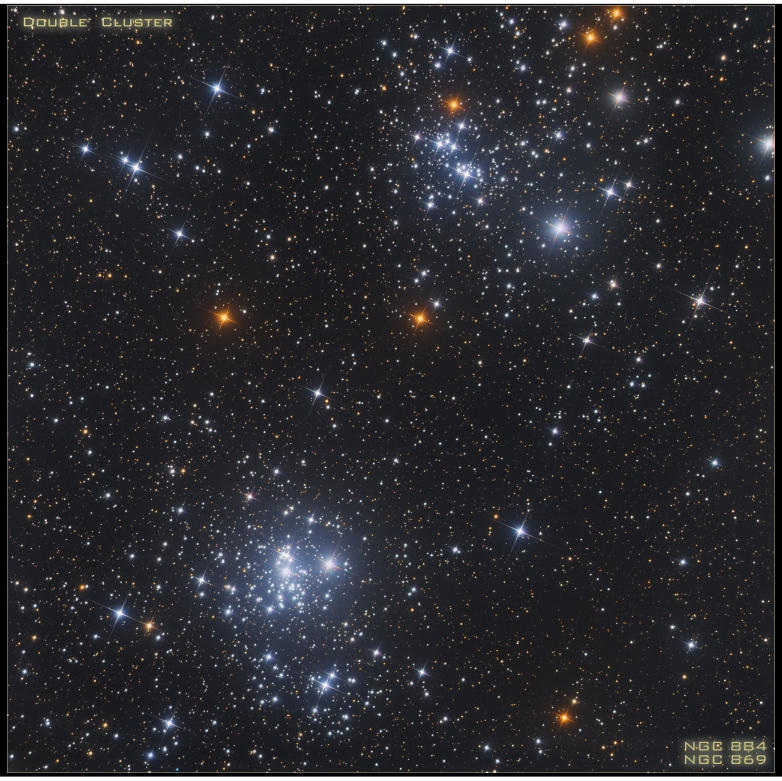
0221

Double Cluster



Quick Facts:

Distance: 7,000 Light-years.

Size: Both clusters together span approx. 100 Light-years.

Constellation: Perseus.

NGC 869 and NGC 884. A beautiful pair of clusters visible to the naked as the “stars” h and Chi (χ) Persei. They are physically close in the sky as well as appearing close to one another. Relatively young, they are only 10-20 million years old.

Find it: It's easy to find using Cassiopeia's W. Star-hop: imagine the line formed by the third and fourth stars from the W's west or leading end. Follow this eastwards twice its length. GOTO: NGC (New General Catalogue) or NAMED OBJECTS.

Image from Antonucci, et al., ADARA Astrobrallo. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.