

tact us. (From June 1, the scientific responsibility for remote observing has been passed from DB to George Meylan.)

### References

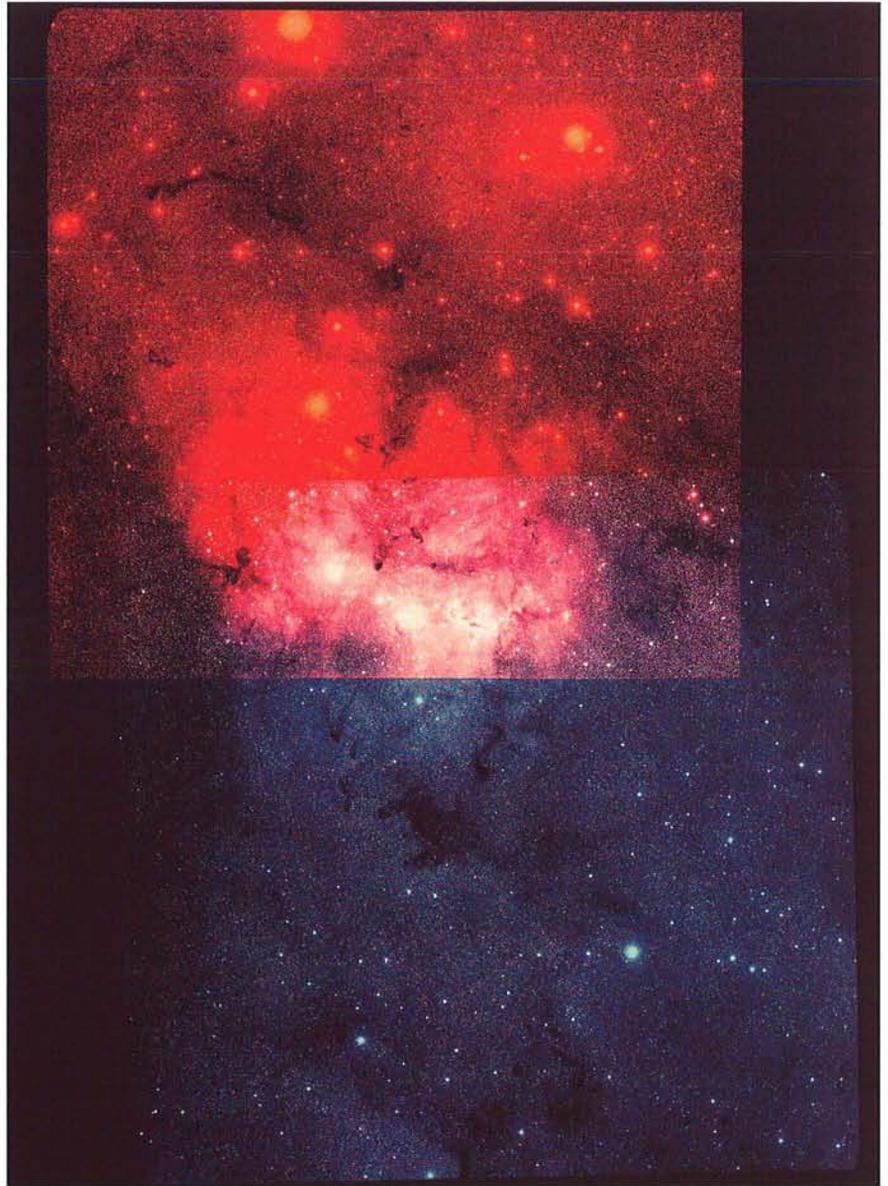
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## A Two-Colour Composite of IC 1396

The composite photo provides a good illustration of the usefulness of two-colour work in astronomy.

Two photographic plates for the Palomar/ESO Atlas of the Northern Sky (now being reproduced at ESO) of fields 146 (R) and 188 (B) were enhanced directly without any masking to reveal the



fine details in the dust and gas clouds of this nebula which covers almost two complete fields. The amplified films were then copied onto Ilfochrome colour paper through a monochrome colour filter. The overlapping area appears as a two-colour composite which makes it possible to separate directly objects of different colour. Great care had to be taken to obtain the best possible superposition of the two plates, especially as there are slight differences in the plates near the edges.

Unlike most present-day astronomical observations, this composite provides a very-wide-field image of a sky area of about  $6^\circ \times 10^\circ$ .

The second photo is an enlargement of an area east (left) of the centre of the larger one. There are lots of interesting details. Note, however, that some of the rectilinear shapes in the nebula are at least partly due to the reflection pattern of a very bright star seen in the upper-right part of the "red" image.

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