

<b>Prefix</b>	<b>Expansion</b> (many based on W.Steinicke explanation file, in bibliography; see Atlas introductions for others)
A.....	Anonymous galaxy from RC2 (de Vaucouleurs' Reference Cat. of Bright Galaxies, v.2).
Abell .....	Planetary nebula. George Abell cataloged faint Planetary Nebulae from a visual inspection of POSS I (Palomar Observatory Sky Survey, first survey) plates. Abell planetaries also have PK designations.
AB.....	Abell — He also cataloged faint clusters of galaxies from the POSS I plates, which bear at least two other equivalent acronyms: AGC (Abell Galaxy Cluster) or RCG (Catalogue of Rich Clusters of Galaxies).
AM.....	Arp & Madore (southern peculiar galaxy).
Andromeda .....	Constellation Andromeda. Some objects are designated by discovery order in a given constellation, or simply by the constellation in which they are found: Andromeda I, Andromeda II, etc., or the Aquarius Dwarf, the Sagittarius Dwarf, and so on.
ARAK .....	Arakelian (galaxy).
ARP .....	Atlas of Peculiar Galaxies, Halton C. Arp, AJ supplement 123, vol. XIV, pp. 1-20, 11/66.
B.....	E. E. Barnard. 349 objects from the 1927 'A Photographic Atlas of Selected Regions of the Milky Way', the first photographic survey of the northern milky way to illustrate 'starless voids', which we now know to be opaque clouds of gas or dust that obscure the background star field.
Basel.....	Basel Astronomical Institute. New Open Clusters. Latest is number 20.
BCL.....	Boulesteix cluster (HII region in M33).
Berkeley .....	Open cluster. University of California at Berkeley investigations of POSS I plates for faint (often extremely faint) and rich open star clusters. 90 known. As with many of the cluster surveys within the Lynga (Lund) master list, positions are not infrequently imprecise, and known cross-referencing (rough equivalents in other cluster catalogs) is sporadic.
Bochum .....	Open cluster. Example: NGC 2409 = Bochum 4.
3C .....	Third Cambridge Catalogue of Radio Sources.
CAG1 .....	Carnegie Atlas of Galaxies, vol. 1.
CAN .....	Galaxy Cluster Assignment Number.
CED .....	Cederblad, 1946 (diffuse galactic nebula). Stefan Cederblad. 'Studies of bright diffuse galactic nebulae with special regard to their spatial distribution'.
CGMW .....	Catalogue of Galaxies Behind the Milky Way.
COU .....	Coutès (H-alpha emission nebula).
Cz .....	M. Czernik. 'New Open Clusters' listing.
DCL .....	Dickens, Currie, Lucey (galaxy in Centaurus Cluster).
DDO.....	David Dunlop Observatory (dwarf galaxy).
DFOT .....	Doi, Fugugita, Okamura, Tarusawa (galaxy in Coma Cluster).
DG .....	Dorschner & Gürtler (reflection nebula).
Djargovsky.....	Globular cluster: NGC 6540 = Djargovsky 3.
Do.....	Dolidze open cluster. Title of DoDz paper, below, describes what to expect when searching out Do clusters
DoDz.....	Dolidze/Dzimselejsvili. A list of 34 neglected entries from star cluster catalogues located at relatively high galactic latitudes which appear to be candidate late stages of star cluster dynamical evolution — from a paper entitled 'Dissolving star cluster candidates' — which describes what to expect by way of appearance.
DRCG.....	Dressler Cluster of Galaxies (galaxies in different clusters).
DWB .....	Dickel, Wendker, Bieritz. A catalog of Ha (Hydrogen Alpha) emission nebulae in the Cygnus X region. Most of these are faint to very faint photographic nebulae.
ESO .....	ESO/Uppsala Survey of the ESO(B)-Atlas. From the European Southern Observatory southern hemisphere photographic survey from Chile. Format: first number = field, second number = object in field. If the format contains no letters, the object is a galaxy, otherwise letters are used for special types: RN=reflection nebula (e.g. ESO 123-RN7), SC=star cluster, EN=emission nebula, PN=planetary nebula, *N=star(s) in nebula, N*=nebula and star.
FAIR.....	Fairall (compact and bright nucleus galaxy).
Fath .....	Galaxy: Fath 703 = NGC 5892.

