

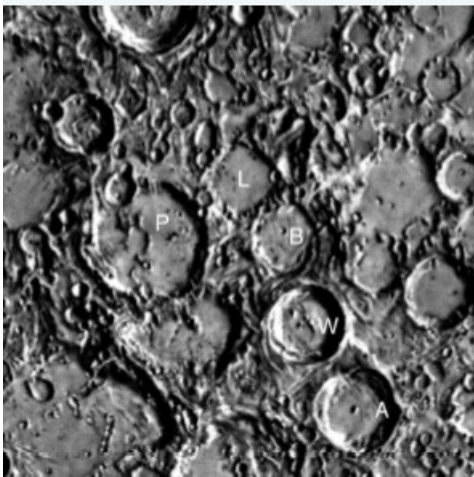
# Lunar X 2021

This is a famous "optical feature" on the Moon, which appears like the letter X when the terminator is at a suitable position. It is a fine example of how the combination of lighting and topography can combine to produce a pattern that repeats on each lunation, but only for a short time.

The X is observable for about 3 hours around the lunar First Quarter. If one knows when and where to look, the X can be observed with a modest telescope or even well-supported binoculars.

The illusion of the X is created by sunlight falling on the rims/ridges between the craters La Caille, Blanchinus, and Purbach. It appears when there is a  $-0.90^\circ$  Sun angle over the X.

There are three good X's (**Bold print**). Nov is dark 2<sup>nd</sup> hour, May and Sep dark 3<sup>rd</sup> hour. July has twilight 3<sup>rd</sup> hour. Daylight X's are underlined.



*The lunar region centered on topography that forms the X: Purbach(P), La Caille(L), Blanchinus(B), Werner(W), and Aliancis(A).*



*SWAOG member Jeff's(WD9GVU) award winning photo of the Lunar X taken on March 22, 2010 through a Borg 76mm ED APO refractor with a 5mm Nagler.*

Start times for fully formed Lunar X. **Bold** are best opportunities.

JAN 20 - 1231 CST  
FEB 19 - 0230 CST  
MAR 20 - 1709 CDT

APR 19 - 0615 CDT  
**MAY 18 - 1841 CDT**  
JUN 17 - 0633 CDT

**JUL 16 - 1802 CDT**  
AUG 15 - 0528 CDT  
**SEP 13 - 1708 CDT**

OCT 13 - 0516 CDT  
**NOV 11 - 1703 CST**  
DEC 11 - 0630 CST

CDT - Central Daylight Time

CST - Central Standard Time

Wikipedia *Lunar X*

David M.F. Chapman. *The Lunar X Files*:

SWAOG (South West Astronomy Observers Group)

[https://the-moon.us/wiki/Lunar\\_X](https://the-moon.us/wiki/Lunar_X)

<http://wasociety.us/Lunar-X.pdf>

<http://www.swaog.com/>