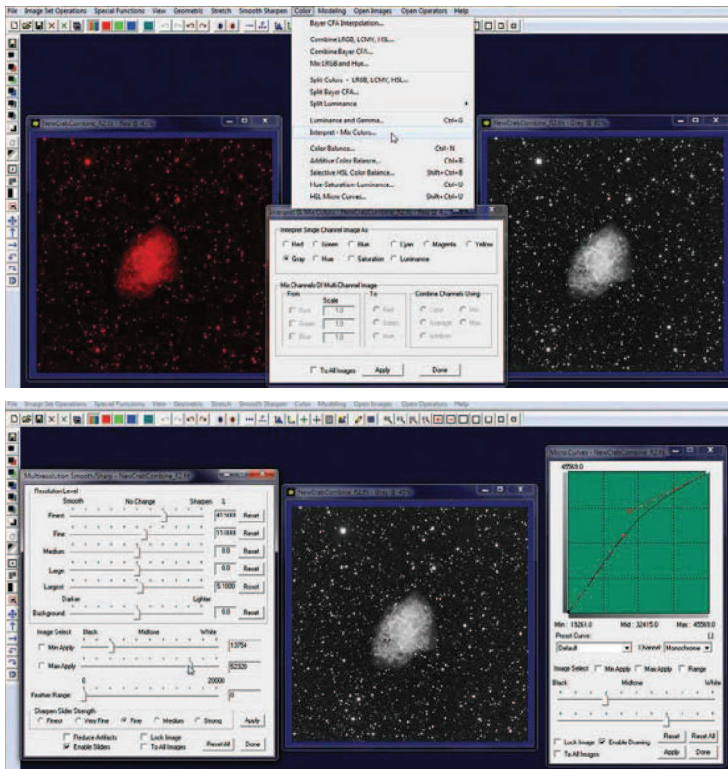




Top: It's difficult to see the entire range of values in the red channel when it's displayed in its red color in *ImagesPlus*, so the channel needs to be "reinterpreted" as a grayscale image. **Bottom:** Additional stretching to enhance the fainter nebulosity is easiest using the Micro Curves tool, whereas sharpening is best accomplished in *ImagesPlus* with the various sliders within the Multiresolution Sharpening Tool. Both can be used simultaneously on an image to give you greater control over the final result.

image using the Color / Split Colors function. A new window opens, where you can choose from a number of color models to work with; select the RGB option. In a moment, you'll have each color channel displayed as a new image, along with the color result. The individual channels are also displayed in their respective colors.

At this point, we need to make a copy of the red channel by clicking on the red image and selecting View / Duplicate Image to Scale. Next, change one of the red images to grayscale by choosing Color / Interpret & Mix Colors. Another dialog window opens, where you'll click the Gray button in the section Interpret Single Channel Image As. Click Apply, and then close the green and blue channel images. Now save and close the original red channel image; you will need this later.

It's important at this point to save this new "red luminance" image. Then you can stretch it to bring up the nebulosity you want to enhance in your final color result.

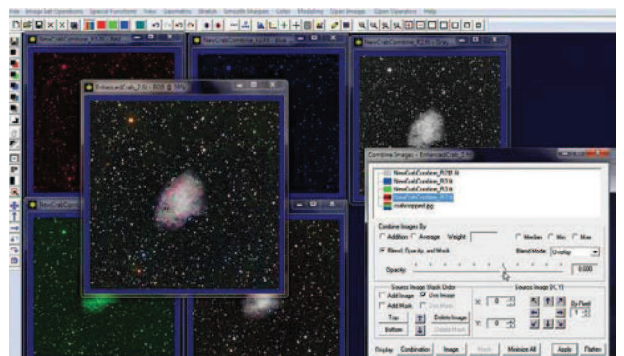
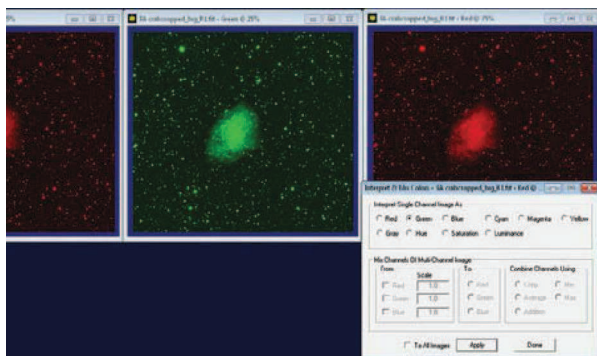
Stretching an image in *ImagesPlus* is best done using the Micro Curves tool (Stretch / Micro Curves). You set the grayscale range that you'd like to boost using the two sliders, and you manipulate the curve using the two red points on the graph.

You can sharpen exposures in *ImagesPlus* with The Multiresolution Sharpening Tool (Smooth Sharpen / Multiresolution Smooth / Sharpen...). This tool has many options for sharpening large and small details, controlling background brightness, and feathering your sharpening area. I prefer to concentrate on sharpening brighter

color, skewed because we left out the data from H β and H γ . Fortunately, imagers have devised a fix.

Luminance Layering in ImagesPlus

We can produce a more natural color balance by blending our red image with each of the remaining color channels of our new RGB image in varying percentages of intensity. At that point, we can then add the red luminance layer to bring out more detail. In order to make these combinations possible, it's first necessary to calibrate, align, and combine all the images we'll be using. Once done with that, split the color channels of the new RGB



Left: To ensure a pleasing color balance in your final result, you'll want to blend a slight amount of the unenhanced red channel with the green and blue channels by opening the unenhanced red image, making two copies, and then reinterpreting one as green and the other as blue. **Right:** All your images are combined as layers in the Combine Images window from bottom to top, so make sure your color photo is at the bottom, the unenhanced red channel copies are in the middle, and your red luminance is at the top of the stack.