

Ring Nebula M57

The most famous of all planetary nebulae is M57, the Ring Nebula. It is the glowing remains of a Sun-like star. A white dwarf—the small, white dot in the center of the nebula—is the star's remnant hot core. False coloration is used in this image to indicate light from the nebula's different gaseous components. The deep blue area indicates the presence of glowing helium, the cyan color of the inner ring is from hydrogen and oxygen, and the red color of the outer ring is from nitrogen and sulfur.

Hubble Space Telescope – Wide Field Camera 3; Large Binocular Telescope NASA, ESA, C. R. O'Dell (Vanderbilt University), and D. Thompson (Large Binocular Telescope Observatory)