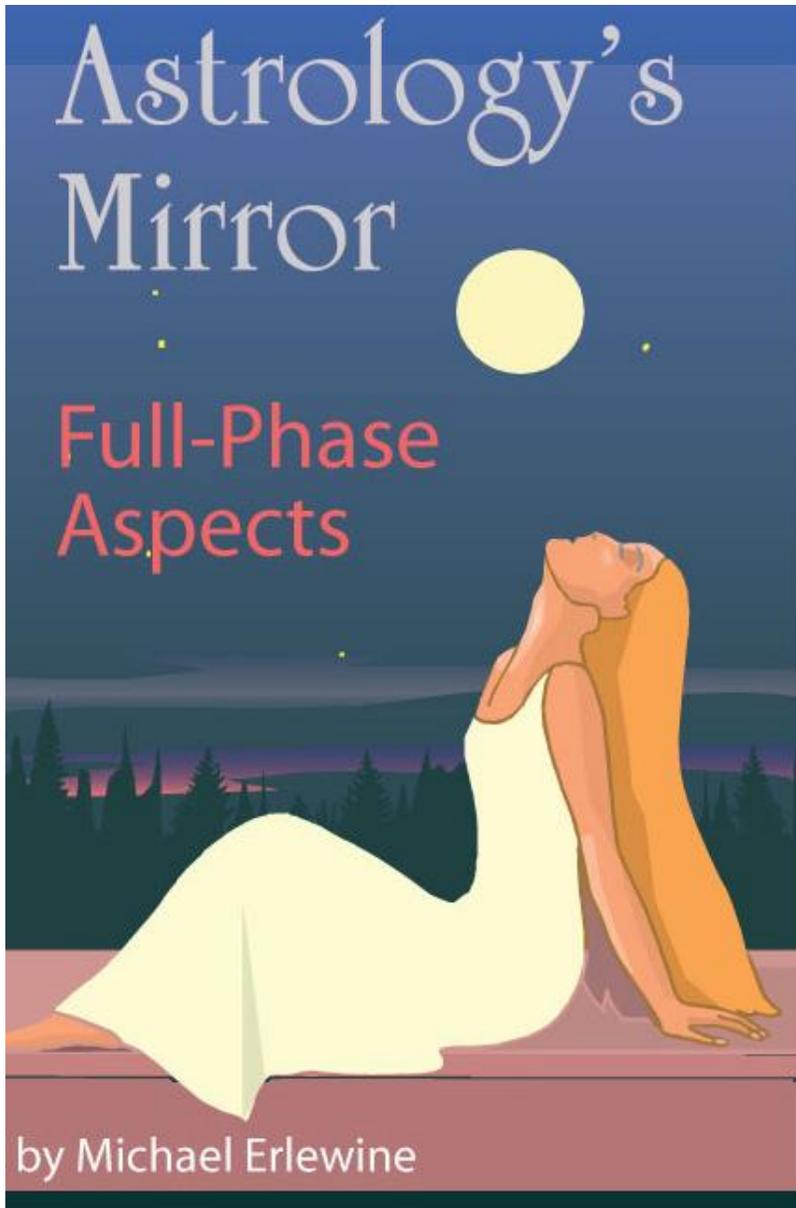


Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

**Astrology's
Mirror
Full-Phase Aspects**

By

Michael Erlewine

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

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Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

This book is dedicated to

Dane Rudhyar

L. Edward Johndro

Layla Hill

Champions of Full-Phase Aspects

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

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Here is a new way to look at aspects, using the same astrological tools you have always been using. There is nothing new added from outside, just some rearranging of what you already know. When I came across it, I was amazed.

All of these years I had been playing with the various aspects, like most astrologers, and then one day they began to fit together in a new way, like pieces in a crossword puzzle. Before I knew it, all of these parts I knew so well came together, and before me was a picture of my own chart I had never seen so clearly. I want to share that technique with you, and it is all about how to use the aspects. This book makes it easy for you to learn to look at aspects in a new light and see for yourself.

Most astrologers have a particular set of aspects and orbs that they use. Some just use the standard

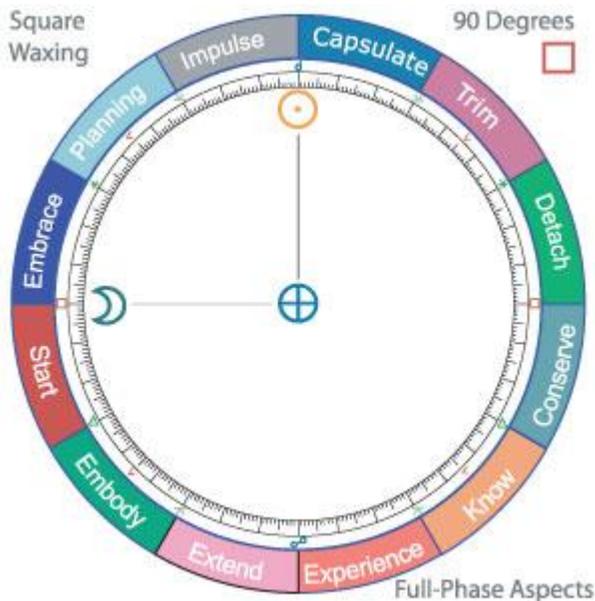
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Ptolemaic aspects, and others of us add to that list, even to the point of wandering into the various harmonic series.

The aspect orbs that we use determine whether that aspect is going to show up on our radar screen when we look at a chart, especially if we are using a computer. Obviously, the tighter the orbs, the less aspects that show up on the screen, and with wider orbs, we, of course, see more aspects.

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What Are Aspects?



Before we go any further into this, let's agree what we mean by aspects. Take any two heavenly bodies; it does not matter if it is the Sun or Moon, or one of the planets. One of any two bodies is moving faster and the other moves more slowly. The net effect is that the faster-moving planet describes a 360-degree circle or cycle of aspects to the slower moving body. The faster-moving planet goes from a conjunction with the slower body through a circle/cycle of 360-degrees and back around to the next conjunction. That is called the aspect cycle, and is what aspects are all about. Let's take the familiar solunar cycle as an example.

The solunar cycle (and astronomers call this a "synodic" cycle) begins with the Sun and Moon conjunct in the same zodiac degree at the moment of the New Moon. The Moon, being the faster-moving body, then begins to move away from the conjunction with the Sun and starts

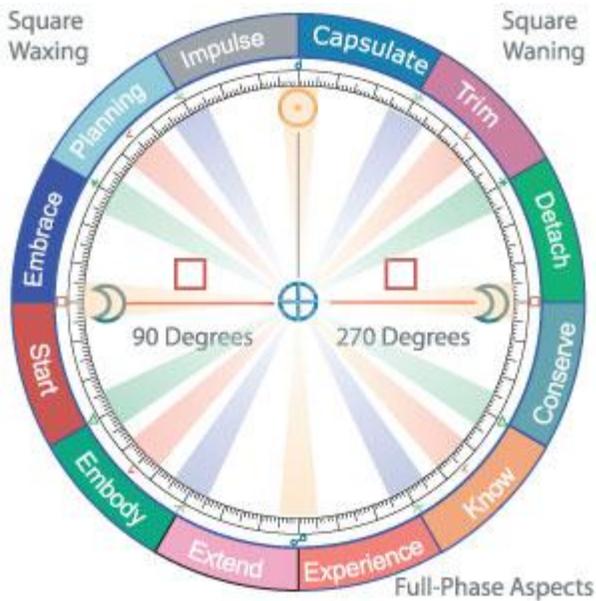
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to form aspects (angular arcs of separation) with the Sun, the most familiar being the First Quarter Moon (90 degrees), the Full Moon (180 degrees), and the Fourth Quarter Moon (270 degrees), after which the Moon moves to conjunct the Sun again, for another New Moon. The cycle continues on around, month after month.

This same type of synodic cycle of aspects takes place with any two heavenly bodies; it makes no difference which two you select. There is always one that moves faster, and one that moves more slowly. Aspects are formed, endlessly. It is happening now in the sky above. Each planet out there is in the process of forming or separating from one aspect or another with all the other planets.

In fact, the Sun, Moon, and planets are always involved with one another in these various aspect cycles, some 45 pairs of them (geocentrically), all going on at once.

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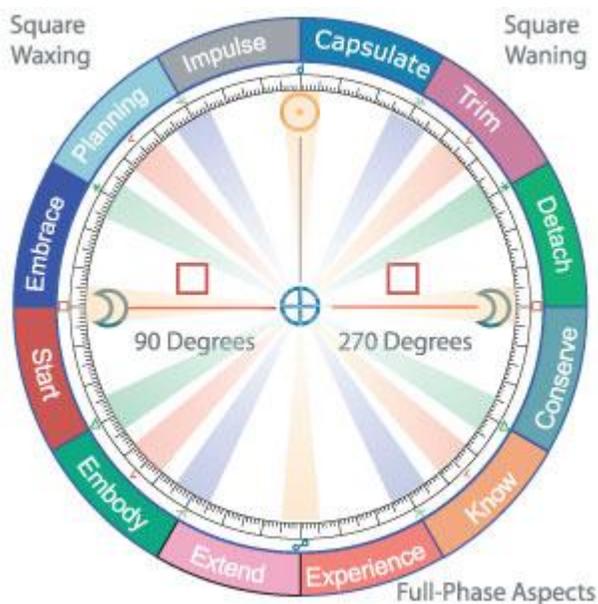
Why These Points?

Perhaps because there are so many aspects to consider all at once, astrologers have over the centuries picked certain points on the 360-degree aspect cycle and found them to be especially significant. We mentioned (using the solunar cycle) the 90-degree points (Square), and the halfway point (Opposition), which is the 180 degree point in the circle. Most astrologers add to this list, the 60-degree points (Sextile) and the 120-degree points (Trine). Still others want to include the 45-degree points (Semi-Square), and so on it goes.

If we kept adding points along the circle or cycle, we would eventually have all 360 degrees marked out. Some folks do, and the Sabian Symbols by Marc Edmund Jones has an interpretation for all 360 degrees of the zodiac. But let's back up a moment.

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We mentioned the 90-degree or Square points on the cycle, but there are two of these in any cycle. In the solunar cycle, there is the 90-degree point that marks the First Quarter, but there is also the 90-degree point that marks the Fourth Quarter. Each of these aspects is 90 degrees, and few astrologers would want to confuse a First Quarter Moon with a Fourth Quarter Moon. One leads to the light of the Full Moon, and the other to the dark of the New Moon. The same is true for the 60-degree (Sextile) and 120-degree (Trine) aspects. There are two of these in each cycle, as well. What are we to do with this fact that there are two of most aspects?



The Other Shoe

In modern astrology, almost all astrologers treat the 90-degree or square aspect as the same thing, whether it is that first 90-degree aspect (the waxing Square) or the second 90-degree aspect (the waning Square). The interpretation is the same. Yes, many astrologers would

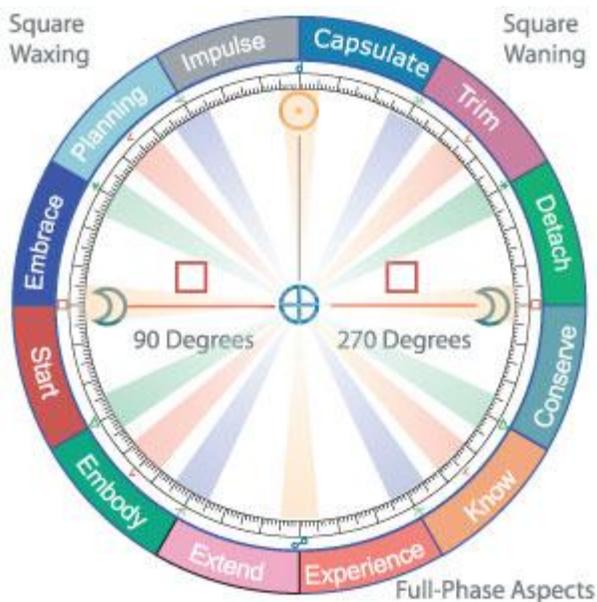
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perhaps make an exception with the familiar solunar cycle, and differentiate between a First Quarter Moon and a Fourth Quarter Moon, but when it gets to the planets, in all their various combinations, there is usually only one interpretation given.

A Square is a Square is a Square, and so on. However, not everyone agrees.

It is true that a very few astrologers have pointed out to the rest of us that, reasonably speaking, we ought to interpret a waxing Square differently from a waning Square, just as we do in the solunar cycle, most notably L. Edward Johndro and in particular Dane Rudhyar. Both of these authors writings have made it clear that we are missing something very important by grouping all squares, all sextiles, all trines, etc. together and interpreting each pair in the same manner. What are they trying to tell us?

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The Message about Aspects

If we read these authors (and I have), and others on this subject, here is their message to us. I will paraphrase and summarize what they have said:

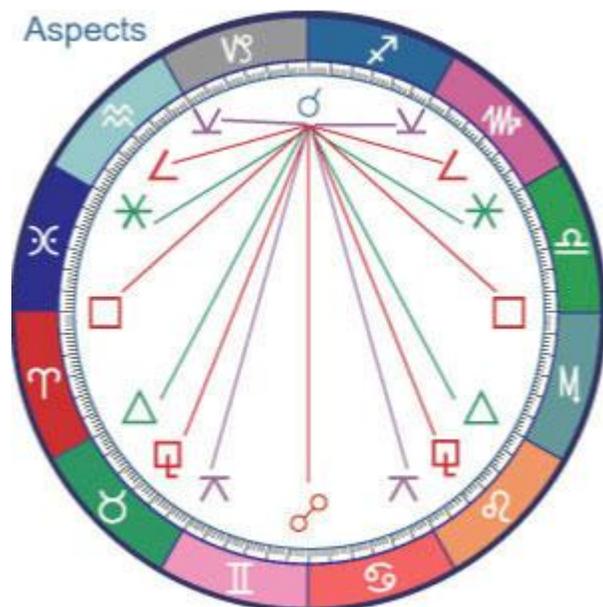
These cycles are living events in the heavens above, with a beginning, a middle, and an end, starting at the point of the conjunction of the two bodies, extending to the opposition, and then back to the next conjunction. It can be important for us to know, when we speak of an aspect like a Square, whether we are referring to the square at the beginning or the square at the end of the cycle.

If you asked me to help you plan a social outing, and I told you to have your social event "after" the Square aspect between the Sun and the Moon, it would be important, according to the tradition of astrology, to designate that it is the waxing Square, after which you should hold the party, and not the waning Square. If you

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threw the party after the waning Square, you would be holding it right before the New Moon, and the dark of the Moon in both Eastern and Western astrology is more of a time to hunker down, and not a time to celebrate.

Everyone knows that the Full Moon is when to get together. You get the idea, and I believe most of you would agree. We have this discrimination for the solunar cycle, but we don't extend this to the planetary aspects. Why is that?



Waxing and Waning Aspects

The point is that, according to Dane Rudhyar and others, we should discriminate in our interpretation between what are called waxing and waning aspects. An aspect is waxing if it occurs before the Opposition point (180 degrees), and it is waning if it takes place after the Opposition. There is the going out to the opposition, and the coming back from the Opposition. Therefore, we

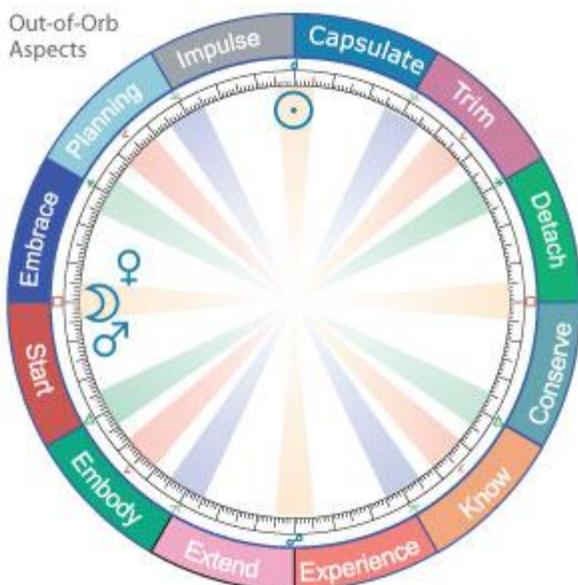
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would have a waxing Square and a waning Square, and same goes for Sextiles (60 degree), Trines (120 degree), Semi-Squares (45 degree), Sesqui-Quadrates (135 degree), Inconjunct (150 degree), and any other aspects you might care to use.

The only aspects that are not mirrored in this way are the Conjunction (zero degrees) and Opposition (180 degrees). They are the beginning and mid points of the cycle, and, in that sense, they stand alone.

Discriminating between waxing and waning aspects takes us a long way to re-invigorating our astrological interpretations. The question of how the interpretations differ between waxing and waning aspects is something I want to get to, but first there is a more important point to be made about the wholeness of cycles as they relate to individual aspects.

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Inconvenient Aspects

While it may have been a great convenience to astrologers over the centuries to have fixed upon a series of aspects, like the Square and Trine, and to have more-or-less ignored whatever takes place in between those aspects, we now need to take a good look at what we have been ignoring, and that is: the essential wholeness or continuum of these planetary cycles.

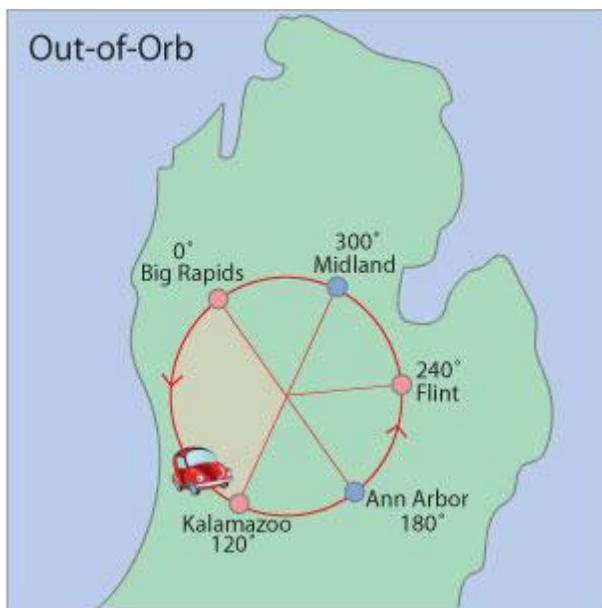
If we use aspect orbs, and most astrologers do, then no matter what orbs we use, there will always be the case where a planet is just one degree out of orb, and that aspect will not be taken into consideration by us. This is particularly true if we are using computerized astrology, which will simply not list an aspect if it is out-of-orb. What are we to do with these unlisted aspects?

We do know by looking at the chart that the unlisted aspect is either an aspect waiting to happen or an

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aspect that has just happened recently. It certainly is not any other aspect, and the fact that the aspect is very close to the particular aspect we have set orbs to, we can know it is at the very least in the same ballpark.

Regardless of what orbs we may have set, each and every planet is somewhere in its journey or relationship with every other planet. It is never "not out there," and it never somehow drops out of the cycle, but it always continues, degree by degree, on its appointed round of the zodiac. In the entire 360-degree orbit, every degree is essential. We can't get along without each one of them.



An Analogy

Here is a simple analogy that will point out two areas where we, as astrologers, may be missing out. Suppose I were to send one of my daughters on a round trip to Ann Arbor, by way of Kalamazoo on the outgoing leg and Flint on the ingoing.

