



Astrophotography Practice Files: Orion Nebula (M42)

# Introduction

This is a set of practice files for stacked deep sky astrophotography post-processing.

Included is the source data for stacking in calibrated FIT format. This particular data was gathered with with monochrome filters, and can be stacked to create a bi-colour HOO (or similar) composition.

An Affinity Photo document file is also included, so you can fully explore the non-destructive layer stack—you can hide, show and manipulate layers and see how they all contribute to the final result.

Many of the non-destructive techniques used are as a result of my Astrophotography Macros for Affinity Photo. You can download them for free from my website: <https://jamesritson.co.uk/resources.html>

Layers are colour coded:

- Pixel layers, such as greyscale/colour data.
- Adjustment layers, used to modify tones and perform tone stretching.
- Live filter layers, used to apply various filter effects non-destructively.
- Vector layers, such as gradient fills used to remove background colour casts.
- Merged/created pixel layers, such as tone stretched or retouching layers.
- Adjustment layers operating non-destructively in a different colour space (e.g. LAB).

Thank you for downloading, and I hope this example gives you some good ideas for editing your own astrophotography images in Affinity Photo!

## Installation

1. Extract all files from the ZIP to a directory of your choice.
2. If you wish to stack the original data, you can find it in the *M42 Orion Nebula Data* folder.
3. To view the .afphoto document and see the non-destructive workflow, you will require Affinity Photo. If you do not have the app, you can download a free trial from <https://affinity.serif.com/photo/#buy>

## Credits

Editing by James Ritson. Data obtained using iTelescope remote telescope services.

