



Sutherland Astronomical Society Inc.

Thank you for purchasing a limited edition glass astronomical plate. Your plate was produced as part of the ESO/SERC Southern Sky Survey conducted by the European Southern Observatory (ESO) and the UK's Science and Engineering Research Council (SERC) in the period between 1973 and 1988.



The plates were produced using either:

- The 1.2 metre UK Schmidt Telescope (left) at Siding Spring Mountain, NSW or
- The 1 metre ESO Schmidt Telescope (right) at La Silla, Chile.

Each plate represents an area of the southern hemisphere sky approximately 5 degrees by 5 degrees square and features a prominent star or other astronomical object.

Your purchase will help fund the education and outreach programs of the Sutherland Astronomical Society Inc. (SASI). To recognize your support, you will be included in the list of supporters maintained on our web site at <http://www.sasi.net.au>

Care and Cleaning

Glass plates are fragile and should be handled with care. Light cotton gloves as used by photographers and conservators are a good idea. The normal way to handle the plates is emulsion-side up, with your fingers under the plate and the large muscle of the thumb just over the edge. There is usually approximately 5mm around the edge that is image free.

To clean the emulsion side of your plate use ethanol sparingly (not methylated spirits, which contains pyridine) with a gentle swabbing motion with cotton wool or a clean linen cloth. Ethanol is hygroscopic (absorbs atmospheric moisture), so blowing on the ethanol to dry it is very bad - just waft air over it.

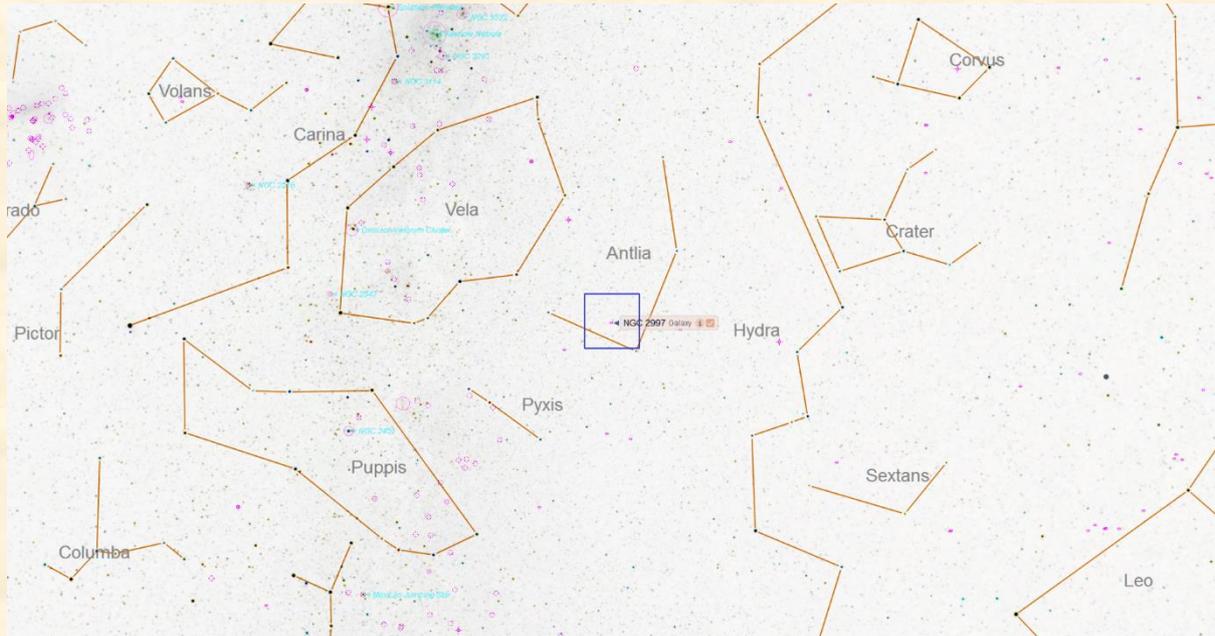
To clean the reverse side of your plate, put the plate face down on a clean cloth and wipe over the back with ethanol or ethanol with a trace of household ammonia.

Finger marks can be removed in this way. Scratches from microscopes, etc. cannot be removed.



ESO/SERC Southern Sky Survey Plate Number 1424

Constellation: Antlia (The Air Pump)
Right Ascension: 9h 46m 22.15s
Declination: $-31^{\circ} 16' 06.1''$



Prominent Object

NGC 2997 (Spiral Galaxy)

Type	SA(s)c
Distance	45 Million light years
Apparent dimensions (V)	8.9 arcminutes \times 6.8 arcminutes
Apparent magnitude (V)	10.1
Right ascension	09h 45m 38.8s
Declination	$-31^{\circ} 11' 28''$

NGC 2997 is a fine southern spiral galaxy seen from a distance of about 45 million light years. It is inclined at about 45 degrees to our line of sight, revealing its internal structure and giving the galaxy an oval appearance. Like most spirals, the galaxy has two prominent spiral arms, which appear to originate in the yellow nucleus, are peppered with bright red blobs of ionised hydrogen which are similar to regions of star formation in our own Milky Way. Within these gas clouds are produced the hot blue stars which generate most of the light in the arms of the galaxy. A much older population of yellowish stars are concentrated around the nucleus.

Certified genuine ESO/SERC Southern Sky Survey Plate

President, Sutherland Astronomical Society, Inc.