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Let's say that Kalamazoo, Michigan is one of the stops (aspects) she will make along the way that I want to designate as a key point, like an aspect. We have placed that city at the 120-degree aspect point from Big Rapids, which is the Trine aspect in traditional astrology. But if she calls me on the phone and is having car trouble and I say, "Where are you?" I don't only want to know when she is in Kalamazoo; I want to know where she is *any time* in between. This is analogous to setting absolute orbs on aspects and completely ignoring the planet and aspect if it falls just outside it the orb.

My daughter tells me she has broken down just outside of Kalamazoo, even though she is not within the orb for Kalamazoo I had planned. The place she has broken down, no matter where that place happens to be, is information I need to have and that is useful. It tells me a lot, for example, if she is still on her way to Ann Arbor (waxing) or already on her way back (waning), and closer to Flint, Michigan. If her car breaks down somewhere in between, that too is important. "Where" is always important, not just at some predefined points or aspects. You get the idea. Let's move on.

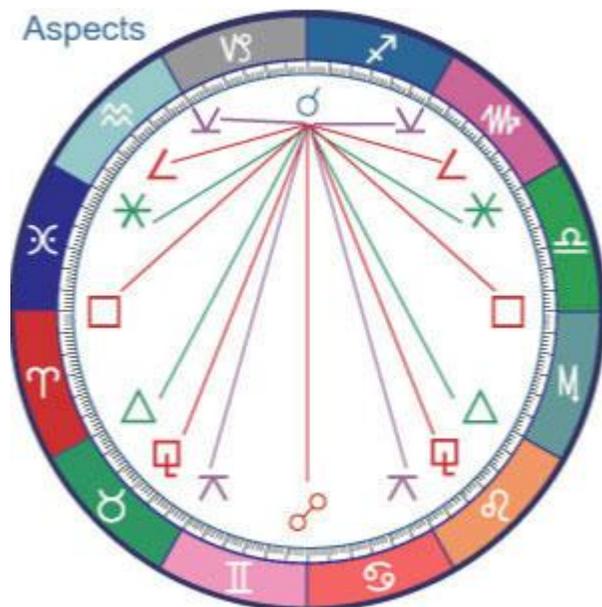
While we have this analogy up, let's look at the other problem, the fact that astrologers generally fail to interpret between waxing and waning aspects. To most astrologers today, as mentioned, a Trine is a Trine is a Trine. In the diagram, this would be equivalent to only wanting to know if my daughter was in Kalamazoo or in Flint, each of which is a Trine or 240-degree aspect from Big Rapids. We can all see very clearly that these two places are in very different parts of the aspect cycle. In the first, Kalamazoo, she is still on her way to Ann Arbor, and with the other, Flint, she is already on her way home. Both of these points are addressed with full-phase aspects.

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As an initial step, I stopped using strict orbs with aspects and, instead, began to ask myself: where is this planet on its 360-degree journey in relation to the planet it is aspecting? After all, it is not nowhere. It is always somewhere, and that somewhere, no matter where it is, is important.

My daughter may not be in Kalamazoo, but if she is in the outskirts, I have learned a lot about her situation, for example that she is in a heavily populated area. I find it similar with all the aspects, and no longer find orbs that useful. I would rather just look to see how close the planet is to a traditional aspect, and this helps me to see where the planet is in the overall aspect picture. It is never "not" doing something, so to speak.

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The Standard Aspect Cycle

I do not argue that the various points of exact traditional aspects (90, 60, 120, etc. degrees) are not important. Of course they are, but there is no degree or point in the aspect circle/cycle that is not essential, although it may have a different kind of importance. Perhaps we have never inquired about the kind of importance of each area of the cycle.

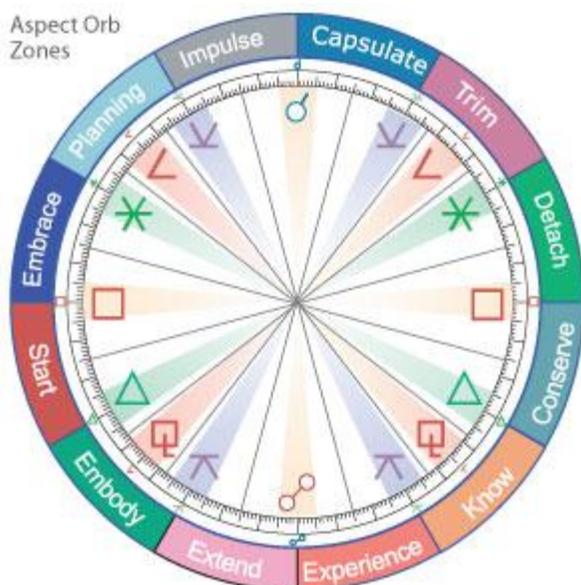
In fact, after a short while, I found myself doing away with the concept of there being "any" point in the 360-degree cycle that is not somewhere in the vicinity of a major aspect, at least the ones that most astrologers use. For example, using what I consider the most commonly-used aspects, and as the author of dozens of astrological programs, you can be sure my users have told me what aspects they want in their software, and they are:

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The Standard Aspects

- 000 Conjunction
- 030 Semi-Sextile (waxing)
- 045 Semi-Square (waxing)
- 060 Sextile (waxing)
- 090 Square (waxing)
- 120 Trine (waxing)
- 135 Sesquiquadrate (waxing)
- 150 Inconjunct (waxing)
- 180 Opposition
- 210 Inconjunct (waning)
- 225 Sesquiquadrate (waning)
- 240 Trine (waning)
- 270 Square (waning)
- 300 Sextile (waning)
- 315 Semi-Square (waning)
- 330 Semi-Sextile (waning)

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What about Orbs?

These are the sixteen most commonly used aspects. And if you have to have orbs, let's just divide the space between any two of these 16 aspects in half, and use that midpoint in space as the marker as to the end of one aspect and the beginning of the next.

And, for now, we won't play favorites, giving some aspects more space (greater orbs) and others less. For instance, I find that the Semi-Squares are very important, and yet most astrologers used reduced orbs when considering them. Why bother? Just look at the chart.

Using this method, there are no un-aspected planets. A planet is always in the general area or ballpark of one of these traditional aspects or another. If it is not right on top of the aspect, then it is forming or coming to be, or it is past the exact point and in the process of fading away.

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Either way, there is still the flavor of that aspect around them.

Looking at a chart this way, each planet is always at a very natural point in relation to every other planet. It is never un-aspected. We can see at a glance what phase of the cycle a planet is in as it relates to any other planet. We don't even have to measure, for we can just look at the chart and get a ballpark idea of each relationship. This is perhaps some kind of holistic way of looking at aspects.

Thanks for your patience; we are almost there, but there is one little twist I want to present to you, and I hope it does not throw you off the track.

Mean Planetary Motion	
Per Day	
☉ The Sun	59'08"
☾ The Moon	13° 10'36"
☿ Mercury	1° 23'
♀ Venus	1° 12'
♂ Mars	0° 33'28"
♃ Jupiter	0° 04'59"
♄ Saturn	0° 12'01"
♅ Uranus	0° 00'42"
♆ Neptune	0° 00'24"
♇ Pluto	0° 00'15"

Phase Relationships

What we are looking at so far here is what is called the "phase relationship" or angular separation of one planet to another. We can divide the cycle of aspects between

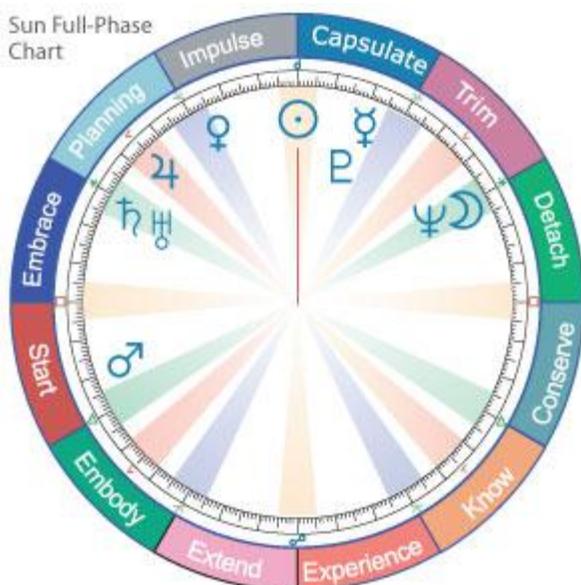
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any two bodies into as many phases or parts as we wish, but we will always want to know if the faster moving planet is in a waxing phase or a waning phase to the other, as in: is the angular separation between the two bodies progressing to the opposition (the equivalent of the Full Moon in the solunar cycle) or is it progressing back toward the conjunction (the equivalent of the New Moon in the solunar cycle). In the first case, the angle is waxing, and in the second, waning. That is what we need to know.

Looking at the chart, it is not difficult to examine any pair of planets and decide which is the faster moving planet, and which is the slower moving planet. And, by "faster" or "slower," I don't mean is it faster or slower on a given day. A fast moving planet like Mercury might be retrograde on a given day or stationary, meaning it appears to not move at all. What we mean here is "faster" or "slower" in the traditional sense of the speed of the planets. Here is the list, from fast to slow:

Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto. That is the order, in terms of speed, to use, not whether at any given moment it is stationary and not moving, or even moving backward.

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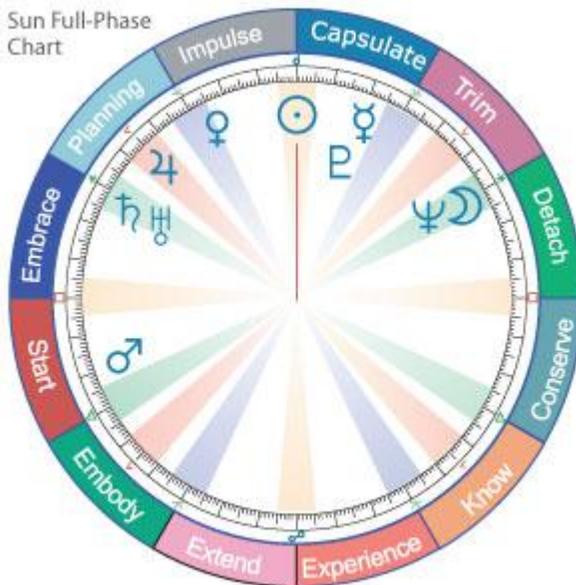
The Open-Wheel

I find it most helpful to view the planets in what is called the "Open Wheel," the chart wheel of 360 degrees, where each degree is given equal space. In that way, we can better see the various arcs or angular separation separating any two planets or bodies. However, it can be tedious looking at each planet pair and having to remember which is the faster and which the slower, because only that will tell us if the aspect is waxing or waning, and therefore which phase the planets are in one to the other.

To make this easier for myself, I made a very simple program that does this for me, and lets me look at any planet, one at a time, in relation to the rest of the planets. I simply place the planet I am interested in at the top of a 360-degree wheel and place the other planets around the wheel, in their various angular

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relationships to the selected planet, the one in focus. But there is a twist.



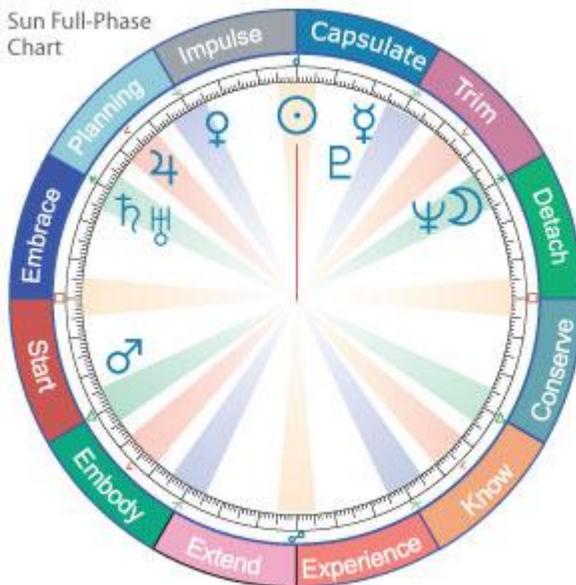
The chart wheel shown here represents the 360-degree cycle of any two planets or bodies. If I place any single planet (the slower planet) at the top of the chart at what we can call the zero-degree point, and then watch the aspects the faster planet makes to that point, you have the diagram above. Only here I have placed all of the planets on the chart wheel, each in the particular angular relationship (aspect) they have in my natal chart.

For example, Venus was separating from the Sun in my birth chart, and Mercury was applying toward to Sun, about to conjunct it. But don't be lulled into thinking this is just my natal chart with the Sun place at the top point. It is a little more complicated than that, but not much.

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This method of charting places the waxing planets on the left side of the chart, and the waning aspects on the right, just as they aspect each other in the actual chart.

This kind of Full-Phase Wheel is very easy to read, although (as mentioned) you must be clear that we are no longer looking at the arrangement of the planets as laid out in my natal chart. Let's look at an example, using my geocentric natal chart, with the Sun selected, and placed at the top of the chart, which we will call the zero, Conjunction, the equivalent of the New Moon point.



Full-Phase Charts

The 360-degrees of the Full-Phase Chart Wheel starts at the top (Conjunction) and moves counter-clockwise in a circle. At the bottom of the wheel is the Opposition or 180-degree aspect, and so on, around. This constitutes a cycle or circle.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

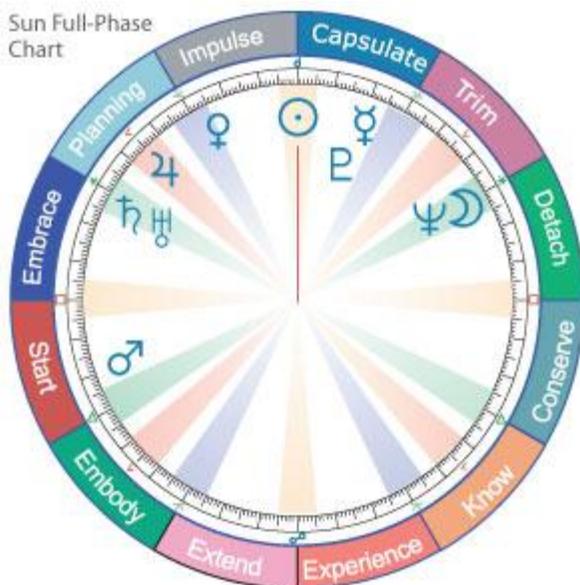
You can see all the other nine bodies arranged with the same angular separation as in my natal chart, but NOT exactly as they are in my natal chart. Here, we are interested to see which planet pairs are waxing or building in strength, and which are waning or lessening in strength, and this chart does that, by dividing the two types and placing waxing planets on the left and waning planets on the right half of the chart wheel, displayed by their angular separation or aspect. I have even drawn in 6-degree orbs on either side of the traditional aspects in pastel colors, for those who might find it helpful. You can see at a glance if a planet falls within a colored orb.

As you can see, the Sun is at the point of the Conjunction (zero degrees of separation) at the top of the wheel. We can see that the planet Venus has moved away from the Conjunction and is nearing the 30-degree point, what is called a Semi-Sextile.

Next, note that Jupiter is almost an exact Semi-Square (45 degrees) to the Sun. However, please notice that the Sun and Jupiter are "flipped" in this chart, to preserve the ability to show the phase. In my actual chart, it is the Sun that is out ahead of Jupiter, by about 45 degrees. Here the two symbols have switched places to maintain the phase relationship, and to keep the planet in focus (in this case the Sun) at the top of the chart. I hope this does not confuse you. Once you understand it, it will not bother you again, so take time to think it through.

You can see my Moon is in the Fourth Quarter, some 300 degrees (Sextile) to the Sun.

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Phase Cycles

Before you can understand this next part, you need to read and study the basic phases of any cycle.

Now let's look at the Sun Full-Phase Wheel again, and do some interpreting, based on our understanding of cycle phases. It does not matter what the cycle is, for the phases of any cycle are all the same. Here we are looking at the cycle of the Moon's aspects to the Sun.

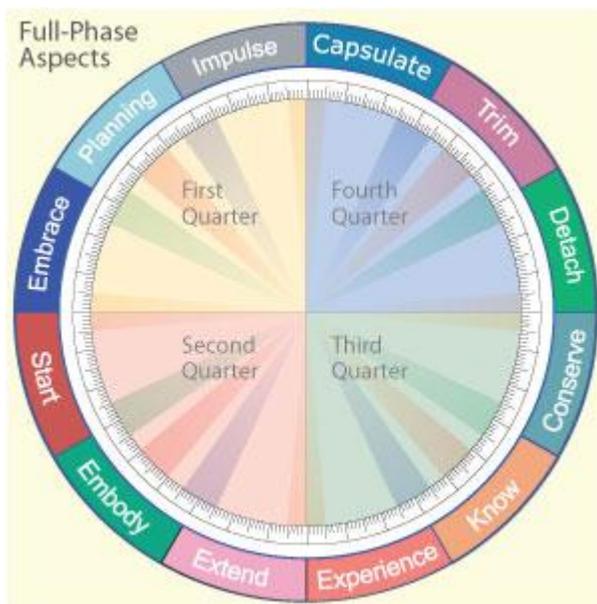
For one, the planets as they relate to the Sun (the Sun stands for the concept of the Self in traditional astrology) are almost all within the upper or inward hemisphere - the top half. Only one planet, Mars, has crossed from the upper (inner) half of the chart into the lower or outer (public) hemisphere.

This would suggest not only that Mars is very important in myself (Sun) expression, but is perhaps the only or main way I reach out from within to the outside world.

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Therefore, Mars or ambition is very pronounced in this chart. My ambition is very visible, we might say. Little else is.

The other planets are equally divided between waxing and waning hemispheres, but they are all inward, in the upper or inner hemisphere, so regardless of how I might try to be outward, that is: no matter what I may think, I am by nature a very inward or deep person.



The Four Hemispheres

Let's look at the meaning of the four hemispheres or halves of the chart, before we go further into this, as they are important. Two of the halves are, of course, the upper or inner half, and the lower or outer half. The other two are the left or waxing side of the chart, and the right or waning side.

If you have taken the time to read the material above on cycle phase interpretation and the various

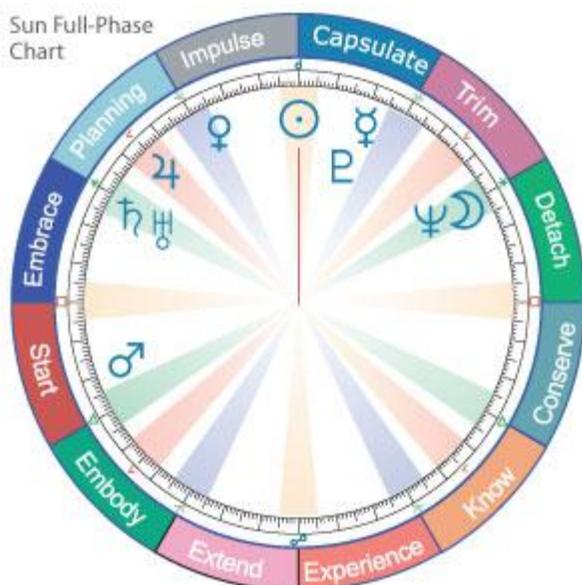
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correspondences between the phases of any complete cycle, you are ready for this discussion. If not, now would be a good time to go over that material.

The outward-moving, building, or forming half of the phase wheel is the waxing part of the cycle, where an impulse or idea builds or forms into something physical, into some kind of experience. The inward-going, deconstructing, and dissolving half of the phase wheel is the waning part of the cycle, where whatever was built up at the Opposition aspect is now taken down, and we absorb whatever meaning or value we can from the experience. Again: this is all covered in the material about phases.

