

The Observer's Challenge Objects

Submitted by Larry McHenry, Pittsburgh, PA, USA. <http://stellar-journeys.org>

May: **NGC 4284/4290** – Galaxy Pair – Ursa Major; mag_v=10.2; RA: 12h 22m 00s Dec: +57° 57' 07"

The galaxy pair **NGC4284/4290** is located in the spring constellation of Ursa Major - 'The Great Bear'.

NGC4284 is a +mag 14 SBC spiral, located about 192 million light years distant, and about 145,000 light-years in size. **NGC4290** is a +mag 12.7 SBC barred spiral, located about 152 million light years distant, and about 94,000 light-years in size

William Herschel discovered NGC4289 (H2 798) and NGC4290 (H2 805) in 1789 using his 20 ft reflector telescope in his backyard garden at his home in Slough, near Windsor Castle.

EAA Observation:

04/22/2025 from dark-sky location of the ORAS Observatory, PA.

Using an 8" SCT optical tube @ f6.3 on a GEM mount, with a CMOS/USB color camera and broadband filter @ 180-second guided exposure livestacked for 30 minutes.



Using EAA techniques, NGC4290 is the most prominent of the galaxy pair, displaying a bright bar bisecting the even brighter star-like galactic core. Faint spiral arms can be seen coming off either end of the bar, giving a ring-like impression. A much fainter oval surrounds the entire structure.

The smaller galaxy, NGC4284 is a highly inclined spiral containing a bright core and hints of spiral arms.