

Messier Marathon Checklist

All 110 objects, in observing order — one perfect night, sundown to sunrise.

How to use this checklist

The Messier Marathon is one night a year — usually a moonless weekend in late March — when all 110 of Charles Messier's deep-sky objects are visible between dusk and dawn. Objects are listed in observing order: catch the first group as soon as the sky darkens or you'll lose them in the western glow.

When to run it	Late March or early April, on a new-moon weekend. From Canada, latitudes 25–35°N are ideal but anywhere south of 55°N is workable.
What you need	Binoculars (10x50 or larger) or any telescope. A red headlamp. Warm layers. A printed copy of this list and a pencil.
Observing order	Top of the page = setting in the west (do these first). Bottom of the page = rising in the east before dawn.
Logging a find	Tick the box once you've positively identified the object. Use the notes column for time, equipment, or a quick remark.

Tonight's session

Date

Location

Sunset

Astro dark

Moon phase

Astro score

Equipment

Seeing

All 110 Messier Objects — Observing Order

Work top to bottom. The first group sets quickly after sunset; the last few rise just before dawn.

M#	Common name	Type	Constellation	Mag	Notes
DUSK					
<input type="checkbox"/>	M77 Cetus A	Sb Galaxy	Cetus	8.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M74 Phantom Galaxy	Sc Galaxy	Pisces	9.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M33 Triangulum Galaxy	Sc Galaxy	Triangulum	5.7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M31 Andromeda Galaxy	Sb Galaxy	Andromeda	3.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M32 —	E2 Galaxy	Andromeda	8.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M110 —	E5 Galaxy	Andromeda	8.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M52 —	Open Cluster	Cassiopeia	7.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M103 —	Open Cluster	Cassiopeia	7.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M76 Little Dumbbell	Planetary Nebula	Perseus	10.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M34 —	Open Cluster	Perseus	5.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M45 Pleiades	Open Cluster	Taurus	1.6	
EVENING					
<input type="checkbox"/>	M79 —	Globular Cluster	Lepus	8.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M42 Orion Nebula	Diffuse Nebula	Orion	4.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M43 De Mairan's Nebula	Diffuse Nebula	Orion	9.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M78 —	Reflection Neb.	Orion	8.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M1 Crab Nebula	Supernova Rem.	Taurus	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M35 —	Open Cluster	Gemini	5.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M37 —	Open Cluster	Auriga	6.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M36 —	Open Cluster	Auriga	6.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M38 Starfish Cluster	Open Cluster	Auriga	7.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M41 —	Open Cluster	Canis Major	4.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M50 —	Open Cluster	Monoceros	5.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M46 —	Open Cluster	Puppis	6.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M47 —	Open Cluster	Puppis	4.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M93 —	Open Cluster	Puppis	6.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M48 —	Open Cluster	Hydra	5.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M44 Beehive Cluster	Open Cluster	Cancer	3.7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M67 —	Open Cluster	Cancer	6.1	
GALAXY HOUR					
<input type="checkbox"/>	M95 —	SBb Galaxy	Leo	9.7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M96 —	Sa Galaxy	Leo	9.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M105 —	E1 Galaxy	Leo	9.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M65 —	Sa Galaxy	Leo	9.3	

	M#	Common name	Type	Constellation	Mag	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	M66	—	Sb Galaxy	Leo	8.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M81	Bode's Galaxy	Sb Galaxy	Ursa Major	6.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M82	Cigar Galaxy	Irr Galaxy	Ursa Major	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M97	Owl Nebula	Planetary Nebula	Ursa Major	9.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M108	—	Sc Galaxy	Ursa Major	10.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M109	—	SBb Galaxy	Ursa Major	9.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M40	Winnecke 4	Double Star	Ursa Major	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M106	—	Sb Galaxy	Canes Ven.	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M94	—	Sa Galaxy	Canes Ven.	8.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M63	Sunflower Galaxy	Sb Galaxy	Canes Ven.	8.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M51	Whirlpool Galaxy	Sc Galaxy	Canes Ven.	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M101	Pinwheel Galaxy	Sc Galaxy	Ursa Major	7.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M102	Spindle Galaxy	S0 Galaxy	Draco	9.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M53	—	Globular Cluster	Coma Bere.	7.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M64	Black Eye Galaxy	Sb Galaxy	Coma Bere.	8.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M85	—	S0 Galaxy	Coma Bere.	9.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M98	—	Sb Galaxy	Coma Bere.	10.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M99	—	Sc Galaxy	Coma Bere.	9.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M100	—	Sc Galaxy	Coma Bere.	9.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M84	—	E1 Galaxy	Virgo	9.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M86	—	E3 Galaxy	Virgo	8.9	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M87	Virgo A	E1 Galaxy	Virgo	8.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M88	—	Sb Galaxy	Coma Bere.	9.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M89	—	E0 Galaxy	Virgo	9.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M90	—	Sb Galaxy	Virgo	9.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M91	—	SBb Galaxy	Coma Bere.	10.1	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M58	—	SBc Galaxy	Virgo	9.7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M59	—	E5 Galaxy	Virgo	9.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M60	—	E2 Galaxy	Virgo	8.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M49	—	E4 Galaxy	Virgo	8.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M61	—	Sc Galaxy	Virgo	9.7	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M104	Sombrero Galaxy	Sa Galaxy	Virgo	8.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M68	—	Globular Cluster	Hydra	7.8	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M83	Southern Pinwheel	Sc Galaxy	Hydra	7.5	
MIDNIGHT						
<input type="checkbox"/>	M3	—	Globular Cluster	Canes Ven.	6.3	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M5	—	Globular Cluster	Serpens	5.6	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M13	Hercules Cluster	Globular Cluster	Hercules	5.8	