The lower or outer hemisphere constitutes everything out in the open, physically visible, and in this world to be seen - everything that matters, so to speak. The upper or inner hemisphere is all that is not physical, whatever does not matter yet or does not matter still, within our mind and experience. The left side of the inner hemisphere holds that which is not yet manifest, and the right side of the inner hemisphere holds that which is not manifest any longer - going out and coming back.

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The Waxing Aspects

I am not suggesting here that this information I am pointing out is not found in all the various pieces of traditional astrological technique. Of course it is, but here the pieces fit together in a slightly different way, like a picture jig-saw puzzle, to provide what for me is a clearer picture of the natal chart, a picture that anyone can read, after only a brief introduction.

Again, using my Sun Phase Wheel as an example: We can see at a glance that the concept of my Self is very inward, call it mental, subjective, secret, private, deep - what have you? The point is that there is only one planet, Mars, that is in the outer hemisphere, and it is at the Aries or First House position. We can see I like to start things and, as an entrepreneur who has started many businesses, this makes a lot of sense.

The planets in the inward half, those on the waxing side, are where I am taking inspiration or ideas and building

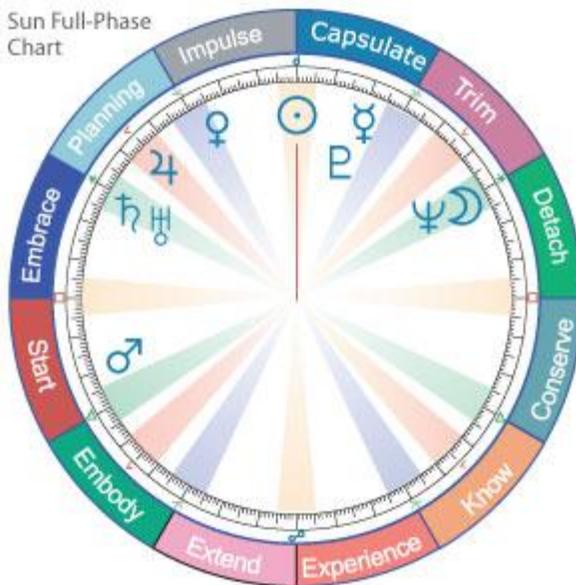
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them into plans to make into reality, trying to make my dreams come true. Let's look at them, using traditional astrological interpretations. We can see that Venus is very near the cusp of the Semi-Sextile aspect, corresponding to Aquarius or the 11th house of community, therefore I have dreams and plans to build a community. As a child of the 60's, this is so true.

The sometimes-troublesome planet Saturn and close by, Uranus, are positioned at the Sextile aspect, giving great energy and freedom of movement or ease. It is easy for me to do things, to get things done, and very inventive things at that, like this technique.

This leaves Jupiter, exactly at the 45-degree or Semi-Square aspect, and this is definitely one of the challenge points in the wheel. Jupiter is my career, and suggests that my life path or career is not a slam dunk, but may involve a lot of obstacles or challenges. However, if you read the phase article, this particular Semi-Square is one where we don't take "no" for an answer, but press on, suggesting that gentle movement forward will remove any career blocks and insure steady progress.

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The Waning Aspects

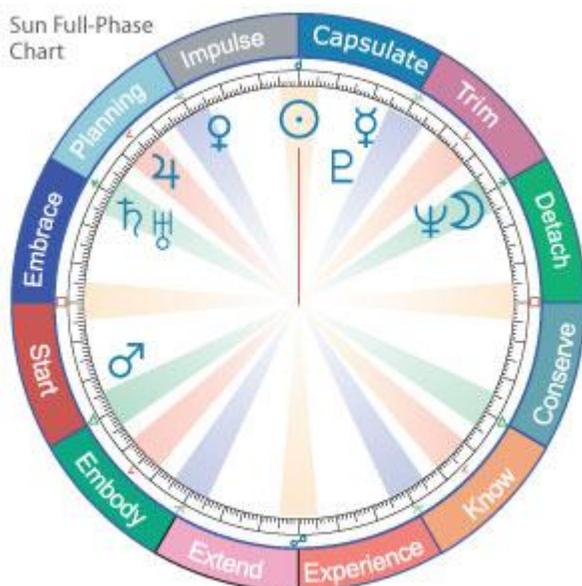
Now let's look at the waning side of the chart, in my case all the bodies are in the inner part of the chart. The waning hemisphere of the chart tells us about the returns of our life, how we receive from life, we could even say our "destiny." This is where life presents things to us, without our having to do anything. Doing is the waxing side of the chart. If we were talking martial arts, we would have to say that the waxing side of the chart is Judo, and the waning side of the chart is Aikido. With Judo, we strike outward, with Aikido, we passively use force and momentum already in play to our advantage. One is aggressive, one is passive. One hand places, and the other hand takes away.

The Moon is my leading or most outward planet, along with Neptune, which is a very tight Sextile. Both of these planets are strong Sextiles, so, again, this suggests ease and facility. However, both of these planets are

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inward, rather than outward, so this points to a more private sense, and perhaps more internal activities, not reaching out, but reaching in.

It is a fact that I played music for the public, but always from a very inward or shy stance. You get the idea as to how I am interpreting here. Mercury and Pluto are much more inward, with Pluto being my most inward planet on the receptive side. My interest in occultism and initiation on a somewhat inner or deep level might be indicated here.



Astrologer's Heaven

I have always hated the part of astrology where each astrologer I meet or read begins to delineate their own or some famous person's chart (usually that of Hitler), point by point. I have never done that, until now. All I can say in my defense is that, until now, I have shown great restraint, and waited some forty years before doing this, and only do it now because I feel this

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technique really is special, at least for me, so please forgive me for going on a bit. I am not the first astrologer to do this.

And there is something else: When I first looked at these Phase Wheel charts, I was, of course, fascinated, but I also gave in to what I believe is an ingrained habit with many astrologers, of trying to make the various planets and aspects fit my preconceived idea of what things should mean, in particular when it comes to looking at my own chart.

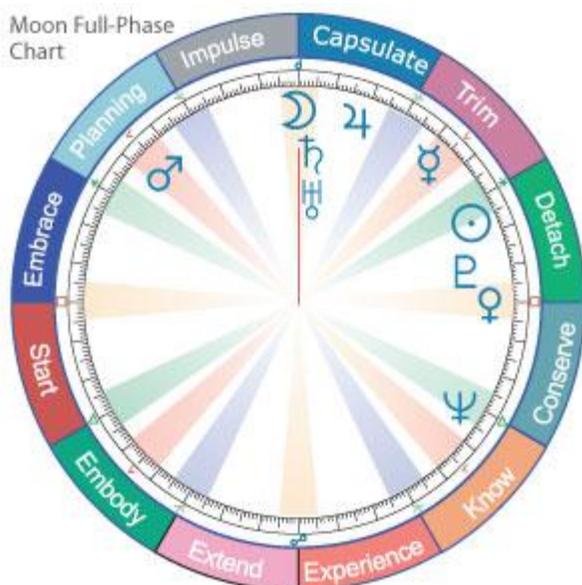
What I learned, gradually, was that this habit of preconception removes all the opportunity to really have your mind open, that is: when I pigeonhole every factor, shoving it into the nearest available interpretation, and thus avoiding any new thoughts.

Gradually, I found that if something did not make sense or fit in with what I felt to be the "way I was," I would just leave it alone, and let the factor tell me what it has to say. These charts don't lie, and the planets are just where they are, not where I might like them to be. We don't even need a birth time to use this technique, although it helps with the fast-moving Moon.

On the waning hemisphere of my Sun full-phase chart, we have Neptune and the Moon in the Sextile phase, both very close. These are my most outward-oriented planets, and being waning, this is where I reap or where things come most easily to me.

Remember, that the waxing hemisphere is where we build and invest, and the waning hemisphere is where we deconstruct and get our returns. One hand puts the rabbit in the hat, and the other takes it back out.

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The Moon Full-Phase Wheel

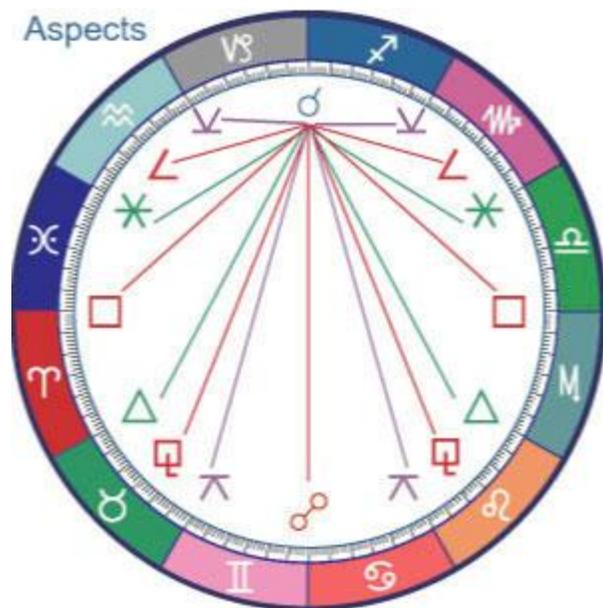
Now, if we look at my Moon's Phase Wheel, we have a very different story. Mars is the only planet in the waxing side of the chart, and it alone must carry my investment or outreach. All the other planets are on the waning side, and have to do with returns, with the Moon or supportive environment bringing things to me. In other words, as far as the Moon (supportive environment) in life, things should come my way.

And here, Neptune is the sole planet out in the public or outer hemisphere, so my Neptune is very conspicuous. Perhaps it makes sense that I was a musician when I was young, founded the largest music database on the planet, and am, even today, a very "Neptunian astrologer." My Neptune is very outwardly prominent.

This is even more clear if you look at my Mars Phase Wheel, where Neptune is right in the middle of the house of experience, right out there for everyone to see,

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and indicates how I manifest myself to the public - through Neptune. Neptune is my way to manifest outwardly, and it is interesting that I founded the largest music database on the planet (allmusic.com) and one of the two largest film databases (allmovie.com), both topics connected to Neptune. This is how this technique can work. Of course, you will each have your own astrological associations.



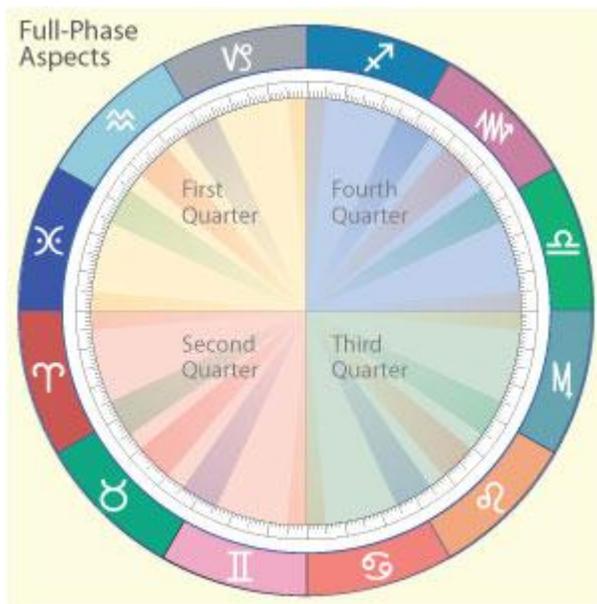
The Sweet Sixteen

As astrologers, we are familiar with a variety of wheels, including the Wheel of Houses, the Wheel of Signs, the Wheel of Aspects, and so on. There are also, in the literature, a number of attempts to link these wheels together, and show how they might correspond, one to another. In other words, we often hear that the zodiac sign Aries and the First House correspond to one another, even though they have no strict astronomical relationship with one another. What can this mean?

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What links these two (and other) wheels to one another are that they share the cycle of phases that any cycle or circle has. The First House and the zodiac sign Aries correspond to one another because they each represent a particular phase in a cycle, and all cycle phases follow a similar pattern. Let's take a very brief look at the phases in a cycle.

All cycles can be analyzed and broken down into any number of parts required. If we divide a cycle into two parts, we have an inner point and an outer point. Using the cycle of the breath, we can say that when we inhale all the way (expand outward), we are at the outer point, and when we completely exhale (collapse inward), we are at the inner point.



The Four Aspect Hemispheres

If we divide a cycle into four parts, then we have an inner point, an outer point, and two additional points, the point where we are halfway between the inner and the

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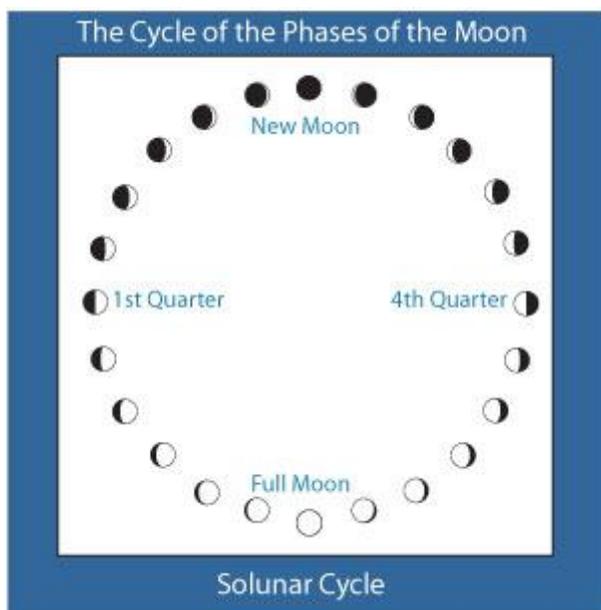
outer (going out), and the point where we are halfway between the outer and the inner (going back in). Let's just work with those four points for a moment, although we could jump right to dividing the cycle by 12, and come up with the 12 houses or 12 signs. We will get to that in a moment.

Using the signs of the zodiac, and dividing by four, we would have to say that the zodiac sign Cancer represents the outer-most point, the point of greatest experience. In the tarot deck major arcana, the sign Cancer, "The Chariot," corresponds to this. The zodiac sign Cancer is the vehicle or chariot we ride. This makes the zodiac sign Capricorn the point of greatest inwardness or ability to manipulate and use the practical mind. Inner and outer, experience and vision.

The zodiac sign Aries then becomes the point midway between Capricorn and Cancer, the point in the cycle or wheel, where we pass from inwardness (Capricorn) to outwardness (Cancer). By this logic, then the zodiac sign Libra is the point in the zodiac where we pass from outwardness (Cancer) back to inwardness (Capricorn).

If we want to look at the Wheel of Houses in this same way, then the First House would correspond to Aries, the Seventh House to Libra, the Fourth House to Cancer, and the Tenth House to Capricorn. This is how they correspond.

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Cycle Phases

Over the years, I have spoken with many well-known astrologers about how these different cycles or circles correspond, and they all seem to agree. In a conversation I have with Dane Rudhyar, however, he did point out that we could pick any point in the phases of a cycle and apply the circle of signs or houses, that there was not only one way to do this.

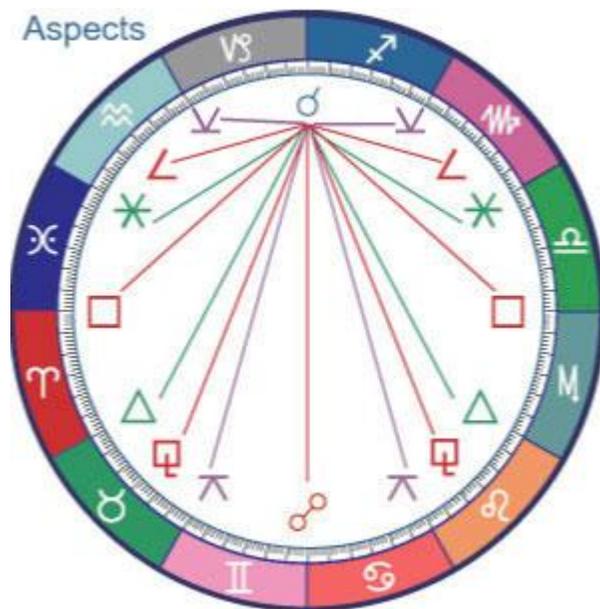
Of course that is true. However, by and large, astrologers tend to make the sign Cancer be the point of greatest experience or outwardness, and Capricorn the point of greatest inwardness, the non-physical point, and so on.

All cycles can be broken down into phases. Examples of cycles include anything that returns and repeats itself in a regular rhythm, such as the cycle of the heartbeat, cycle of the breath, cycle of day & night, solunar cycle,

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cycle of the earth orbiting the Sun (zodiac), and so on. All cycles follow the same pattern.

Because astrology is all about the study of cycles, it is important that we understand how cycles can be divided into phases and what each phase can mean. If we can better understand cycle phases, then that understanding will automatically benefit us as we look at any astrology cycle: signs, houses, aspects, etc. It is well worth our while to study this. Let's look at the cycle of aspects, using the 16 phases that represent standard major aspects used by astrologers.



Sixteen Phases of the Aspect Cycle

Before we look at individual aspects in the aspect cycle, let's first understand something about the four hemispheres that any cycle can be divided, and they are: innermost hemisphere, outermost hemisphere, waxing (forming) hemisphere, and waning (deconstructing) hemisphere.

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The inner hemisphere is just that, inner, private, non-physical, mental, whatever words you want to use to describe that out of which everything physical and visible arises. The inner hemisphere is non physical, all that is in the process (on the waxing side) of coming into being or forming, and all that is in the process (on the waning side) of drawing conclusions to whatever experience was had in the outer hemisphere.

The outer hemisphere demonstrates everything that is physical, that has come into existence, and it comes to a peak at the Opposition (180-degree) point. This is the visible universe and full experience, as we see and feel it. After that opposition point, the experience begins to fade from existence and to gradually come apart, eventually falling back out of existence, and into the lessons we learned from it.

The waxing hemisphere tells the story of how things come into existence, starting with ideas that come from the un-manifest, turn into plans, the plans turn into action, action into something physical, and physical builds to a peak or point of greatest manifestation - waxing.

The waning hemisphere tells the reverse story, how something that is fully manifest as an experience, begins to be understood and recognized, and then gradually begins to pass away, eventually decaying or falling out of manifestation, with only whatever lessons or experience remaining as the seeds for the next cycle - waning.

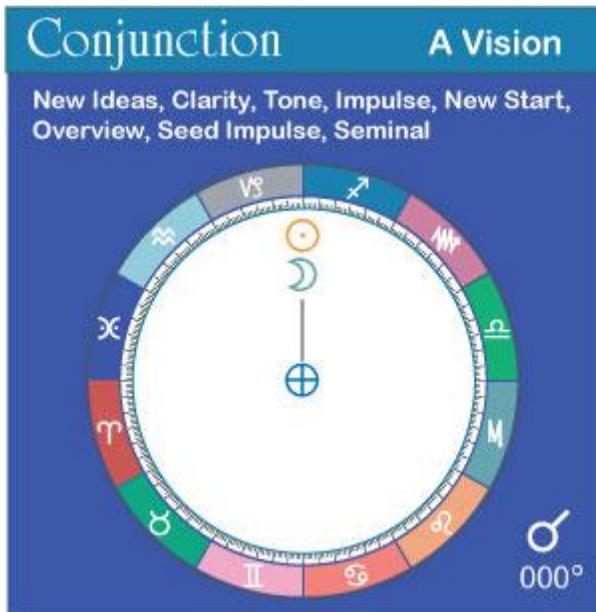
And then there is a next cycle, because that is the very essence of what cycles are, that they repeat themselves, endlessly, if given an opportunity.

