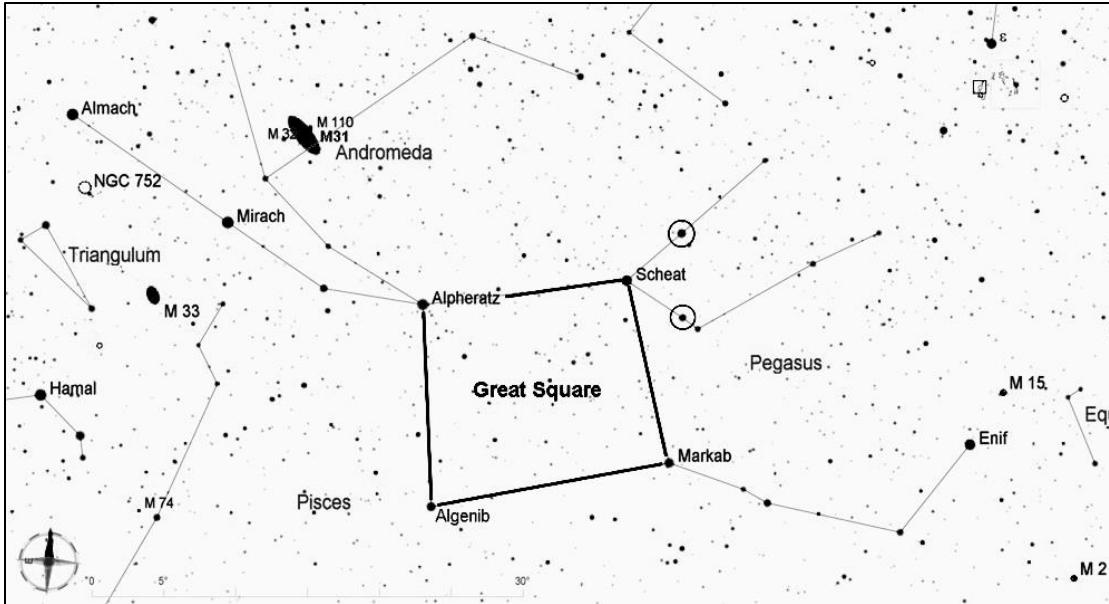


Messier 15, Globular Cluster in Pegasus

Messier 15 is one of the brightest globular clusters at magnitude 6.1, and it has a very dense core. This can be seen through a telescope by comparing the relative brightness of its center to other large globulars like M13 or M22. The cluster is estimated to be about 33,000 light years away, and to contain over 100,000 stars. It is a nice sight through telescopes of small or medium aperture, and the view through a large Dobsonian scope is spectacular.



Start by finding the Great Square of Pegasus, which rises in the eastern sky during the early fall evenings, is high overhead later in the fall, and sinks in the western sky during early winter. To be sure you know how the square is oriented in the sky, look for the two stars outside the northwest corner of the square (circled in the chart here) that form a small triangle with Scheat.

Starting from Markab at the southwest corner of the Great Square, follow the chain of stars to theta (θ) Pegasi, then take a left to Enif, the brightest star in that region of the sky. Extend the line from θ through Enif to a spot about 4 degrees northwest, as shown in the chart below, and point your telescope there. With a low-power eyepiece, you should be able to spot M15 as a hazy ball. Then use higher magnification to get the best views of this cluster.

