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# Astronomy

November 2011/£3.50


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**NOW**

## Three miles high

Pages 15, 20-23

**We climb the peaks of  
the Atacama Desert  
to visit Europe's new  
telescopes**

- 
- **How to see the planets in the daytime**
  - **Herschel's infrared mission so far**
  - **Faster-than-light particles found?**



**The classic Skylight f/15  
mini-achromat refractor reviewed!**





◀ Daniel Coe's lunar portrait was taken with a Sky-Watcher 120ED DS Pro with a William Optics III 0.8 reducer and an Atik 314L+ camera and Astronomik O III filter. Twenty 1/1000-second frames were stacked in *Maxim DL* and sharpened in *Photoshop*.

◀ Below left: This image of the Pelican Nebula was composed by Martin Stirland from Norfolk using an Ikharios 102mm f/7 apochromatic refractor, QSI583swg CCD, Astrodon filters and G11 mount. The image comprises 20 × 10 min subs in hydrogen-alpha, 30 × 10 minutes subs in O III, and a synthetic green channel was made up of both hydrogen-alpha and O III mixed together and then applied with hydrogen-alpha as red and O III as blue to produce the final image.



▲ NGC 7129 in Cepheus, a flower-shaped reflection nebula and star-forming region, was taken by M. Stathis with an AT8RC telescope at f/8 and a QHY8 camera. The image comprises 15 hours of exposure time made up from 10 and 15 minute exposures, and processed in *DeepSkyStacker*, *Pixinsight* and *Photoshop*.

**New online  
picture  
gallery!**

see P98 for details



◀ Rob Stinson from Perth, Australia, took this image of the Swan Nebula, M17, with a Takahashi TOA-150B on a Takahashi EM-400 Temma2M mount, with a SBIG ST-4000XCM camera and Takahashi Field Flattener. Six 20-minute colour frames were taken and processed using *The SkyX*, *CCDSOFT* and *Nebulosity*.