Standard Aspects:

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The Sweet Sixteen

Now let's go over the cycle of sixteen major aspects, one by one, and focus on how they might be interpreted.



The Conjunction (000 Degrees)

This is the innermost point in the cycle, where everything starts or comes from, as it emerges from the subconscious (or wherever thoughts come from) into our conscious mind. These are more like impulses, sometimes called in the literature a "tone," perhaps more preverbal than verbal - something stirring deep within us. This is a seminal moment, where seeds or kernels of new experience within us first stir and begin to sprout, so these times are very potent, even if we can't see what they will eventually mean for us. Seminal is the good word.

Another way to look at this aspect is that it is a turning point or phase shift from coming in to going out, and

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such a dramatic shift involves a complete change of direction, a reversal of polarities.



The Semi-Sextile (030 Degrees)

With the Semi-Sextile, whatever tone or impulse first stirred within us, here rises to consciousness enough for us to begin to grasp and formulate it. Often, due to its inner potency, these ideas soon take on the form of a plan for action, something to be done, to be made manifest. As we are formulating them, these plans are at first very broad in scope, and we look on all sides for help to make these ideas real. In this sense, we are at this point very community oriented, welcoming any assistance we can find, an Aquarian effort. In fact the zodiac sign Aquarius and the Eleventh House correspond to this phase of the cycle.

Another way to look at this aspect is that it is a recovery period after the Conjunction, where there was a complete phase or polarity reversal. We are adjusting to

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this change, getting our bearings, and coming up with a new approach, new plans.



The Semi-Square (045 Degrees)

This is the midway point between the seed impulse or starting point (Conjunction) and the 90-degree point (waxing Square) of first manifestation, so this is a midway or turning point, turning away from the pure idea (seed impulse) and toward making whatever has been grasped (new ideas) thus far into a plan for actuality. In my experience, these 45-degree points on the circle, which in Tibetan astrology have been called "Tomb Signs," are for most of us more difficult or challenging than the traditional Square (90-degree) points, if only because they are not so obvious or clear. The reason may be that each 45-degree point in the aspect cycle, and there are four of them, presages the more major Square point soon to follow it. Let me explain.

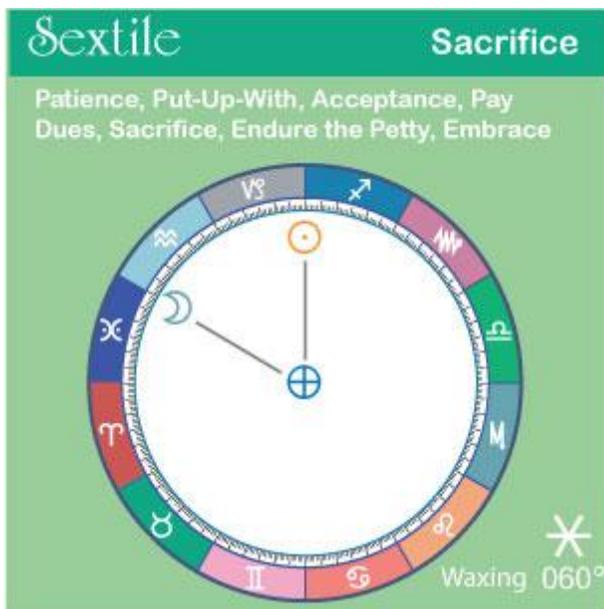
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The 45-degree aspect is the first point in the new cycle where a midway point is reached, in this case moving away from the seed impulse, and toward the manifestation point at 90 degrees. Just as the 90-degree point is midway between the inner (starting point) and outer hemisphere (Opposition at 180 degrees), so the 45 degree point is midway between the seed impulse (starting point) and the point of first manifestation at the waxing Square (90 degrees). In this sense, the 45-degree point is a harbinger or forerunner of a more powerful experience, but it is our first contact with this type of separation. That is the challenge of it.

In that sense, the 45-degree point may be more significant to us, at least psychologically, as it introduces us to this type of event - being torn in two directions. After the 45-degree point, when we reach the more dramatic 90-degree point, we have, in a way, already been inoculated or forewarned of this type of experience. It is in our memory from the point or the 45-degree aspect onward.

Be that as it may, the Semi-Square point often brings some obstacle to confront us, if only that it marks a true change in direction, and we will find it to be more comfortable pushing ahead in whatever direction we currently have been in. That change in direction requires that we adjust our own path and direction to accommodate it. And each of the four 45-degree aspects in the cycle (the other two being the 135-degree aspects) requires a slightly different shift on our part. Here the shift is turning away from more new ideas and having to go with those ideas we have managed to grasp. That is the challenge.

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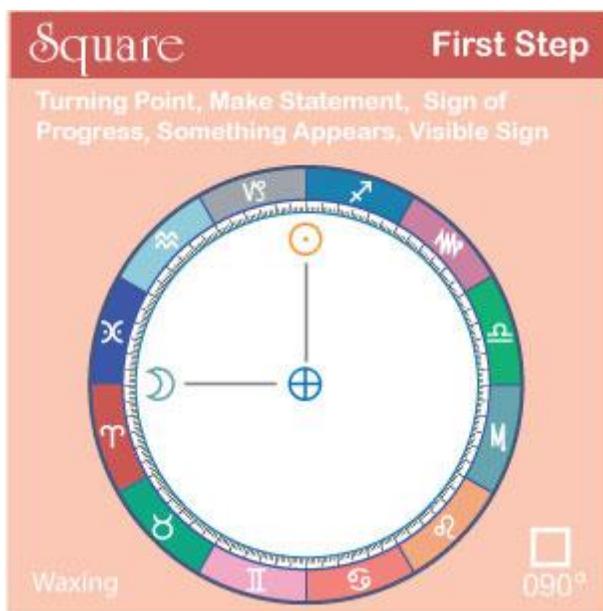
The Waxing Sextile (060 Degrees)

The Sextile is one of the four main energy-giving points in the cycle, where we have enough added space or room to actually accomplish something or at least to get some work done, and see progress made. Ideas and plans that were formulated earlier here are being advanced, moved closer to the stage of reality at the 90-degree or Square phase.

While this waxing Sextile is a moment of energy, it is also the point where a certain amount of discipline and even sacrifice is required. The fact that it corresponds with the zodiac sign Pisces and the 12th House should make sense in this context. Both of those factors refer to the need for sublimation and sacrifice, if only to set the stage and help to bring through the plan or concept we have been carrying within us into reality. It is not unlike a mother preparing to give birth.

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The point here is that during this aspect (60 degrees) and up to the 90-degree aspect, there is little room for distraction and any and all kinds of extraneous matters or obstacles that may appear should be ignored or efficiently dealt with, whatever it takes. Pay the dues of the past and move on. This is not the time for argument or quibbling. We should just suck it up at this point, so that we can bring as much of our concept through to reality as possible, and not have our energy siphoned off by all the material of our past, whatever may rise up to block our way.



The Waxing Square (090 Degrees)

This is one of the four main turning or changing points in the aspect cycle, the moment when we cross over from the inside (from the inner world of ideas and plans) to the outside, where whatever we have been developing up to now is born and makes a start. This is the first physical appearance in the outer sphere, and this

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aspect corresponds to the zodiac sign Aries, and the First House Cusp, both of which signify the same type of event - the rising sign. Something new rises into view or appears.

That something we manage to get across may not be much, but it has made it over the great divide, all the way from an idea that stirred in the mind to now a reality. This Square aspect marks the appearance in fact, and the physical start in the outside world, of something, something we can point to as other than just a thought or idea. It is real, and from this first start or sprout it will grow whatever is the nature of the particular combination of planets or bodies. What appears here is undeniable.



The Waxing Trine (120 Degrees)

It is a full thirty degrees from the waxing Square to the waxing Trine, and all of this ground should mark a physical growth, as whatever is at issue here

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increasingly takes on form and materiality, that is: becomes real. The Trine aspect is another of the four energy points in the entire cycle, where there is a burst of room, and enough space or expanded atmosphere to really get something done. This is the primary point in the cycle for the active and rapid building of form, and this aspect corresponds to the zodiac sign Taurus and to the Second House, which, as we know, are all about form and materials.

The increased flow of energy here makes this, traditionally speaking, an easy or "good" aspect, and the astrological literature is filled with testimony to the fact that the Trine aspect is to be welcomed whenever it appears. It represents ease and fluidness of motion, a sense of expanded time, and room enough for great things to be accomplished.

At the same time, let's not make too much of a good thing out of the Trine. Yes, it represents freedom or room to accomplish things, but (and especially in whole-chart patterns like the Grand Trine) it equally can bring too much room or emptiness, which can amount to loneliness, to being an outsider, standing outside, and experiencing too much distance. So, as with all things, the middle way of balance is the sweet spot.

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The Waxing Sesquiquadrate (135 Degrees)

Here is the second 45-degree aspect, one of four aspects that in the Tibetan tradition are called "Tomb Signs." These, and not the Squares, are perhaps the real turning points in the aspect wheel, the places where the rubber meets the road. Each 45-degree aspect presages or comes before a major turning point, and by that fact perhaps may be more important as beacons of forthcoming events than the more major aspect that is still to come. In this case, the Sesquiquadrate comes before the Opposition or 180-degree point.

In this waxing 135-degree aspect, the building part of the waxing cycle is essentially complete, much like we reach our physical peak as young adults, but continue to mature until our Saturn return, almost like a ripening. The waxing Sesquiquadrate marks the point where further pushing forward or driving to create or build can actually be detrimental, and if it has any difficult qualities,

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it would be if we failed to heed that warning, which is: to ease off.

This is the point where we should pull back on the throttle, stop driving forward, and rather continue working with whatever we have achieved up to now. If we do that, then we avoid what can be a more friction-filled experience of this semisquare-type aspect. We change our attitude, and adjust or direction, and thus avoid problems. That is the challenge here.



The Waxing Inconjunct (150 Degrees)

Here is the last major aspect before the Opposition. Whatever was conceived at the Conjunction, worked into a plan at the SemiSextile, launched at the Square, and physically built at the Trine is here complete, much like the physical body of the young adult is complete before the Saturn return, but continues to be filled in and ripen.

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At the Inconjunct, there should be no more pushing forward, and no more building. This is not the time to start anything new, but instead, a time to finish up whatever is already in the works, what has been set in motion. It is here that, everything is connected up, and fine details are followed out to the nth degree. This phase corresponds to the zodiac sign Gemini and the Third House, so communication and connections are key - anything to do with completion and details.

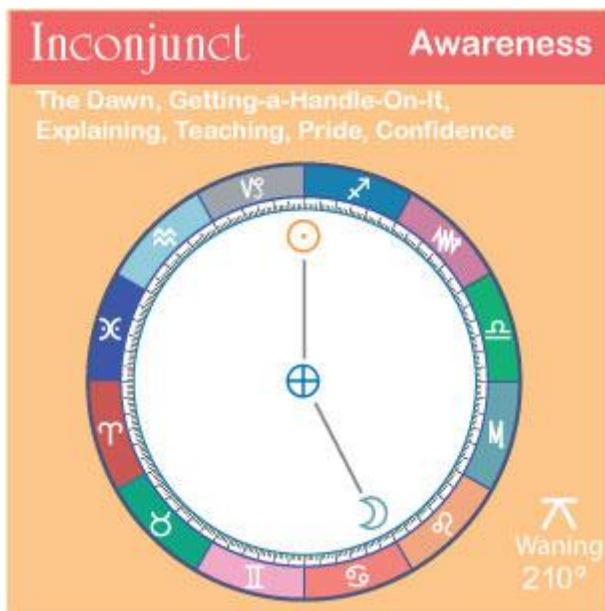


The Opposition (180 Degrees)

This is the top of the cycle, physically speaking, the most expanded or physically manifest point, the result, so to speak in an outward sense of the entire cycle, whichever two bodies may be involved. This is it! Here is the fruition itself. There is no pushing forward here and, as yet, no decline, but only the full-blown experience - something to feel and be in.

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This is not a point, in general, of recognition or awareness of what all that is happening might mean, but rather the experiencing itself of what it means, so that later there is something to be aware of, as the experience wanes and we begin to understand what we have been through. This is the going through itself. Traditionally, this is the point to abandon your self to the experience and drink it in, to feel it fully. This, in the zodiac correspondence, is the sign Cancer, and the Fourth House, the home or body itself. In the major arcane of the tarot cards, this is The Chariot or vehicle.



The Inconjunct (210 Degrees)

At this point in the cycle, we are past the Opposition point, and the experience peak is over. As we move away from the Opposition, and begin to get some distance, for the first time we are able perhaps to put that experience into some kind of perspective, to get a handle on it. Where before we were lost in the

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experience itself, now we have the first dawning of what it might mean or be all about, at first perhaps just an awareness that we have been through something that up to now we were lost within. That is the nature of experience. You have to actually get into it and go through it. You can't watch it and do it at the same time. First you do it, then you watch it or realize what you have been through. This phase is the dawn of the watching it, the realization.

If we look for the corresponding zodiac sign, it is Leo, and for houses, the Fifth House. So, this dawning awareness of having an experience and now somehow owning it fits right into the traditional qualities of pride, ownership, expression, and so on. We have gotten through the experience, survived and come out the other side, and we now are getting our arms around it. We own it. It is our experience, and we can begin to describe and talk about it. This is often connected to telling or teaching others about whatever we have been through.

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The Waning Sesquiquadrate (225 Degrees)

This is another of the 45-degree points, where there is a shift in perspective or direction, in this case away from the experience of the Opposition, marking the end of the freshness of the Inconjunct, during which the first awareness of the meaning of the opposition dawned. That awareness is more-or-less over, now fading, and probably getting old fast. Talking about, describing the experience, telling or teaching it to others loses its luster and begins to sound hollow. The shift is from a more innocent and fresh feeling, to one requiring a change in our attitude. Here we have the first signs that the party is over, and we had better cast about for what is coming next, and how we will cope with that.

Perhaps the most important point here is that we are now firmly in the waning hemisphere, and while in the waxing hemisphere push and forward motion was the order of the day, here that is reversed. We don't push;

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we now must learn to let things come to us. We don't work to make or present things, but rather we learn to listen and to receive. It is all about handling and accommodating whatever is.

The 225-degree aspect marks the letting go of the thrill of first discovery that arose from the Opposition, and coping with the fact that this discovery has ended or is now wearing thin, and it is time for us to take a more reflexive and cooperative stance, like: listening, adapting. That is the challenge.



The Waning Trine (240 Degrees)

The Waning Trine aspect brings another energy-filled time, one of increased space or elbow room, in which things can happen. Where in the waxing Trine, we got things done, here in the waning Trine, we help things to happen. It is the difference between Judo and Aikido, the former is offensive and attack oriented, the later is

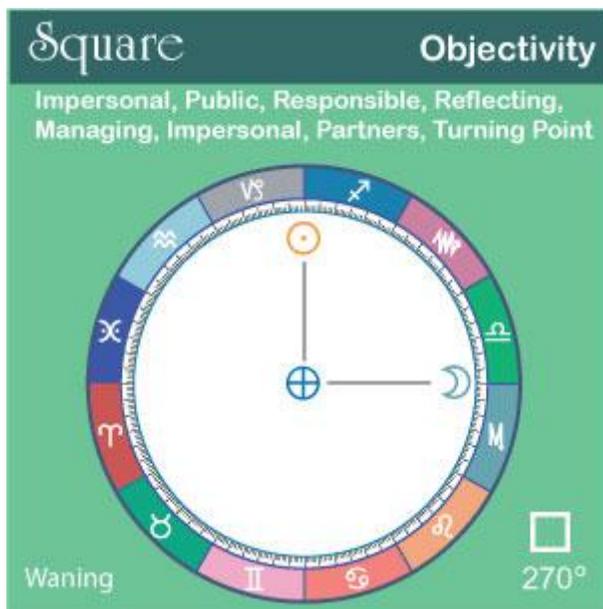
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passive, oriented more toward accommodating whatever force is already in motion, directing it.

With the 240-degree aspect comes the clear realization that the pride and innocence we had in the discovery time after the Opposition is fully fading. The experience itself is over and at this point that is ever more clear to see. Here is the time to clean up after the party, and make the most we can of it. This is an aspect of actively conserving or preserving whatever we can of what we have just been through, one of drawing conclusions, of learning to fail successfully.

This is the aspect of conservation, bar none, and we find ourselves scrambling to cap off the wells, save energy, and plug the leaks. Where before there was what seemed an endless overflowing of experience, here it is clear that that experience is fading, and will soon become even weaker. The action on our parts here must be passive, in that we actively save or gather what we can. This is all about returns, and catching what we can, like cupped hands filled with water - and plugging the leaks.

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The Waning Square (270 Degrees)

The Waning Square represents another major turning point, a point where we move from the external or outside, the manifest hemisphere, into the inner, non-physical, or meta-physical hemisphere. It marks the very end of the physical experience we had at the Opposition, and any personal connections we might have had to it up to now. That more personal experience is not only over, but we have withdrawn whatever conclusions we can from it, and have, hopefully, saved those up or taken note of them. The party is over.

In one step we move from a more personal point of view to a much less personal and more objective or impersonal perspective. We agree to leave behind what has already been left behind. As Gertrude Stein said, "Before friendship faded, friendship faded." You get the idea. Just as the Waxing Square marked a point of the entrance of something real and substantial into the out

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world, so the Waning Square marks the beginning of a more spiritual or meta-physical (beyond the physical) experience. We grow up fast, in a single step. We cut the cord. This phase corresponds to the zodiac sign Libra and the Seventh House, which have been traditionally connected to the outer or public (impersonal) and also to marriage.

This phase is related to marriage because it is at this point that the physical experience drops away and can be fully seen and accepted for whatever it was and now is. We can see it, and we accept it, we say "I do," and are able to move on, to drop our personal connections to what we see is going nowhere further. We are, for better or for worse, now beyond it.



The Waning Sextile (300 Degrees)

The Waning Sextile, like the Waxing Sextile, involves an abundance of energy, energy in the sense of increased room or space (perhaps atmosphere is a good word) in

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which activity can take place. There is room to move around in. Yet, unlike the waxing Sextile, where things are headed and oriented toward forming and building, here it is the reverse.

What has been in a state of deconstruction since the Opposition, here is reaching a more advanced or critical stage. The Waning Square saw the end of personal attachment to experience (whatever the Opposition brought), and here we take a step back, even farther, to where we actively can work to take things apart that no longer work or have relevance for us.

The Waxing Sextile is the maximum point where the critical faculties are brought to bear in examining the nature of whatever has resulted from the Opposition experience, examining in the sense of sorting the wheat from the chaff, into what has lasting value from what has already lost its meaning. That which has no meaning is here culled out. No wonder that the zodiac sign Scorpio and the Eighth House correspond here, for here all that superfluous is stripped off, leaving the naked truth or results - whatever of lasting value remains.

