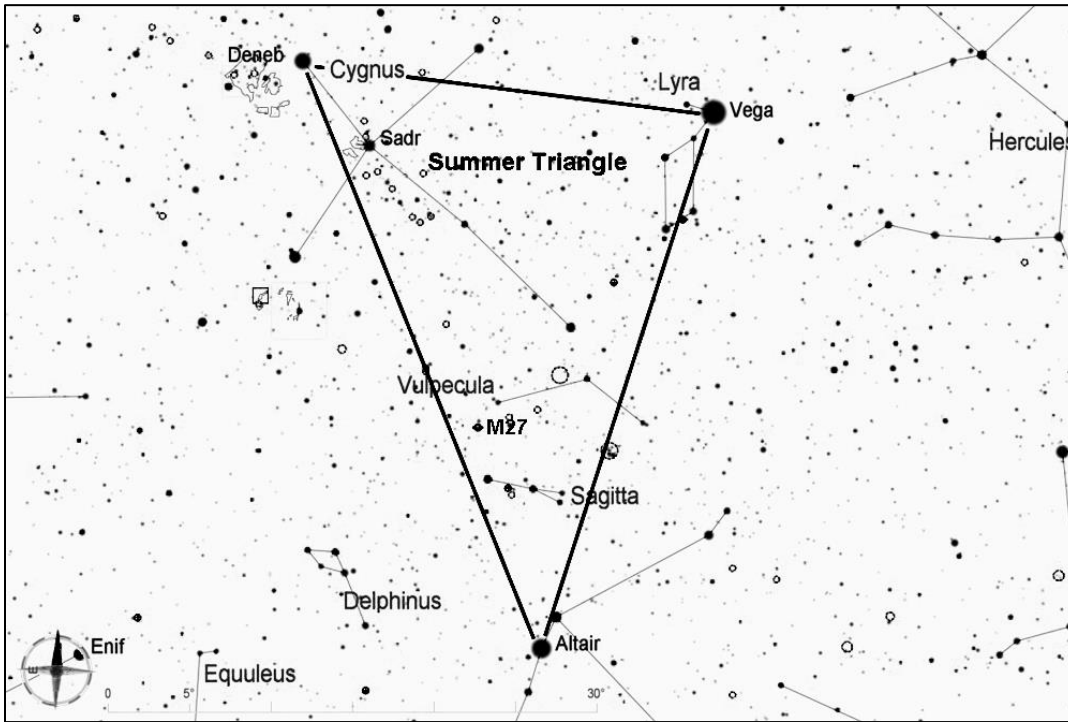


Omicron 1 Cygni, Triple Star in Cygnus

This is a very attractive trio because of their contrasting colors--orange, blue, and white. The three stars can be resolved in binoculars (if held steady or on a tripod) and through the smallest of telescopes. The stars are apparently not physically close together but simply in the same line of sight, but this does not detract from the beauty of these colorful stars in a Milky Way background.



Start by finding the Summer Triangle, which consists of the three of the brightest stars in the sky--Vega, Deneb, and Altair. The Summer Triangle is high overhead throughout the summer, and it sinks lower in the west as fall progresses.

For this star hop, start from Deneb, the first-magnitude star that forms the tail of Cygnus, the swan (or if you visualize the brightest stars of Cygnus as a cross shape, Deneb is at the top of the cross).

Omicron 1 and Omicron 2 appear as a matching pair about 5 degrees to the northwest of Deneb. Omicron 1 is a good target for novice observers because it is so easy to find and shows nice color variations among the stars.

