Triangulum Galaxy

Cataloged as Messier 33, but also known as the Pinwheel Galaxy, this image was created from sub-images during October, November and December of 2022, whenever conditions were decent enough to image. This is 22-1/2 hours of imaging time on a C11 SCT from my backyard deck. I wanted to get more time on it but the weather just did not cooperate enough (or the moon was a problem when the weather did). It also includes about 3 hours of imaging with a dual Ha/OIII filter, to enhance the abundance of Ha regions in the galaxy. Note that this image doesn't quite cover the entire galaxy as my field of view is rather narrow.

M33 is a spiral galaxy about 2.7 million light years away and is part of our Local Group of galaxies (if you can really call something 2.7 MLY away 'local'). But it is getting closer.

This was my first time trying to combine an RGB OSC (one shot color camera) image stack with a Ha/OIII OSC image stack. It had its own set of challenges. Contrast this image with the beautiful image Tom Engwall took and distributed in November that shows the full extent of the galaxy.

F6.3 Focal Reducer, ASI071MC Pro camera

Exposures:

234 x 300 sec RGB

35 x 300 sec Ha/OII using a 5nm filter

Vince Castello