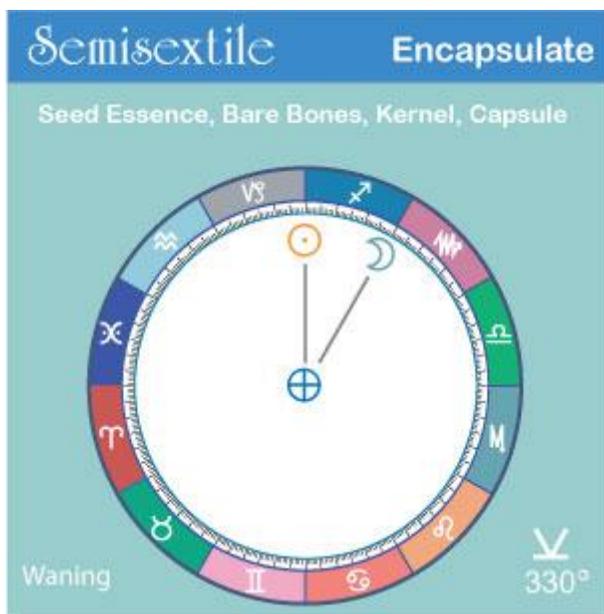
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The Waning Semi-Square (315 Degrees)

The Waning 315-degree phase brings further criticism, here even to criticism itself, finding that enough is enough and even the use of the mind to criticize and remove obstacles begins to shut down, and itself be removed. Things are folding inward. The train is leaving the station and it is time for the conductor to also jump on board. This is another of those 45-degree turning points or "Tomb Signs," that must be negotiated, and there is always some kind of possible friction or attitude adjustment required here. As pointed out above, here we have the leaving off of even criticism, and the turning ever more inward, partaking of one's own council, and finding rest and stability in a simpler life, more is less. That is the challenge.

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The Waning SemiSextile (330 Degrees)

This marks that last phase of the 360-degree cycle, the last stop before the renewal at the Conjunction, and this phase has been called the seed stage or the seed essence, and corresponds to the zodiac sign Sagittarius, and the Ninth House of long journeys. Long journeys here refers to the things that last, whatever lasts longest, and therefore everything that religion is concerned with, that word meaning to bind back and hold what is most long lasting - eternal or lasting truths. The frankness and truth of zodiac sign Sagittarius and the Ninth House fits right in here.

This phase marks the end result of the cycle, the result of the entire experience, here reduced to the seed essence or bare bones, the seed from which the next cycle or circle will spring.

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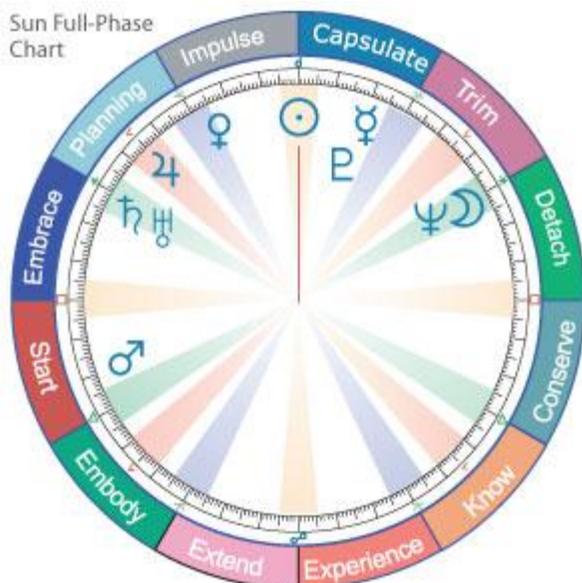


Looking at the Full-Phase Wheel

With the full-phase wheel, we are always looking at one planet at a time. That planet is placed at the top of the chart in the place where the Conjunction is marked, and all of the other bodies are laid out in relation to it, showing their particular angular separation, either as waxing or waning aspects.

As each of the planets has its own qualities and nature, that part of life that they represent, it is useful to look at each in turn. Of course, the two most important bodies are the Sun and the Moon, since they represent the Self (Sun) and the support environment (Moon). The other traditional planets, like Mars (ambition, drive) and Jupiter (career, life path) are also important to examine.

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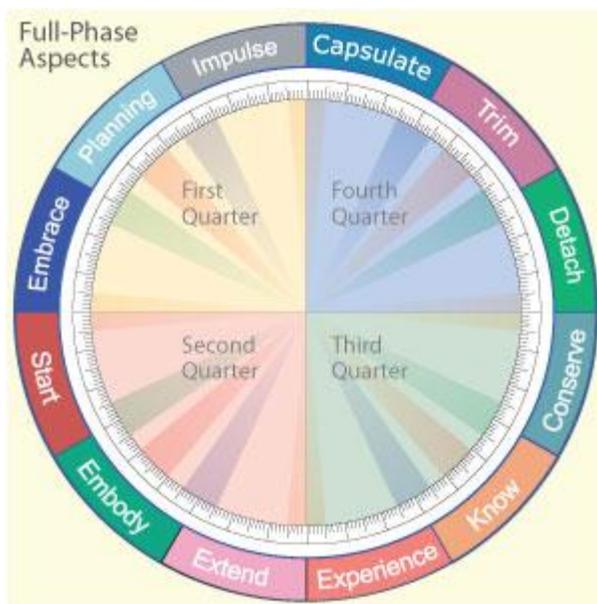
What to Look For

Since the 360-degree space of the cycle is always the same, and since each view has the same number of planets, what changes or is different is the grouping of the planets on the wheel, in particular, if and where they form clusters.

For example, which of the four quadrants has the most planets? That area of the wheel will be strengthened or emphasized, and this cluster may point to particular talents or abilities, depending of course on which planets are involved. Or, which has none? That too is significant.

Look for clustering of different types, by quadrant, by hemisphere, by aspect type, and so forth. Each of these kinds of emphasis can be interpreted by even a beginning astrologer. Clustering is obvious. We will go over these areas of emphasis in the next section.

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The Four Hemispheres

Actually hemispheres only have two parts, but here we refer to four hemispheres, because we have a right and a left side, and an upper and lower half. The four quadrants or quarters can be grouped as follows:

Inner Hemisphere - First and Fourth Quarters.

Outer Hemisphere - Second and Third Quarters.

Waxing Hemisphere - First and Second Quarters.

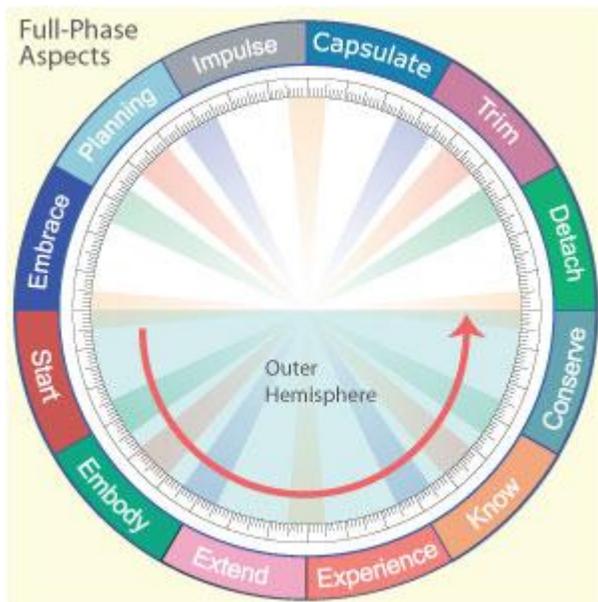
Waning Hemisphere - Third and Fourth Quarters.

Right off, we can look at how the hemispheres, either planet by planet, or as a total for the entire chart, stack up. Which of these four hemispheres have the greatest emphasis?

And we look at hemispheres, naturally, by pairs. Is the Inner Hemisphere stronger than the Outer Hemisphere or is the Waxing Hemisphere stronger than the Waning

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Hemisphere. And each of these designations has meaning and can be interpreted. Briefly, let's go over how they might be interpreted.



The Inner and the Outer

Are you an 'innie'? Or an 'outie'? Are your planets more in the inner hemisphere, which tends to make you an introvert, or are they in the outer hemisphere, which would point to your being an extrovert? And there are all levels of interpretation as well.

A introverted chart or planet does not necessarily mean a needy, shy, clinging wallflower type, although it might. And an extroverted chart does not mean a crude, boorish, materialistically oriented buffoon, although that could be one interpretation. You will have to use your own discretion in interpreting.

An inner emphasis points to working more from the inside out, using the mind and ideas to create plans and

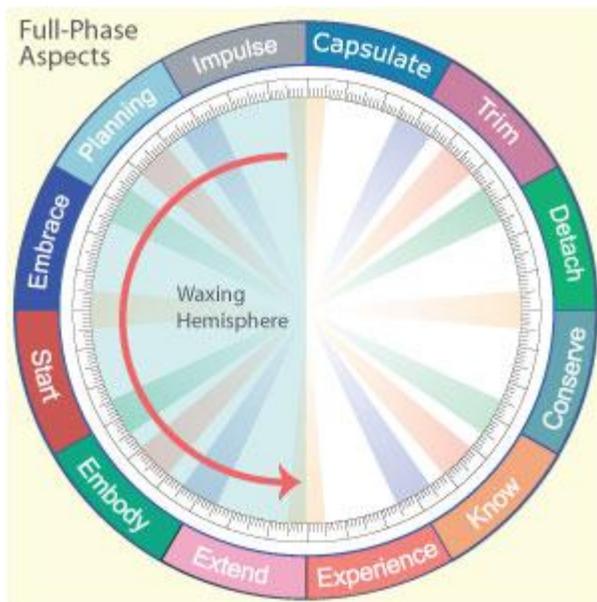
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projects that can be carried out. An outer emphasis is more about carrying those plans and projects out into reality, building them to fruition. One is working from the inside-out; the other is working on the outside-in.

It could be as simple as the fact that some folks build bridges and make cars (outer), while others design those bridges and cars (inner). One person may work with his or her mind, while another may be out in the public, at the center of a group. This is a very rough idea of inner and outer.

And many people are about equally balanced, between inner and outer. In that case, there is some natural harmony. They can do it all. In either case, it all starts from just looking at the full-phase chart wheel, either for the entire chart or planet-by-planet.

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Giving and Receiving

The other set of hemispheres are the waxing and waning hemispheres, with the waxing hemisphere running from the Conjunction aspect between two planets, outward down the left side of the aspect wheel to the Opposition, and the waning hemisphere running inward from the Opposition up the right side of the chart wheel, back to the next Conjunction.

These two hemispheres refer more to investing and returns, building and making something (waxing) and appreciating and concluding things (waning) - giving and taking. The waxing side is where we give, where we build things, and the waning side of the aspect wheel is where we take, where things tend to come to us.

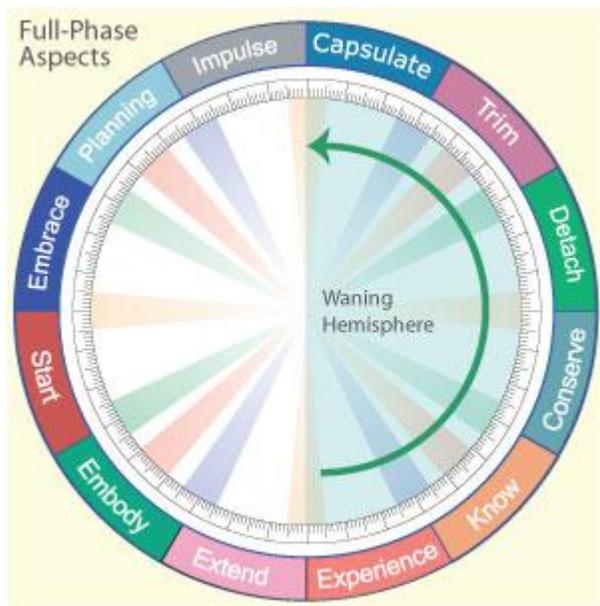
This whole idea of giving and receiving, of being either predominantly a "Giver" or a "Taker," also leaves a lot of room for interpretation on our parts, but more or less, that is the way it works. Again, you can look at these

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two hemispheres planet-by-planet or as how the whole chart sums up. Here too, we look for clustering, and we also want to know what planets are involved.

The waxing side of the aspect cycle is where we come up with ideas, make plans to implement them, and actually put these plans into action, building something real, something outward and usually in the physical world. This is where we give.

The waning side of the aspect cycle is where we work with whatever we have built and created, coming to understand what it is, how to best use it, and what it means to us. Here we are receiving, accepting what is, and learning to work with that. We take it.



Whole Chart Emphasis

When we look at quarter or hemisphere emphasis in the whole chart, we are counting up the number of planets in each of the various aspect regions, and seeing how

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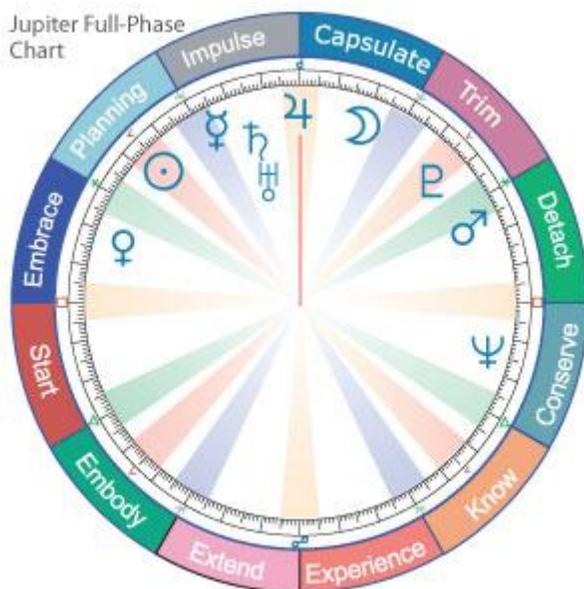
they add up, hemisphere by hemisphere. There are 45 combinations in the geocentric chart, and 35 combinations in the heliocentric chart.

When we look at percentages in hemispheres, we have two percentages, so 50% in one hemisphere and 50% in the other would be a perfectly balanced chart.

However, when we look at percentages in the four quarters, then we would have four quarters, each with 25%, to reach a balance. Any quarter with more than (or less than) 25% is emphasized one way or the other.

Negative emphasis, having less than average number of aspects, is also an emphasis and should be noted and interpreted. Having no activity in a hemisphere is very special, and even no activity in one of the four quarters is well worth noting. These negative areas of emphasis point to areas in our self where we want or lack something.

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Planet-by-Planet Emphasis

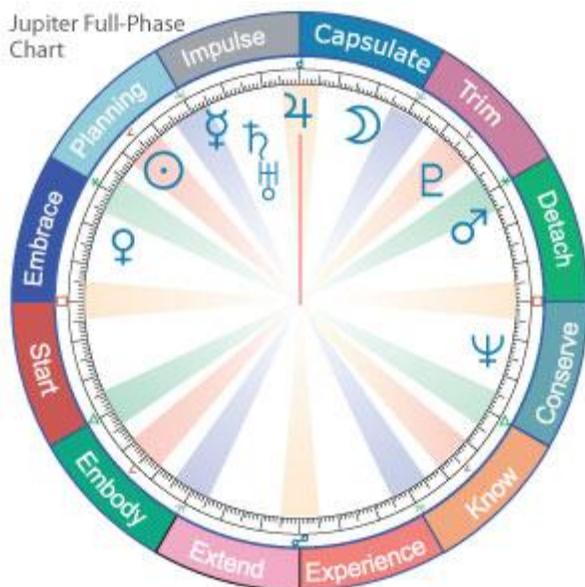
Equally interesting is looking at the aspect balance, planet by planet. Using my own chart (geocentric) as an example, and putting Jupiter at the focus, I have all planets in the inner hemisphere, except one, and that is Neptune. In other words, Neptune is the ONLY planet in the outer or physical half of the cycle. As Jupiter has to do with the life path or career, literally the way we go through life, then having some planet in the public or outer sphere may help. It is our means to get out or be known.

It is interesting that I have made my career in a couple of areas, most notably astrology, music, and film - all very Neptunian subjects. And, we can refine that a little further by noting that the hemisphere that Neptune is located is the waning half of the chart, in fact in the sector that corresponds with the 6th house and the zodiac sign Virgo. It is interesting that my careers in all

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three of these areas involve painstaking, detail work, as an archivist in music and film, and as a programmer (among other things) with astrology. That is how one might look at these charts.

And I want to emphasize once more that my interpretation of what Neptune means in my Jupiter full-phase chart is just that: my interpretation. I am in no way suggesting you would agree with that interpretation. You would have your own distinct way to evaluate these positions. That is what makes astrology so fascinating. There are pretty near as many interpretations as there are astrologers out there. We each see things differently and agree to allow others to do the same.



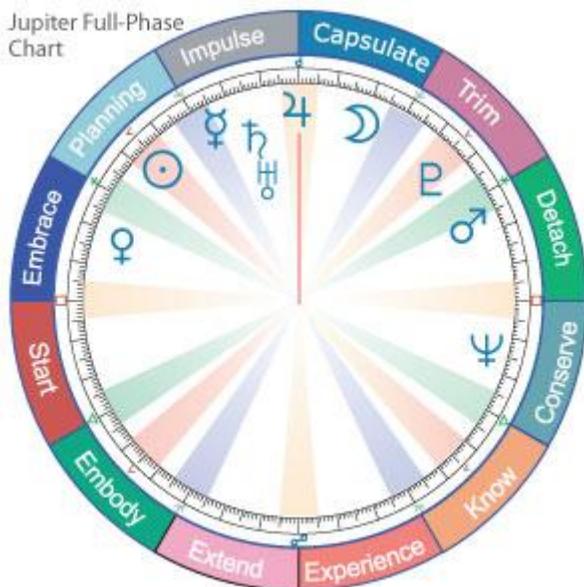
The Hemispheres

We could look at each of the other bodies in my Jupiter full-phase chart in the same manner, and come up with all kinds of understandings. The point of it all is to determine if these interpretations, this understanding, is

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useful for us. Does it help us to better understand ourselves and our life?

For example, without giving you so much detail as with Neptune, we might look at all the planets in the first quarter - Saturn, Uranus, Mercury, Venus, and the Sun. These are all in the inner waxing quarter of the chart, suggesting that in my career I may invest (put out) and give through these planets. What would be emphasized in this quarter are new ideas, plans, projects in the making. As a well known entrepreneur, I just have to laugh. Of course, I have had an endless stream of ideas and projects in mind to do. That's what I have done.



The Other Side

Looking at the other planets, Mars, Pluto, and the Moon, they are all in the fourth quarter, and in the waning hemisphere. These too are inner planets, but instead of planning and projecting, here the planets are returning, bringing in the results. These planets are where I can

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receive from the world, where I "take" so to speak, at least in respect to my career or life path.

That is an inward directed Mars, not an outward one, so I would expect to have a drive to understand, receive, and boil everything down to the essentials, as opposed to the traditional idea of Mars as always reaching or pushing out. Mars also pushes in. And let's not forget the Moon, hidden here deep within the inner hemisphere and toward the end of the last quarter, making its mysteries and supportive force very deep and inward in my case.

Without a doubt, my career is, according to this analysis, very much inward, whether we want to translate that as insecure, mental, all about ideas, or all three.

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Getting Started

I am trying to give you a taste as to how these planet-by-planet full-phase charts can be looked at and interpreted. Of course, that is only one planet. There are many others, and each has its own story. In fact, it is one of the great things about this technique, that each full-phase chart tells a whole story. We don't have to wrack our brains to figure this out; just look at the full-phase wheel and read the story. It is all right there. For myself, I like stories.

