

NGC 6914 - Reflection Nebula in Cygnus

NGC 6914 is the blue region in the center of this image. It and the surrounding reflection Nebula is about 6000 light years away in the constellation of Cygnus (a very nebula rich area of the sky). This was captured on my remotely operated setup in Castelléjar, Spain in July and a little bit in August, 2023. I had a lot of fun processing this image which was shot in Red, Green, Blue, Luminance and Ha filters. So you can kind of say it is in true color with the Ha giving depth and the pinkish hue to the image. The exposures times are as follows:

Red 85 x 300 sec

Green 85 x 300 sec

Blue 83 x 300 sec

Lum 89 x 300 sec

Ha 85 x 300 sec

Total 35.6 hours

My AstrobIn page for this image: <https://astrob.in/0vsvc8/0/>

Processing Notes:

There is considerable discussion on the forums about whether you need any luminance if you shoot Ha and if you do, whether you should add the Ha to the RGB first or after combining the RGB with the luminance. Also some people add the Ha to the Red master then create a RGB combination. It's worth experimenting with the different ways to see what works best in any given situation. I found that in this case, the Luminance gave structure to the RGB combination and the Ha added considerable depth when I added it to the RGBLum - using pixel math. I also used MLT to sharpen the image using 7 layers (and a residual) and limited bias numbers. That requires a lot of experimentation to get it right but it can be a powerful tool.

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