FCC .....Fornax Cluster Catalogue.

FGC.....Flat Galaxy Catalogue (the extension is FGCE; the addendum is referred by a following 'A').

GCL .....Globular Cluster; from the Catalogue of Star Clusters and Associations.

GN .....Atlas of Galactic Nebulae. Compilation of Milky-Way nebulous objects from the POSS I survey for north of -33 degrees declination, and from the ESO/SRC Atlas for south of -33 degrees declination.

HARO.....Galaxy with UV excess.

Henize.....Planetary nebula; NGC 5408 = Henize 959.

HCG .....Hickson compact group of galaxies.

Holm.....Holmberg Dwarf galaxy; Holmberg VI (Holmberg 004) = NGC 1325A.

IAU .....International Astronomical Union.

IC.....Index Catalog. Additional objects to supplementing the NGC. Published in two installments. Objects originate from a variety of observers' notes, and via photographic inspection. The assemblage is fraught with duplications and debatable positions. Follow the NGC/IC Project link for background information.

IRAS .....IRAS catalogue of infrared sources.

J .....Jonkheere; J 475 = NGC 6741 (planetary nebula).

KARA .....Karachentseva (isolated galaxy).

KAZ.....Kazayan (emission line galaxy).

KCPG .....Karachentsev isolated pair of galaxies.

KDWG.....Karachentsev dwarf galaxy.

Keeler .....Galaxy; NGC 5866A = Keeler 690.

King .....I. King. A Harvard astronomers 'New Open (galactic) Clusters' listing. Latest number is 26.

KUG .....Kiso UV galaxy.

LBN .....Lynds' (Beverly, ) Bright Nebula (emission nebula) Catalog. 1965 photographic catalog of HII regions from the POSS I red plates.

LDN .....Lynds' (Beverly, ) Dark Nebula Catalog; LDN 1653 = NGC 2313. 1962 photographic catalog of dark nebulae from the POSS I red plates.

LGG .....Lyon Group of Galaxies catalogue.

LT .....L. Thompson (ring galaxy).

Lund .....Open cluster. "Catalogue of Open Cluster Data, 5th Edition" is based on documentation received by Gösta Lyngå in February 1987. The catalog includes 1212 eclectic "entries" that cross-reference with OCL cluster.

M .....Messier; M 110 = NGC 205 is included, M 40 and M 45 are not; all other , except M 25 = IC 4725, are in the NGC. Charles Messier was a French amateur comet hunter of the mid 1700's. He began listing nebulous comet-like objects which did not change their nightly sky position — being non-comets. This visually compiled listing from several comet hunters contains many of the biggest, brightest deep-sky examples visible from the Northern hemisphere.

MCG .....Morphological Catalogue of Galaxies; first number = declination zone (+15 to -6, "+" sign is omitted), second number = field in zone (by right ascension), third number = galaxy in field. Morphological Catalog of Galaxies. Comprehensive Soviet classification of galaxies based on the POSS I plates.

Mel .....Melotte (open cluster); Mel 15 = IC 1805.

MK.....Markarian (galaxy with UV continuum).

MOL.....A Master List of Nonstellar Optical Astronomical Objects. This is a 1980 book that is a compendium of approximately 185,000 listings from 270 catalogs

MRSL .....Mars'alkov'a Catalogue of galactic nebulae, 1974.

OCL .....Open Cluster; from the Catalogue of Star Clusters and Associations.

New .....Galaxy (Shapley-Ames); New 2 = NGC 4507. Also observe frequent ESO equivalents.

NGC .....“New General Catalogue of Nebulae and Clusters of Stars”, Dreyer's great visual catalog of 1886, from the 1864 “General Catalogue” — compiled largely by Sir William and Sir John Herschel from observations in the mid 1800's from both hemispheres. As recent as 1973 the NGC was rather problematically “revised” into the RNGC. As with the IC catalog, see The NGC/IC Project for more details. Also, search out The Interactive NGC Catalog Online from SEDS.