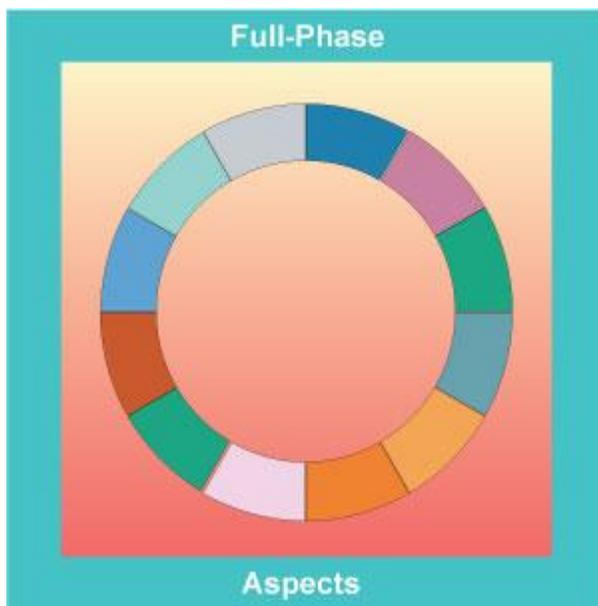
I am not suggesting here that this full-phase technique is the only or even the best method to read a chart. What is true is that here is a new and easy-to-read way to look at yourself, based on principles each of us have already accepted and hold true. The validity of aspects is integral to most astrologers' toolbox. We pretty much all use them.

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All that we have done here is to arrange what we already use everyday into an easier-to-read format, and expand our interpretations to read the two kinds of aspects, waxing and waning, as different events, something many great astrologers have been suggesting we do for many decades.

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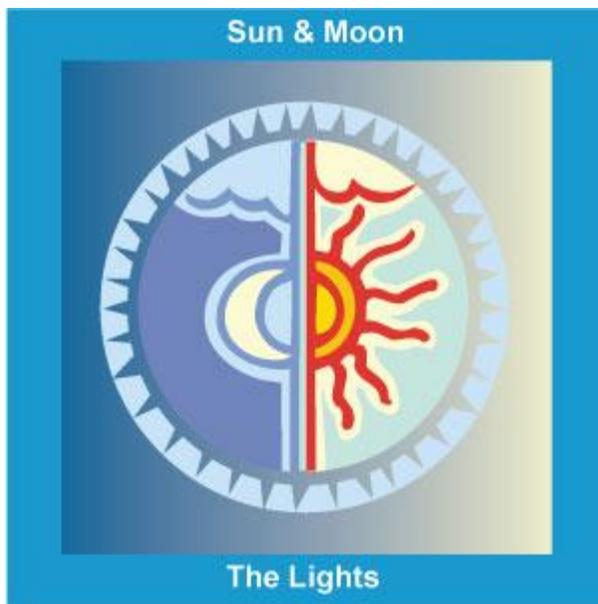
Full-Phase Resources



Full-Phase Aspects

Astrological aspects, the angular separation between the various planets in the sky is as old as astrology itself. Here we will be looking at these astrological aspects, but in the modern full-phase context, which analyzes all 45 aspect pairs between the Sun & Moon and the eight planets in their full 360-degree context.

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The Lights: Sun and Moon

Throughout the tradition of astrology, the single most important aspect combination is that of the Sun and the Moon. It is an order of magnitude more important than any other aspect pair, because it represents the two major bodies that, along with the earth create the monthly solunar cycle. This solunar cycle is the paradigm of all relationship cycles, and the Sun-Moon aspect is always the key to the overall nature of the chart. Don't underestimate its importance.

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Giving and Taking

Let's look at the overall balance of the chart in terms of giving and taking. Is this chart evenly balanced or does the person give more than they receive or vice versa. It is not as simple as saying that "giving" is good, and "taking" is bad, and that a particular chart represents either a "giver" or a "taker," although in a very general way there is some truth to that approach. "Giving" here indicates putting forth, investing, being involved - putting the life energy into building things. And receiving indicates seeing results, getting returns, helping things out, and being less personally involved - getting some return out of our investment.

We have to invest in order to get a return and, as my teacher used to tell me, "We know how to get the rabbit out of the hat, but how does it get in there in the first place?" We may find ourselves always putting out in one area and never getting anything back, while in other

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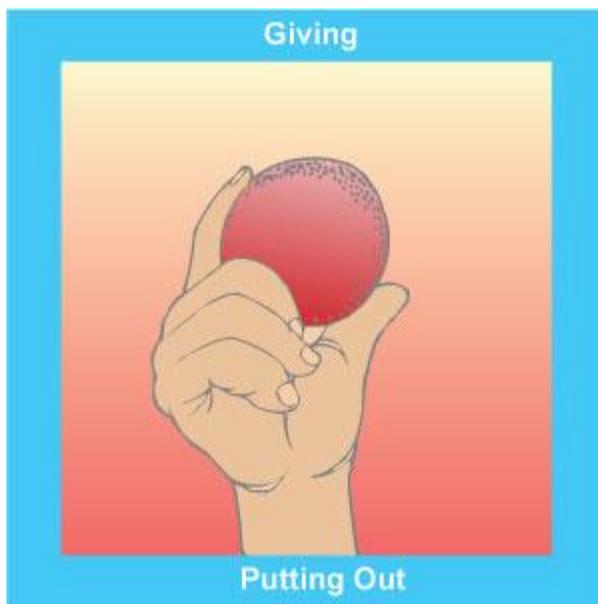
areas of our life, things naturally seem to come to us. This is more how to understand this give and take: in some areas we have to really make an effort, while in others, things just naturally come our way. We can look at this balance planet by planet, but we can also look at the overall chart balance.

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Waxing and Waning Hemispheres

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Waxing Hemisphere Emphasis

More planets in waxing hemisphere.

Overall, you are more of a giver than a taker. You invest in life and don't always expect to get back as much as you give. Giving is natural to you, not something you have to make a great effort in; it is the way you are and have always been. You don't expect life to wait on you and you don't wait for someone else to act. You pitch in and get the job done. It is true that you may work harder than others, and for less, but the rewards of giving and being involved are more than just what you get back. You naturally understand this, and are not a complainer.

You are anything but lazy, when it comes to putting out effort, but you may not be as at home with easing or helping out situations once they exist, especially if they get out of control. You are better at creating situations than you are with solving them, and that is not meant as a criticism.

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Waxing Hemisphere: First Quarter Emphasis

You above all enjoy working from behind the scenes or in the world of creative ideas, planning and working our schemes and projects to carry out.

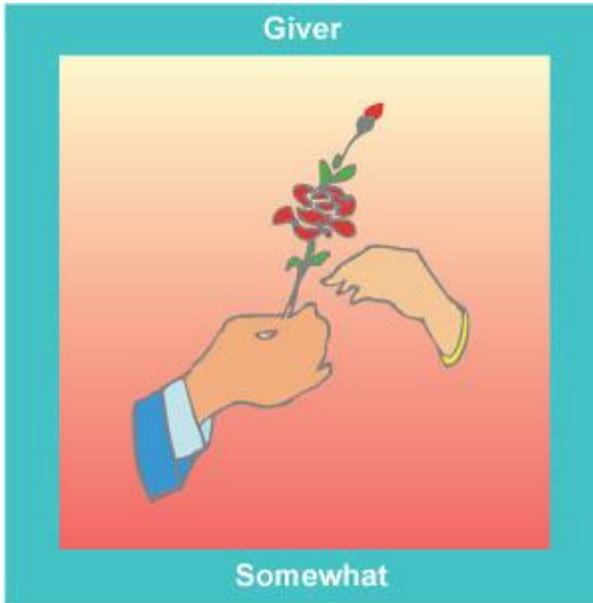
Waxing Hemisphere: 2nd Quarter Emphasis

You like it when a project or situation is beyond the planning stages, and has reached the production process. You like to pitch in and build infrastructure, finish off and complete projects.



Waxing Hemisphere

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Giver: Somewhat

Somewhat more planets in waxing hemisphere.

You are pretty much in balance, when it comes to taking and giving. You give as much as you take as much as you give. There is something of the "quid pro quo" in your approach. You are not afraid to put out and really invest in life, but you expect and usually get something in return. Overall, there is a pretty even flow of give and take in your life. There is a tendency for you to pitch in and give more than you ask for.

The emphasis for this chart is on giving and investing, putting forth effort and energy in planning and building toward outward toward success - something real and physical.

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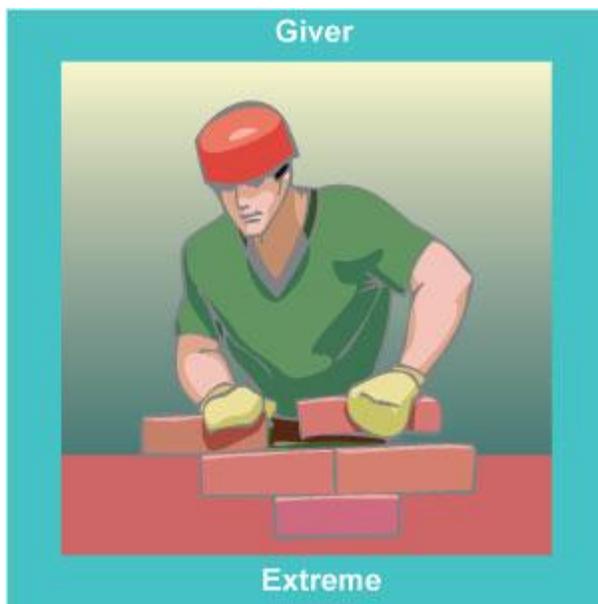
Giver: Moderate

Considerably more planets in waxing hemisphere.

You are definitely more of a giver, than a receiver, which suggests you like to and are able to put in care and time into things, even though your results may not justify the extra effort. You could care less. This is just part of your nature. You are a giver.

The emphasis for this chart is on giving and investing, putting forth effort and energy in planning and/or building toward outward success - something real and physical. This chart gives much more than it receives.

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Giver: Extreme

Many more planets in waxing hemisphere.

You are way into giving, perhaps a workaholic, when it comes to putting out the time and energy on whatever you are involved in. Results be damned; that is not what you are about. You just naturally feel best when you give your all and get things done.

There is strong emphasis for this chart on giving and investing, putting forth effort and energy in planning and/or building toward outward success - something real and physical. The giving sector is much stronger than receiving. Extreme giving.

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Taking, Receiving

More planets in waning hemisphere.

Overall, you are more of a receiver than a giver, which is not to say you don't give of yourself. It is just that the way you give involves handling or working WITH a situation, rather than creating a new one. Straight ahead work, of the traditional variety, getting involved, does not appeal to you, because your skills have to do with working with a situation already in effect. It is the difference between Judo and Aikido, in the martial arts. Judo is offensive (taking action), while Aikido is passive, always working with energy already in motion.

You belong to the second type, Aikido style, and the way you give or help out is just that: by helping out or easing a situation, not making things more, but making them less. Instead of making things more (making more things), You help things to pass, making less of things - easing things. People may say you are lazy when it

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comes to pitching in, but the fact is that your skills are in helping out a situation, not creating new ones. When trouble brews, you are always there to help. You are at your best in a crisis where your help is needed.

Waning hemisphere: Third Quarter Emphasis

You most of all like working outwardly or publicly, in particular developing awareness, drawing conclusions, and salvaging what you can from any project.

Waning Hemisphere: Fourth Quarter Emphasis

You enjoy making the hard calls, separating the wheat from the chaff, and boiling things down to their nitty-gritty essence.



Waning Hemisphere

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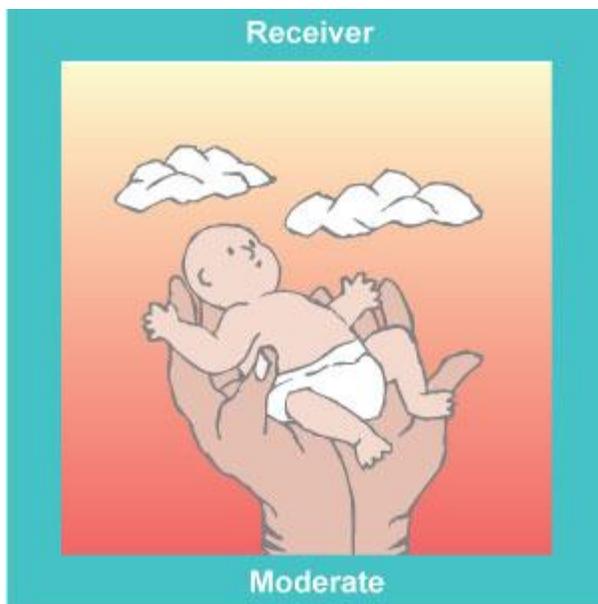
Taker: Somewhat

Somewhat more planets in waning hemisphere.

You are pretty much in balance, when it comes to taking and giving, although the scale is slightly tilted toward your being more a receiver than a giver. You give as much as you take, and you take as much as you give. There is something of the "quid pro quo" in your approach. You are not afraid to put out and really invest in life, but you expect and usually get something in return. Overall, there is a pretty even flow of give and take in your life. There is a tendency for you help out. Thing just naturally come to you.

The emphasis for this chart is on receiving, that is: using a situation as it exists now, working with it, and making the best or the most of it. The sectors are more or less in balance, although the "receiving" sector is stronger than giving.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Taker: Moderate

Considerably more planets in waning hemisphere.

You are definitely more of a receiver than a giver, which suggests that perhaps you can be perceived as a little lazy when it comes to physical push, and more into working with a situation and seeing what you can get out of it, not in a selfish way, but helping to work things out. You expect things to come to you and don't like to force issues.

The emphasis this chart is definitely on receiving, that is: taking a situation as it exists now, working with it, and making the best or the most of it. The receiving sector is stronger than giving.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Taker: Extreme

Many More planets in waning hemisphere.

You are way off the curve when it comes to give and take. You are ultra receptive, and skilled at working with people and situations, to even things out. You take it all in, and always smooth out the rough spots. Some things come to pass, and your skill is to help them pass.

The emphasis for this chart is very much on receiving, that is: taking a situation as it exits now, working with it, and making the best or the most of it. The receiving sector is much stronger than giving - extremely receptive.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Introvert / Extrovert

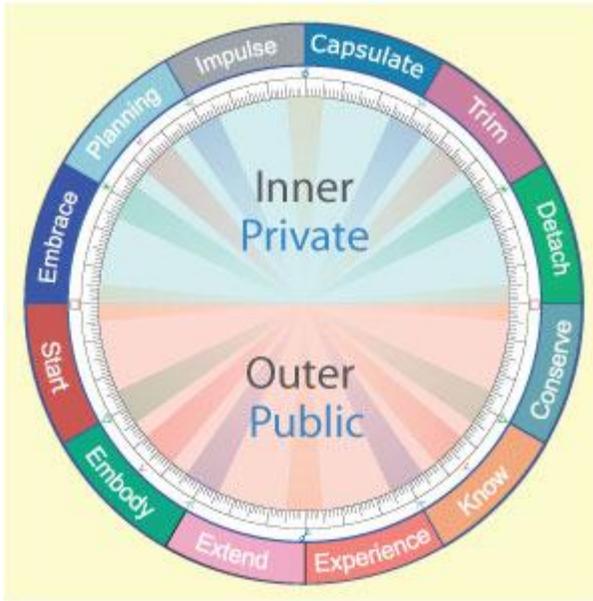
Another general chart indicator is that of inner versus outer, whether the person is overall more introverted or extroverted. And we should perhaps find better terms here, for by "introvert" we don't necessarily mean psychologically vulnerable, and by "extrovert" we don't mean overbearing and rude.

Perhaps words like "public" and "private" get closer to what I refer to. Some persons or endeavors are more outward or public, in a word: visible, while others are more inward or private, preferring not to be in center stage, but to work from behind-the-scenes. That is the idea. This is a their being more of an idea person or planner (inward).

Some like to work from within and bring their plans and ideas outward to the world (introvert), while others like things out in the open, fully formed, and in the outward or construction stage. That is the general idea.

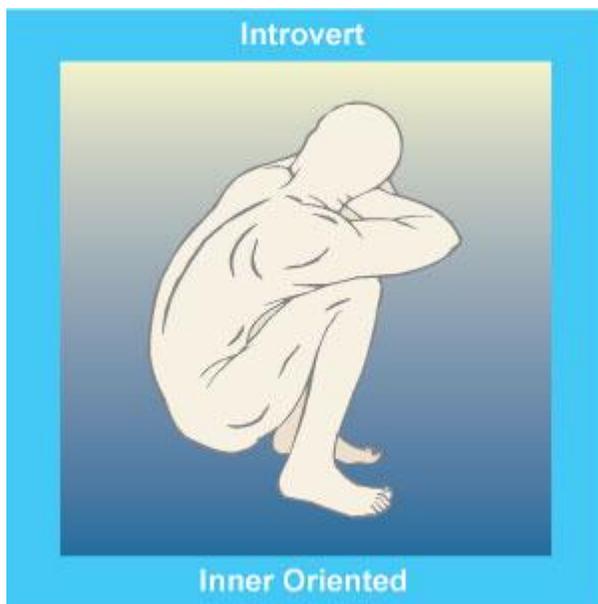
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Inner and Outer Hemispheres

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Introvert Chart

You have an introvert chart if more of your planets are in the 1st and 4th quarters of the chart wheel

Then you have an introvert chart, which suggests you are most comfortable working with a situation from the periphery, rather than seeking out the spotlight. Ideas, thoughts, plans, and all that happens creatively to make things happen in the world is where you prefer to be.

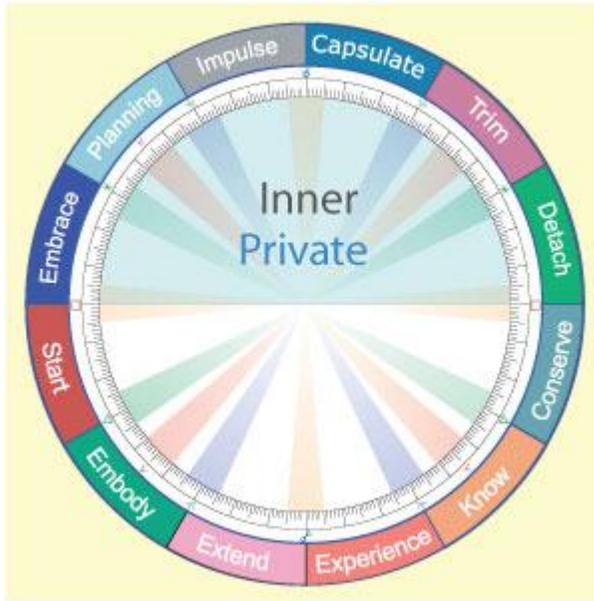
First Quarter Emphasis

In general, you like to work from the inside out, helping to lay the groundwork, make the plans, and put ideas into motion, whatever will eventually lead to action and accomplishment. You take joy in the creative process, making dreams and ideas real.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

Second Quarter Emphasis

In general, you like to work inward from the outside circumstances, and are best at drawing conclusions, making judgments, and paring things down to essentials, to the nitty-gritty. After all is said and done, you wrap it up, and boil things down to what is important.



