Astrophotography Practice Files: Pleiades (M45)

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 a OSC (one shot colour) setup, so the stacking process is very straightforward.

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 *M45 Pleiades 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.