0546

Messier 78

Quick Facts:

Distance: 1350 Light-years. Size: 2 light-years.
Constellation: Orion.
A reflection nebula shining by the light of two stars at its north end. A cone-shaped dust cloud that hides 200 protostars within. It's a small object only about a quarter the apparent size of the moon. Part of the same giant molecular cloud complex that includes the Orion Nebula.
Find it: Sweep 3 degrees NNE of Alnitak (the eastern belt star). GOTO: M (Messier).

Image: ESO/Igor Chekalin. Quick reference card by Derek Wallentinsen.