

## How many of the Messier objects are visible with the naked eye

Answers



**Best Answer:** For an average person at a dark sky site, probably half a dozen or so.

M13, M31, M42, M45, M44 and M24 are all pretty easy, as are M7 and M8. Some, like M33, would seem to be easy based on magnitude (5.7), but that light is spread out over such a large area (larger than the moon) that it has a low "surface brightness" that makes it hard to spot unless the sky is really dark.

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If we fix magn. 6 as the threshold only the following are visible to the naked eye:

M 13, 24, 31, 34, 35, 39, 41, 42-43, 44, 45.

With urban light in the background only M44(Praesepe/Cancer), M45(Pleiades/Taurus) are visible.

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