M#	Common name	Type	Constellation	Mag	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/> M92	—	Globular Cluster	Hercules	6.4	
<input type="checkbox"/> M57	Ring Nebula	Planetary Nebula	Lyra	8.8	
<input type="checkbox"/> M56	—	Globular Cluster	Lyra	8.3	
<input type="checkbox"/> M29	—	Open Cluster	Cygnus	6.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M39	—	Open Cluster	Cygnus	4.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M27	Dumbbell Nebula	Planetary Nebula	Vulpecula	7.4	
<input type="checkbox"/> M71	—	Globular Cluster	Sagitta	8.0	
<input type="checkbox"/> M107	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	7.9	
<input type="checkbox"/> M12	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	6.7	
<input type="checkbox"/> M10	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	6.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M14	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	7.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M9	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	7.7	
<input type="checkbox"/> M4	—	Globular Cluster	Scorpius	5.9	
<input type="checkbox"/> M80	—	Globular Cluster	Scorpius	7.3	
<input type="checkbox"/> M19	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	7.5	
<input type="checkbox"/> M62	—	Globular Cluster	Ophiuchus	6.4	
MILKY WAY CORE					
<input type="checkbox"/> M6	Butterfly Cluster	Open Cluster	Scorpius	4.2	
<input type="checkbox"/> M7	Ptolemy Cluster	Open Cluster	Scorpius	3.3	
<input type="checkbox"/> M11	Wild Duck Cluster	Open Cluster	Scutum	6.3	
<input type="checkbox"/> M26	—	Open Cluster	Scutum	8.0	
<input type="checkbox"/> M16	Eagle Nebula	Open + Nebula	Serpens	6.0	
<input type="checkbox"/> M17	Omega / Swan Nebula	Diffuse Nebula	Sagittarius	7.0	
<input type="checkbox"/> M18	—	Open Cluster	Sagittarius	7.5	
<input type="checkbox"/> M24	Sgr Star Cloud	Star Cloud	Sagittarius	4.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M25	—	Open Cluster	Sagittarius	4.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M23	—	Open Cluster	Sagittarius	6.9	
<input type="checkbox"/> M21	Webb's Cross	Open Cluster	Sagittarius	6.5	
<input type="checkbox"/> M20	Trifid Nebula	Diffuse Nebula	Sagittarius	6.3	
<input type="checkbox"/> M8	Lagoon Nebula	Diffuse Nebula	Sagittarius	6.0	
<input type="checkbox"/> M28	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	6.8	
<input type="checkbox"/> M22	Sagittarius Cluster	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	5.1	
<input type="checkbox"/> M69	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	7.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M70	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	7.9	
<input type="checkbox"/> M54	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	7.6	
<input type="checkbox"/> M55	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	6.3	
DAWN					
<input type="checkbox"/> M75	—	Globular Cluster	Sagittarius	8.5	

	M#	Common name	Type	Constellation	Mag	Notes
<input type="checkbox"/>	M15	Pegasus Cluster	Globular Cluster	Pegasus	6.2	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M2	—	Globular Cluster	Aquarius	6.5	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M72	—	Globular Cluster	Aquarius	9.4	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M73	—	Asterism	Aquarius	9.0	
<input type="checkbox"/>	M30	—	Globular Cluster	Capricornus	7.2	