Introvert Hemisphere

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



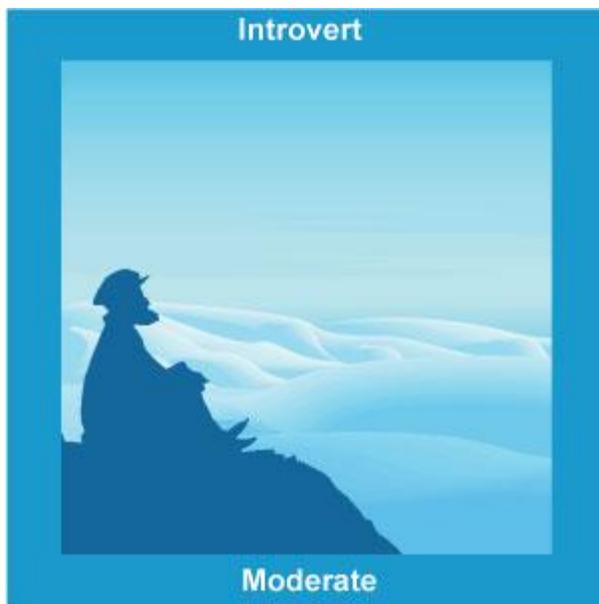
Introverted: Somewhat

Slightly more planets in 1st and 4th Quarters.

You are somewhat evenly balanced, when it comes to inner and outer, although you have a slight predisposition toward inwardness, perhaps just a little shy of the spotlight.

The emphasis with this chart is more on the internal than the external, that is: more with working with ideas and plans to create something from scratch or with the ideas and results gained from experience..

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



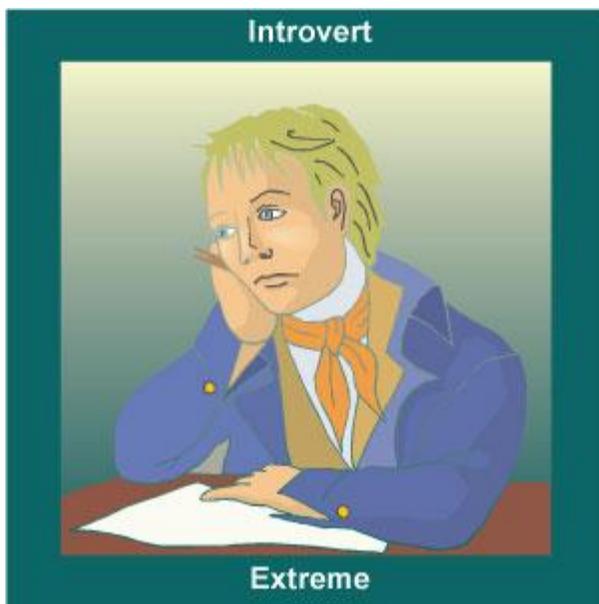
Introverted: Moderate

Considerably more planets in 1st and 4th Quarters.

You are quite inward in all that you do, and this does not make you an automatic wallflower. What it does suggest is that you operate more from within, from the mind, from the realm of ideas, and not so much in the day-to-day business of the external world. You are not comfortable in the spotlight, and prefer the freedom of not being on the spot.

The emphasis with this chart is definitely more on the internal than the external, that is: more with working with ideas and plans to create something from scratch or with the ideas and results gained from experience. This planet is much more internally oriented, than externally.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Introvert: Extreme

Very many planets in 1st and 4th Quarters.

You are very inward or introverted, and most at home in the creative world of ideas, philosophy, psychology, and whatever is beyond simple grasping and the obvious. Subtle planes are where you shine, the land where ideas come from and are arrived at.

The emphasis with this chart is very much more on the internal than the external, that is: more with working with ideas and plans to create something from scratch or with the ideas and results gained from experience. Extreme inwardness here.

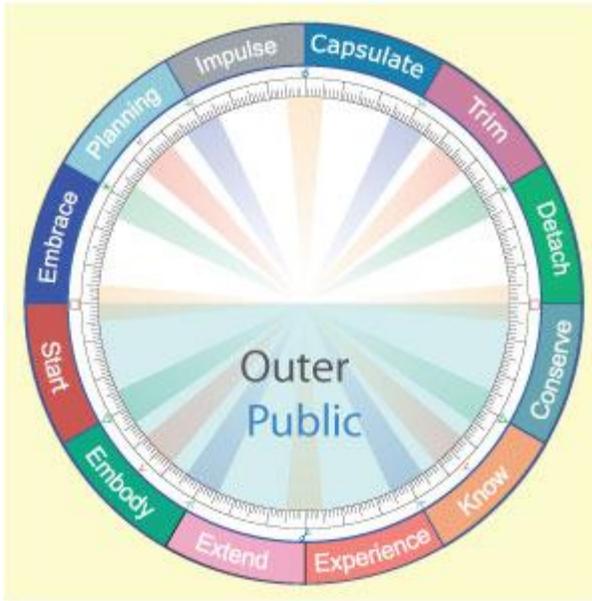
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Extrovert

This is primarily the chart of an extrovert, one who likes to be out and about, perhaps in the public eye, and certainly at center stage. This is just natural to you. The bright lights don't phase you one bit and subtleties are often lost on you, not because you don't get them, but because you don't prefer them. You like things out in the open, plain and simple.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Extrovert Hemisphere

Extrovert: Second Quarter emphasis

You are into building things up and like nothing better than when things are happening and forming into something visible and physical that you can see and touch.

Extrovert: Third Quarter emphasis

You are happiest when helping to figure out what is going on, getting the picture, and you probably like to share your findings with others. You work to take away obstacles, and remove barriers - take down the walls!

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



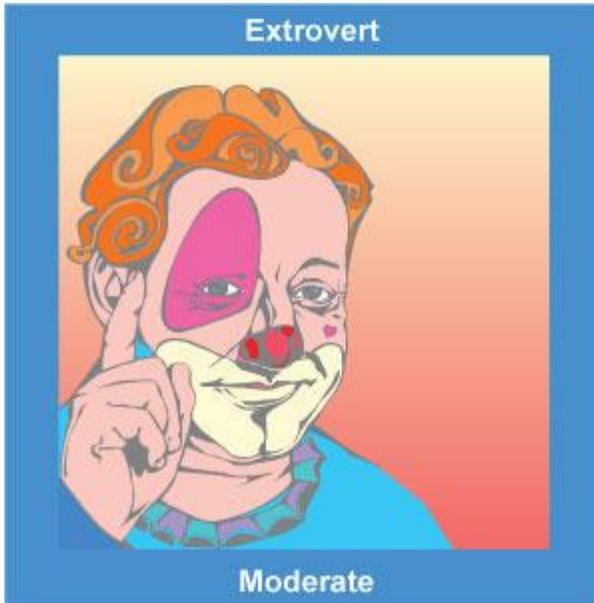
Extrovert: Somewhat

Somewhat more planets in 2nd and 3rd Quarters.

You are somewhat evenly balanced, when it comes to inner and outer, although you have a slight predisposition toward outwardness, perhaps just a little fond of the spotlight

The emphasis with this chart is outward and public, concerned with what is fact and can be seen, rather than with what is still in the planning stages. Look to these planets to find where you can manifest and be seen in the outside world.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



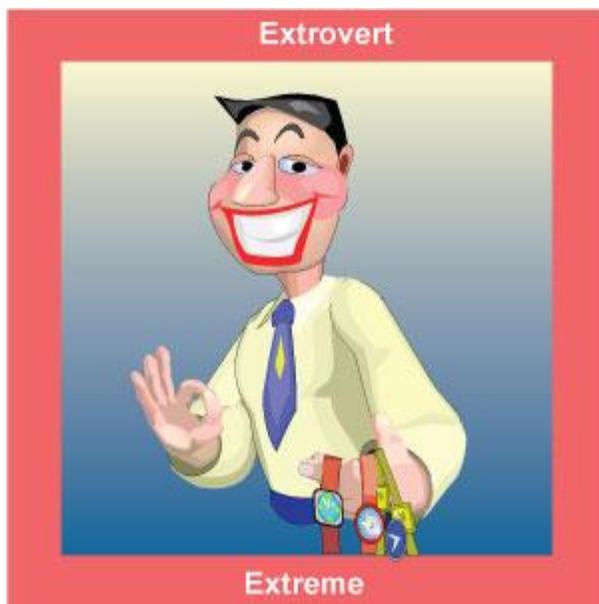
Extrovert: Moderate

Considerably more planets in 2nd and 3rd Quarters.

You are quite outward oriented in all that you do, and this does not make you an automatic bore or oaf. You like the day-to-day business of the outer world, enjoy your share of the spotlight, and are not shy when it comes to show and tell. You like the public and being in it.

The emphasis with this chart is much more outward and public, concerned with what is fact and can be seen, rather than with is still in the planning stages. Look to these planets to find where you can manifest and be seen in the outside world.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Extrovert: Extreme

Very many planets in 2nd and 3rd Quarters.

You are very outward or extroverted, probably to the point of appearing aggressive, certainly not camera shy, in the view of others. You like to be seen and heard, and the more of that, the better. You value outer success.

The emphasis with this chart is very much more outward and public, concerned with what is fact and can be seen, rather than with what is still in the planning stages. Look to these planets to find where you can manifest and be seen in the outside world. Extreme outwardness.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

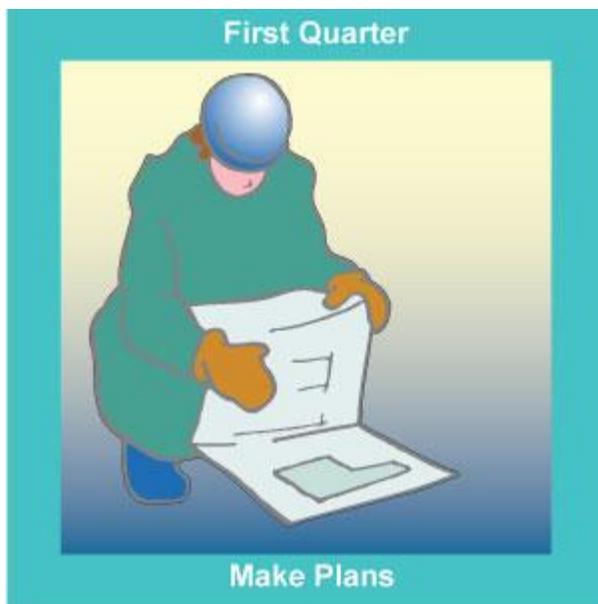


The Four Quadrants or Quarters

In most astrology charts, the aspect pairs and cycles also tend to cluster, not only in halves, but also in quarters, and most of us have one quarter that is emphasized over the others. Here is how it falls out in this chart, in order of emphasis (most planets in that quarter):

This feature isolates the part of the aspect chart where the most action is, where everything is clustered. There are four major sections or quadrants, the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Quarters.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

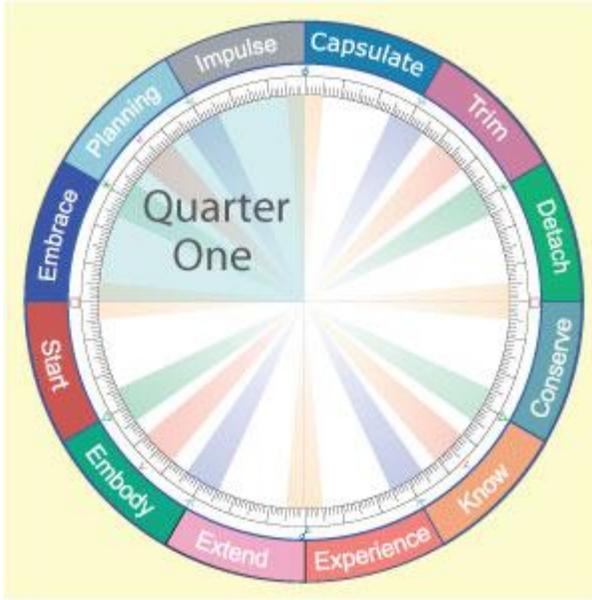


First Quadrant or Quarter

Most planets in First Quadrant.

The First Quarter suggests an inward-to-outward approach, meaning coming up with and working with ideas in the most formative state, shaping them into plans, and then moving to make those plans real, launching new plans into the sphere of practical reality - making it happen.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



First Quadrant

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with planning things out, starting with ideas, insights, and urges, shaping them into projects and plans, and then moving to actually make those plans real. The First Quadrant.

Dominant Skill: Planning

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

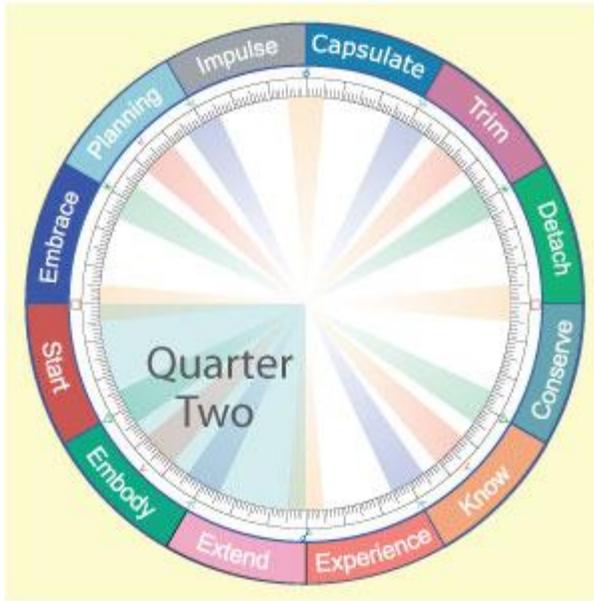


The Second Quadrant or Quarter

Most planets in Second Quadrant.

The Second Quarter suggests an outward-and-upward approach, meaning you are most at home with building infrastructure once it has been started, rather than planning and creating projects from scratch. You work to incrementally add on and build projects toward completion.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

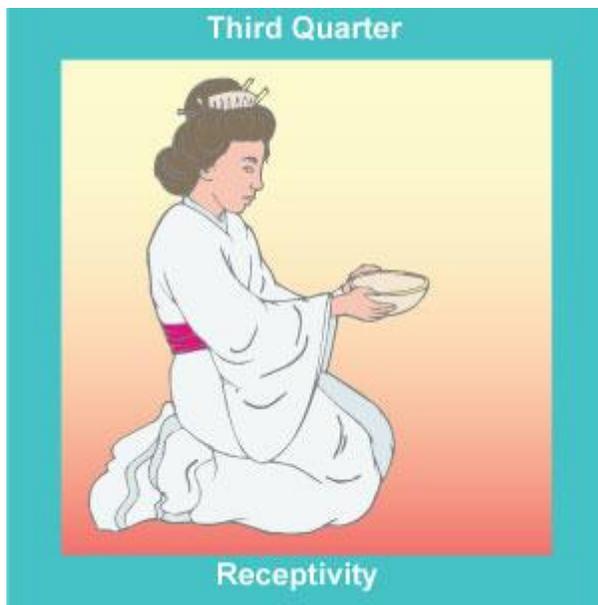


Second Quadrant

Building

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with bringing plans across into reality, getting things done, and building outwardly something real and physical. Successful projects.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

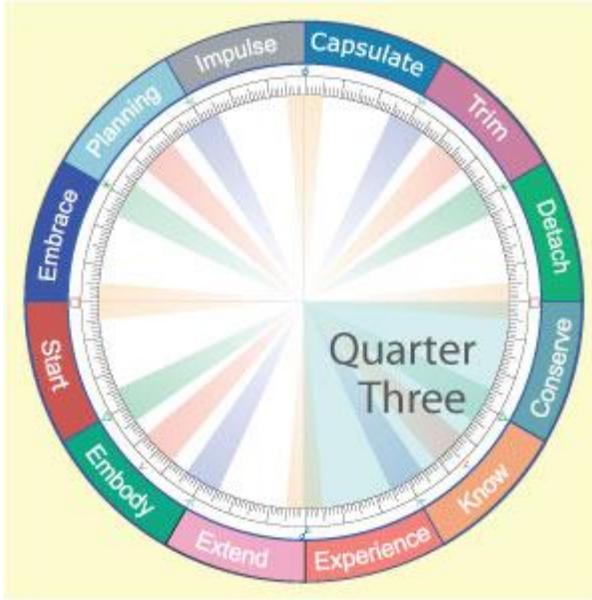


The Third Quadrant or Quarter

Most planets in Third Quarter.

The Third Quarter suggests an outward-to-inner approach, meaning you are expert at working with situations and projects that are already in existence, but need defining or understanding. Your special skills are in developing an awareness of what things mean, and drawing the appropriate conclusions. You can help to conserve and salvage existing situations.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

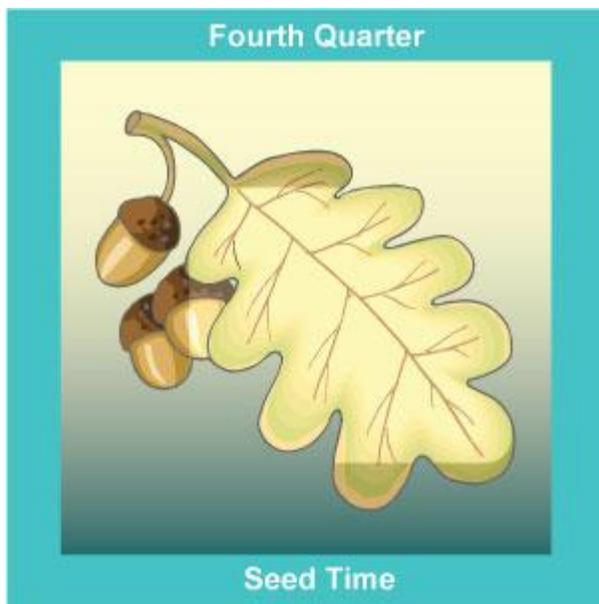


Third Quadrant

Teaching

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with working with situations and projects that are already in existence, but need defining or understanding. Its special skills are in developing an awareness of what things mean, and drawing the appropriate conclusions, and perhaps teaching or explaining this to others. Also, helping to conserve and salvage existing situations.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

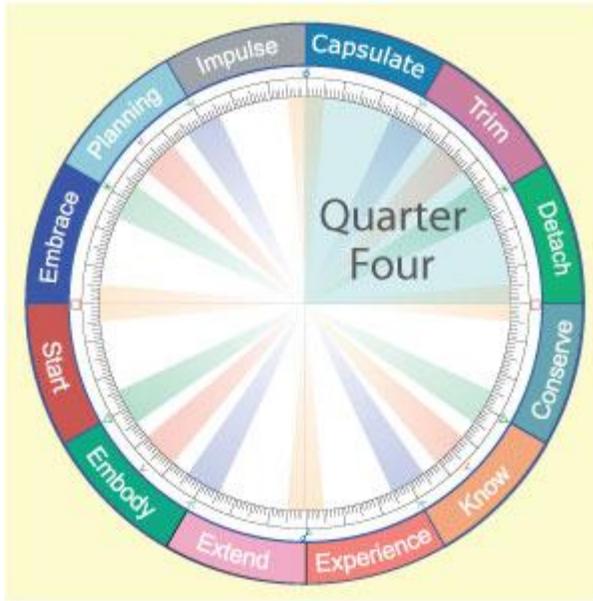


The Fourth Quadrant or Quarter

Most planets in Fourth Quadrant.

