
Data of the sky region at the time of the observation	SQM-L 21.5 IR -38 Temperature 1°
Data of the night.....	Sun alt: -66,4° Moon alt: -53.4°
Data of the object.....	Alt: 50.7° Az: 77.5°
Telescope	Stargate 18"



It is the first open cluster of the three Auriga clusters that I observe tonight. The night is very good with a very contrasty Milky Way.

M38 is a very large and very bright open cluster but as the magnifications are low and the field is more than 1° I can also see **NGC 1907** at the edge of the field, which gives a very suggestive image. M38 is uniform with very

punctual stars of similar magnitude, occupying more than 20% of the eyepiece field, while NGC 1907 is a small object, more compact but also allowing individual observation of its stars because they are easily resolvable. However, its brightness is much lower.

Nagler 31mm (70x - 1° 10' - 6.6mm)

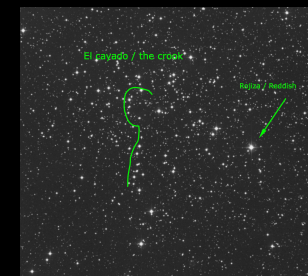
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The punctuality of the stars really catches my attention and it is what makes the object so beautiful. I strongly recommend a correct collimation to get this view at low magnifications. It is not complicated as I have not gone beyond 100x. At the edge of the cluster at 4:00, there is a reddish star, with a slightly higher brightness than the rest of its companions.

From the shape of M38 I highlight those stars that are in the center making a kind of semicircle, I see that below them follows a more or less straight line. I call this

‘the crook’ of M38, because it reminds me of that kind of cane used by shepherds in rural areas both to walk and to defend themselves.



Nagler 22mm (98x - 50' - 4.7mm)

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It continues to be a pleasure to observe the cluster and I am beginning to discover some curious details.

For example, accompanying these bright, individual stars of similar magnitude there are clearly others much less bright that causes a feeling of background cloudiness. However, these fainter stars are not evenly distributed in the cluster, but, curiously, follow the same distribution as the brighter stars, which causes black *holes* in the cluster itself. I describe it as *rivers of darkness* running through the

cluster. It is a very rewarding exercise to look for contrasts of darkness within the cluster itself.

But, without a doubt, what is most striking is the very uniform and punctual brightness of its main stars and the large number of them. Of a bluish-white color, they look like dewdrops or quartz grains shining in the black tapestry of the firmament.



Delos 14mm (154x - 28' - 3mm)

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**Ethos 10mm (216x - 27' - 2.1mm)**

How lovely to gaze at so much field with the object so large. Despite the magnification, as I am observing about 28 arc minutes of actual field, M38 still retains its coherence and can be observed as a whole against the surrounding firmament.

I have indicated this in previous eyepieces, but what is most striking without a doubt is the punctuality of the

stars, their similar brightness and the sheer number of them scattered throughout the cluster.

An image that sticks in your brain. It is, frankly, a beautiful object. Compact enough to identify it as an object in itself, but also open enough to delight in every star in it.

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Ethos 8mm (270x - 22' - 1.7mm)

I was so surprised by the vision with this eyepiece that, for a moment, I went back to the 31mm to compare the image given by one eyepiece and the other. And without a doubt, at least for my criteria of beauty, the high magnification wins by a landslide; at low magnification it is a poorer view. I mean, at low magnification the object is beautiful, but the brightness of the firmament is such that deprives it of some of its charm because it does not contrast as nicely (I imagine what it must be like to observe from really black skies and I shudder). Also the size of the object at low

magnifications is, despite being a large open cluster, ridiculous when compared to the 8mm Ethos. Just, at high magnifications, the stars are scattered all over the eyepiece and you imagine approaching that cluster from space and you start dreaming with your eyes open. The background sky is also much blacker because the exit pupil has been greatly reduced, and the contrast that your brain is able to perceive is overwhelming.

Pure joy in a real way. Wonderful.