

USEFUL DEEP SKY CATALOGS

Author(s) and Name	Classifier	Type	Notes
Charles Messier, Catalogue of Nebulae and Star Clusters	M	General	110 objects; many of the most well-known and brightest DSOs; mostly galaxies and clusters; only 12 nebulae
J.L.E. Dreyer, New General Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars	NGC	General	7,840 objects; many galaxies
J.L.E. Dreyer, Index Catalogue of Nebulae Found in the Years 1888 to 1894	IC	General	5,386 objects; many galaxies
Dave Green, Galactic supernova remnant catalogue	G	Supernova Remnants (SNR)	295 objects; updated last in 2017
Perek and Kohoutek, Catalog of Galactic Planetary Nebulae	PK	Planetary Nebulae	1510 objects; also lists 245 objects that were misclassified as PNe in other catalogs
Halton Arp, Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies	Arp	Galaxies	338 objects; lots of photographic resources
S. Sharpless, Catalogue of H II Regions	Sh2	Emission Nebulae	313 objects; H II regions; mostly N. Hemisphere
S. van den Bergh, A Study of Reflection Nebulae	vdB	Reflection Nebulae	159 objects; only N. Hemisphere
E.E. Barnard, Catalogue of 349 Dark Objects in the Sky	B	Dark Nebulae	359 objects; oldest and still most-used catalog of dark (absorption) nebulae
P. Collinder, Open galactic clusters	Cr or Col	Open Clusters	471 objects; fairly comprehensive catalog of open star clusters
B.T. Lynds, Catalogue of Bright Nebulae.	LBN	Emission and Reflection Nebulae	1125 objects; normally quoted only if a "Sh2" or "vdB" number is missing. Includes brightness scale where 1 is brightest and 6 is barely detectable
B.T. Lynds, Catalogue of Dark Nebulae	LDN	Dark Nebulae	1791 objects; normally quoted only if a "B" number is missing. Includes opacity scale where 1 is lightest and 6 is darkest.

Notes: These are the most useful and complete catalogs I could find for the Northern Hemisphere. It is common practice in the amateur community to use the M or NGC/IC number if one exists before using other designations. Compiled by Nico Carver. Last updated: 8/7/2018.