NPM1G .....Lick Northern Proper Motion Survey Galaxy Catalogue; Format: declination zone (°) + number.  
 Pal .....Palomar Globular Clusters. Very faint Globular Clusters discovered on POSS I plates.  
 Parsamyan.....E. S. Parsamyan. From an Armenian astronomer's 1965 catalog.  
 PGC .....Catalog of Principal Galaxies.  
 PHL .....Palomar-Haro-Luyten (blue star or galaxy); PHL 1226 = IC 1746.  
 PK.....L. Perek and L. Kohoutek (planetary nebula); format: galactic coordinates. The 1967 'Catalogue of Galactic and Planetary Nebulae'. The first extensive catalog of the various later stages of stellar evolution (when stars expel their outer layers).  
 PNG .....Planetary Nebulae, Galactic coordinates. Designation is from the 'Strasbourg-ESO Catalogue of Galactic Planetary Nebulae' — one of the most comprehensive catalogs of planetary nebulae, published by the European Southern Observatory.  
 PRC .....Polar ring galaxy.  
 RB .....Rood & Baum (galaxy in Coma Cluster).  
 RB .....Raab open cluster.  
 RBS .....ROSAT Bright Survey.  
 Reinmuth.....Galaxy; Reinmuth 80 = NGC 4517A.  
 Reiz .....Galaxy (this identification is given only if no other identification is available).  
 Ruprecht.....Open cluster (Ruprecht 166 = NGC 5120).  
 SBS .....Second Byurakan Survey (UV excess objects).  
 SCL- NED .....Super CLuster, NASA Extragalactic Database.  
 SDSS .....Sloan Deep Sky Survey.  
 SG .....Shain & Gaze (emission nebula).  
 SGC .....Southern Galaxy Catalogue.  
 Sh2.....Sharpless (emission nebula). From the second catalog of HII regions by S. Sharpless. Found from examination of the red POSS I plates  
 Shkh .....Shakhbazian (compact galaxy in compact group).  
 SS.....Struve & Straka (galactic nebula); SS 20 = IC 2067.  
 1SZ, 2SZ.....Southern Zwicky compact galaxies (2 lists).  
 Todd .....Todd (galaxy); found during his „Telescopic Search for the Trans-Neptunian Planet“, AN 113, 153 (1885); some new identifications were found by Klaus Wenzel.  
 TOL.....Tololo (emission line galaxy).  
 UGC .....Uppsala General Catalogue of Galaxies. Based on POSS I plates. Complete to a diameter of 1.0 arc minutes, north of -02 degrees 30 minutes of declination.  
 UGCA.....Catalogue of Selected Non-UGC Galaxies.  
 UM.....University of Michigan (emission line galaxy).  
 URA .....Uranova (stellar ring); URA 50 = IC 1311.  
 VCC .....Virgo Cluster Catalog (galaxy).  
 vdB(-Hagen) ...Van den Bergh-Hagen (open cluster); VdB-Hagen 208 = NGC 6256.  
 VDB (vdB) .....Van den Bergh (reflection nebula); VDB 66 = NGC 2149. Sidney van de Bergh, from the 1966 paper on 'A study of Reflection Nebulae'. Found from examining the blue POSS I plates.  
 VMT.....Van den Bergh, Marschner & Terzian (supernova remnant); VMT 9 = IC 443.  
 VV.....Vorontsov-Velyaminov (interacting galaxy).  
 WAS .....Wasilewski (emission line galaxy).  
 Z .....Galaxy listed in the Catalogue of Selected Compact Galaxies and of Post-Eruptive Galaxies only by 1950-coordinates, which are appended.  
 ZH.....Zwicky-Humason (galaxy in Abell 194); IC 1693 = ZH 32.  
 ZWG .....Zwicky's Catalogue of Galaxies and of Clusters of Galaxies; the designation CGCG is also in use (with '-' instead of our '.'); Format: first number = field, second number = galaxy in field.  
 1ZW.7ZW.....Catalogue of Selected Compact Galaxies and of Post-Eruptive Galaxies, based on 7 lists.  
 8ZW.....Eighth List of Compact Galaxies.