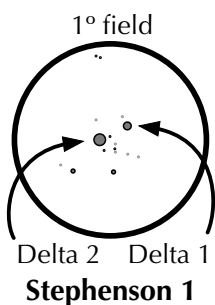


Lyra, take a closer look

Surprises await for the binocular and small telescope user



Lyra is a small constellation situated almost overhead in summer evenings. It is dominated by the blue-white star, Vega, third brightest star visible from mid northern latitudes. The Parallelogram of Lyra stretches southeast from Vega.



Delta Lyrae is a wide optical double star, easily resolved with 10x50 binoculars. Delta 1 & 2 are also the primary members of the obscure open cluster Stephenson 1.

οΣΣ525 – is a beautiful 6th mag. yellow-white & blue double star. View with 10x50 binoculars or a scope at low magnification.



To find Globular Cluster M56:
The cluster lies 60% between Gamma Lyrae and Beta Cygni (Albireo). M56 is 5° ese of Gamma. It appears as a small, round, grainy glow in a small telescope at 50 power.
Distance: 33,000 light-years.

Epsilon Lyrae

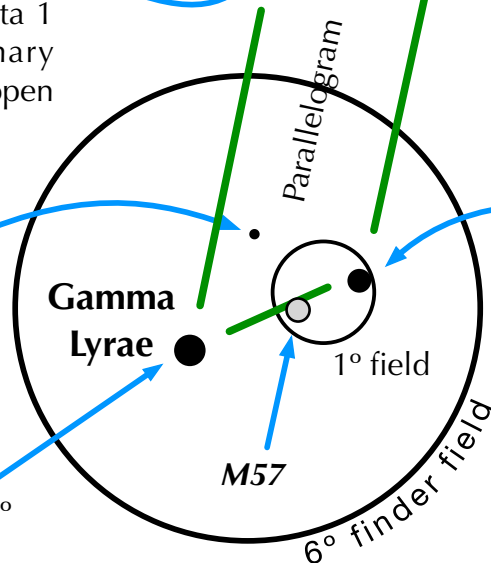
A wide double star, easily split through 10x50 binoculars. Under high magnifications, each star splits again, giving Epsilon its nickname: *the Double-Double*.

Alpha Lyrae
beautiful blue-white
Vega

Zeta Lyrae is a nice double star, barely resolved with 10x50 binoculars.

Beta Lyrae

Over a two week period, its brightness fluctuates between that of Gamma and Zeta.



To find Planetary Nebula M57, the deep sky highlight of Lyra:

Although it is called a "planetary nebula," it has nothing to do with the planets.

1. Find the parallelogram of Lyra.
2. M57 lies 60% between Gamma and Beta Lyrae. If Beta is placed at the nw edge of a low power eyepiece field, M57 will be found near the se edge.
3. It appears very small and dim, and slightly oblong.
Distance: 2000 light-years.