The Fourth or Last Quarter suggests an inward-to-inward approach, which means you can be very objective and impartial when it comes to viewing things, and are able to see what should be removed and what can remain from any situation - solid business decisions.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



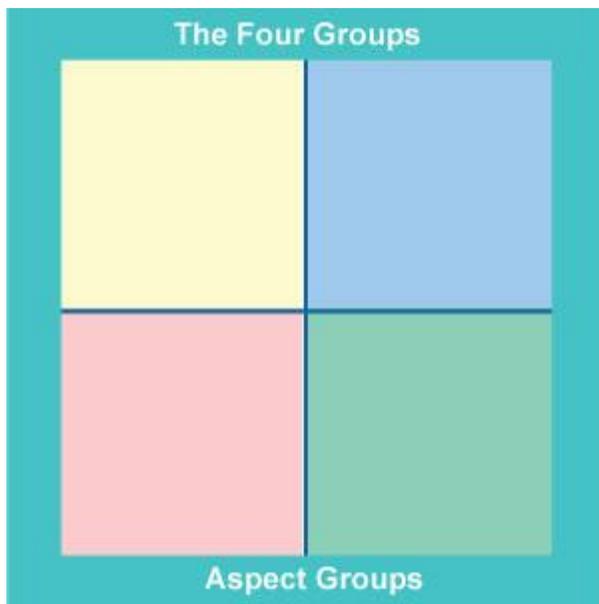
The Fourth Quadrant

The overall or majority activity for this chart has to do with being very objective and impartial when it comes to viewing things, and includes the ability to see what should be removed and what can remain from any situation - solid business decisions.

Dominant Skill: Appraising

Few Semisextile and Inconjunct aspects.

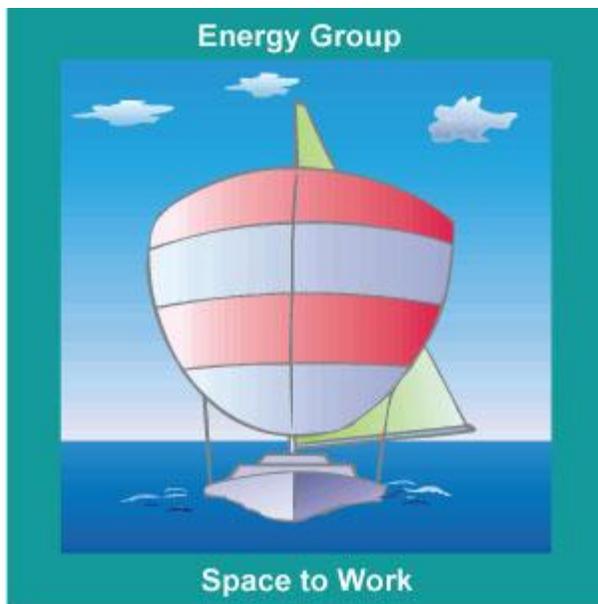
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Four Aspect Groups

Aspects are typically sorted into groups by similarity of effect or quality. Here we will look at the four main groups, which we will color code as the Energy Group (green), the Turning Point Group (yellow), the Subtle Group (blue) and the Challenge Group (red). Each group contains four of the sixteen standard aspects. We will examine the groups based on which group is strongest in this chart.

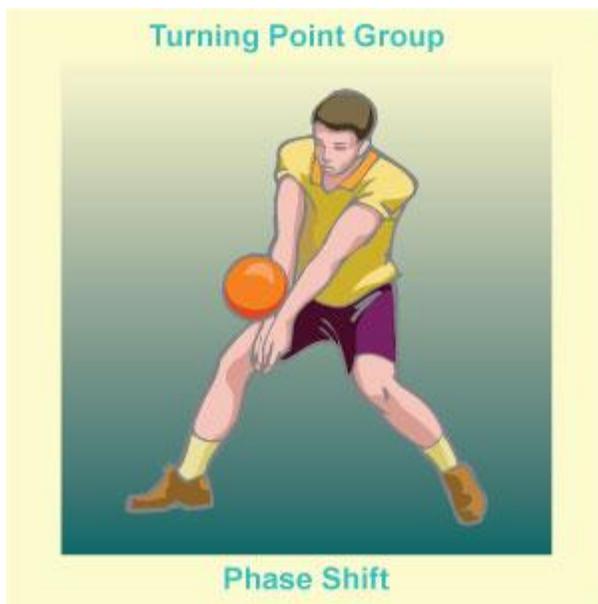
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Energy Group: Green

The Energy Group marks four points (60, 120, 240, and 300 degrees) in any cycle of aspects where the energy is the strongest, and where a shot of energy gives us more room or space to get things done. Each of these four energy points is good for a different kind of activity, so it is worth defining them.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Turning Point Group: Yellow

The Turning-Point Group marks four aspect points (0, 90, 180, and 270 degrees) in any cycle of aspects where there is a basic shift in direction, but one that may take time to perceive properly and get used to, like a change in polarity. One motion stops, and another begins, and we may have to wait until we get the feel of the new direction. Each of these four turning points is good for a different kind of activity, so it is worth defining them.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Challenge Group: Red

The Challenge Group marks four points (45, 135, 225, and 315 degrees) in any cycle of aspects where there is what might be called a challenge or sticking point. None of the aspects should be viewed as "bad," but if there are some aspects that can be more difficult than the others, these are the four. Each marks a shift in perspective that may be a little more difficult for most of us, so it is worth defining them.

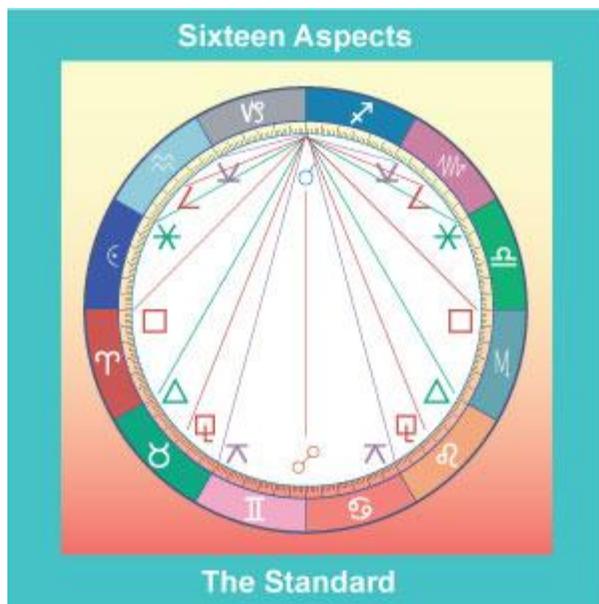
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Subtle Group: Blue

The Subtle or Transitional Group marks four points (30, 150, 210, and 330) in any cycle of aspects where there is a more gentle or refined experience, one that precedes or immediately follows a more dynamic aspect. It is worth defining them.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



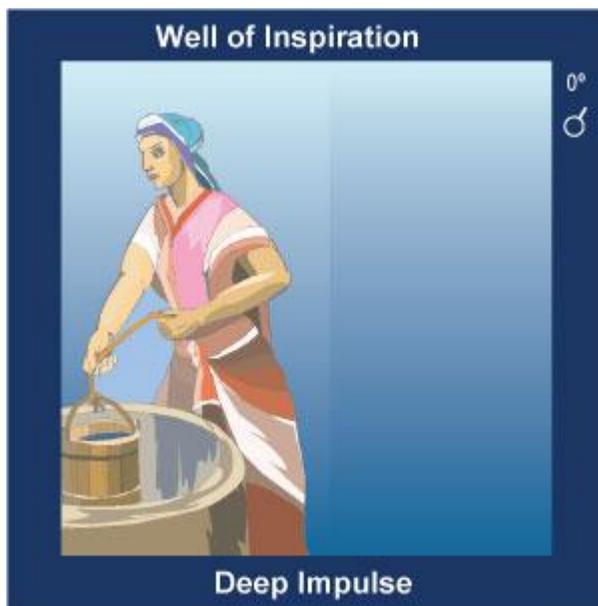
The Sweet Sixteen Aspects

For centuries, astrologers have looked to planetary aspects for much of their information. A planetary aspect is simply the angle of relationship between two bodies, like the Sun and the Moon. For example, Full Moon tells us that the angle between the Sun and Moon is 180 degrees; they are opposite one another. First Quarter Moon is when the angle between the Sun and Moon is 90 degrees, and so on.

There are sixteen main aspects that most professional astrologers regularly use when examining an astrological chart. Some use more, others less, but sixteen different aspects is the standard. Each of these aspects marks part of the 360-degree cycle or circle that any pair of planets or bodies goes through. In most charts, one or more of these sixteen aspects is emphasized, and that emphasis is worth examining. Also, certain aspects can be grouped and those groups

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

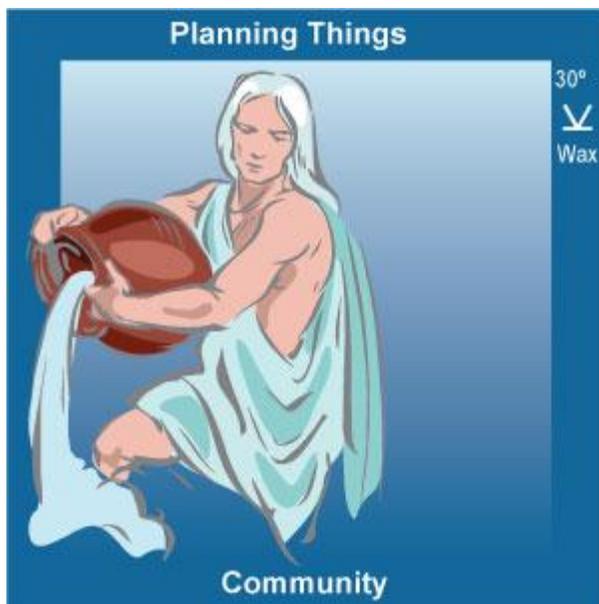
or types of aspects can be interpreted. We will look at both methods here.



Conjunction: 0 Degrees

This is a shift point, away from facilitating or handling things in a receptive way, and toward creating and doing things in a more active and aggressive manner. It is during this time, when there is this shift or temporary "unbalance," that new ideas and approaches can occur to us, and present themselves. Like catching a baseball and throwing it back, we shift from receiving to acting, and in that pause there is the start of something new.

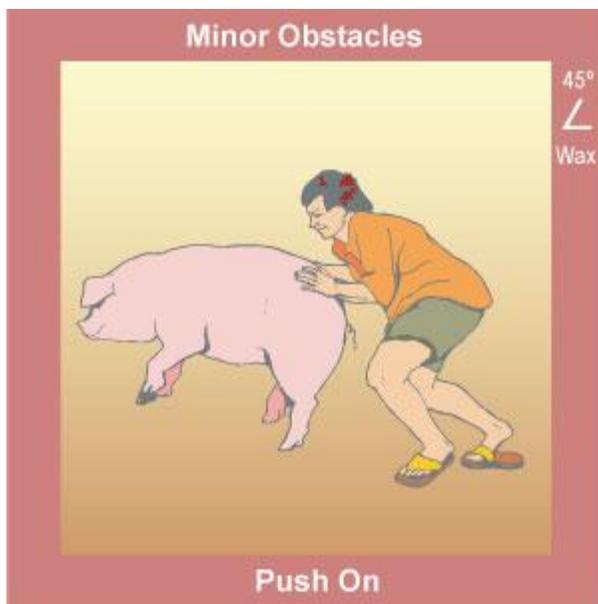
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Semisextile: 30 Degrees

This is a point where ideas and thoughts of all kinds can be shaped into strategies and where plans are formed, a clear vision of what needs to be done and carried out. There is a sense of community and welcoming help in making the plans real.

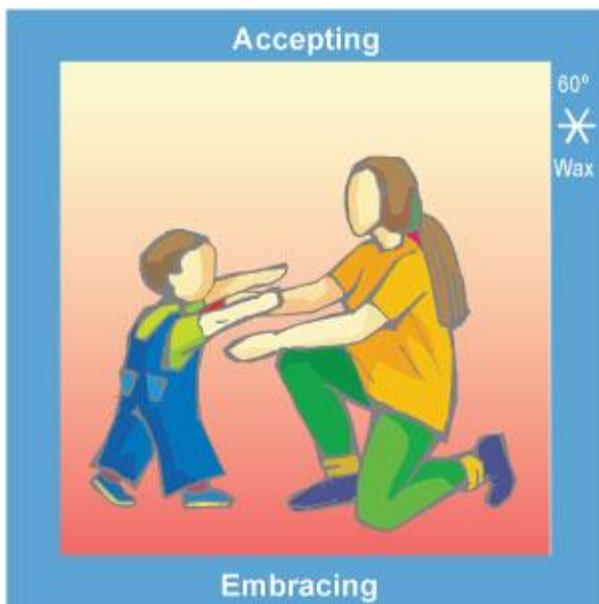
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Semisextile: 45 Degrees

This is point where things shift away from gathering ideas and making plans, and toward putting those plans into action. This means we leave off gazing into the well of ideas, prioritize what we now have in hand, and go with those. No more endless dreaming, but a case of go with what you've got.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Sextile: 60 Degrees

This is an energy point to where we begin to put plans into action, to get them off the drawing board and on the way to reality. This is a push point and not a point to back off or turn back. Any obstacles that arise, and there usually are some, are just that, obstacles, and not signs to give up. The traditional advice at these points is to gently push forward. Keep going.

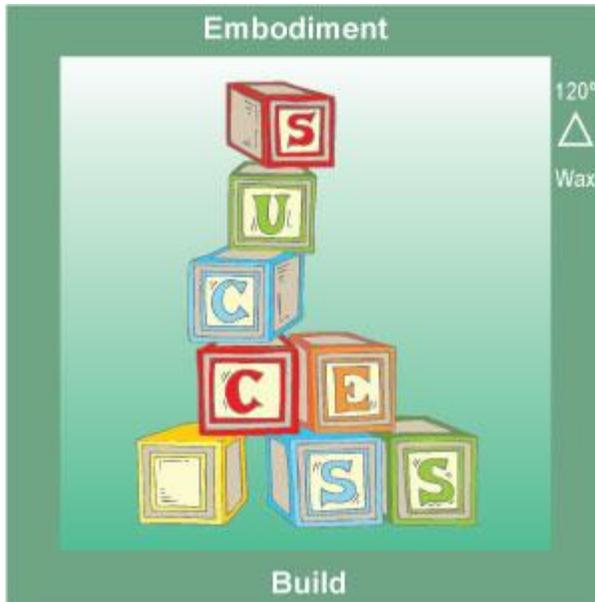
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Square: 90 Degrees

This is a shift point that marks the start of something, moving from the planning stages to the stage of action, a point where something emerges and can be seen. This is where things start to come up or rise into view, when there is something to be seen.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Trine: 120 Degrees

This is the premiere energy point to build infrastructure, a point in time when things actually can get done and moved forward, so best to take advantage of it and heave to. Put the pedal to the metal. Great things can be accomplished in this window of time.

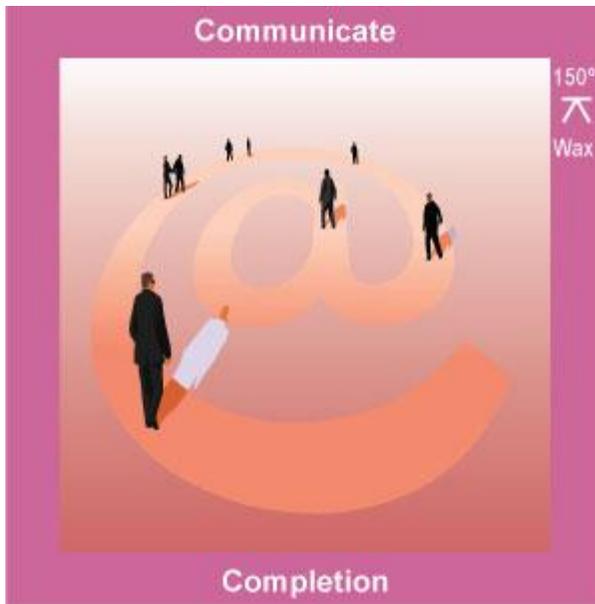
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Sesquiquadrate: 135 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from building infrastructure and generally driving forward, and toward finishing off whatever you have in the works to date. This involves a curbing of the momentum or desire to push on, and a turning instead to completing the details - doing the fine work.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waxing Inconjunct: 150 Degrees

This is a point where all new growth and forward push comes to a standstill, and all attention is turned to finishing off the details, completing whatever it is that is being worked on.

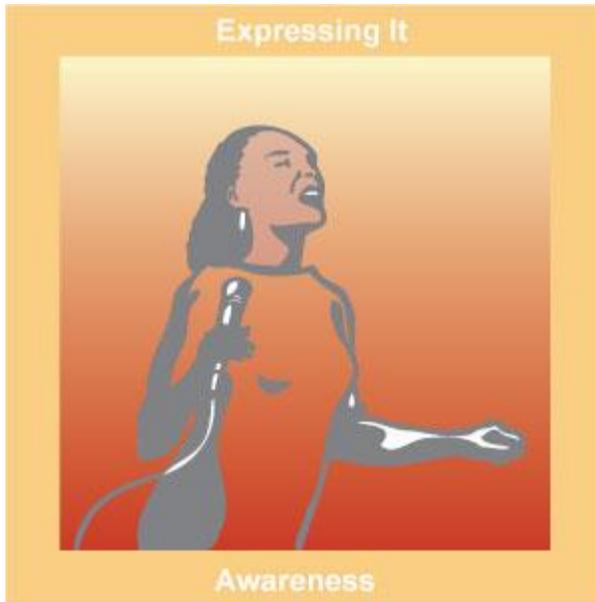
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Opposition: 180 Degrees

This is a major shift point that marks the living end of the entire cycle, the point of maximum strength, reality, physicality, and, above all, experience. This is a time to experience and soak in whatever is the meaning of the particular cycle. During this time there is a shift from acting to receiving, although it is gradual and may not be noticed. We stop pushing, and start being more receptive, but mostly we just feel and experience.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Inconjunct: 210 Degrees

This is a point where light begins to dawn about whatever we have been going through or on whatever project has been in the works. This is the "A Ha!" point, where we begin to get the picture and can put it into thoughts or words enough to explain or tell others about it.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Sesquiquadrate 225 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from going along with whatever is being experienced, and, instead, turning away in favor of getting a handle on or developing an awareness of the situation at hand - a perspective.

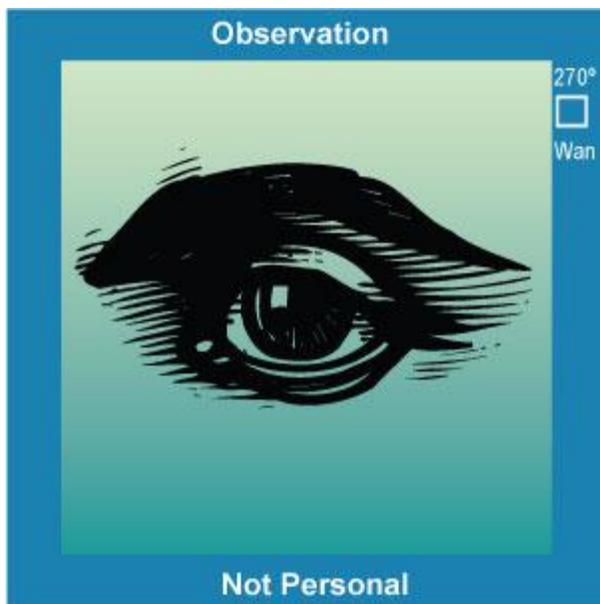
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Trine: 240 Degrees

This is the energy point to draw conclusions, put things into perspective, and to conserve or salvage what you can from a situation. You are pulling out, but with care and discernment.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Square: 270 Degrees

This is a shift point, one that marks the emergence of greater objectivity, and a letting go of a more purely personal or selfish view (giving up on that), and adopting an impartial view, what we could call a public or group perspective - growing up.

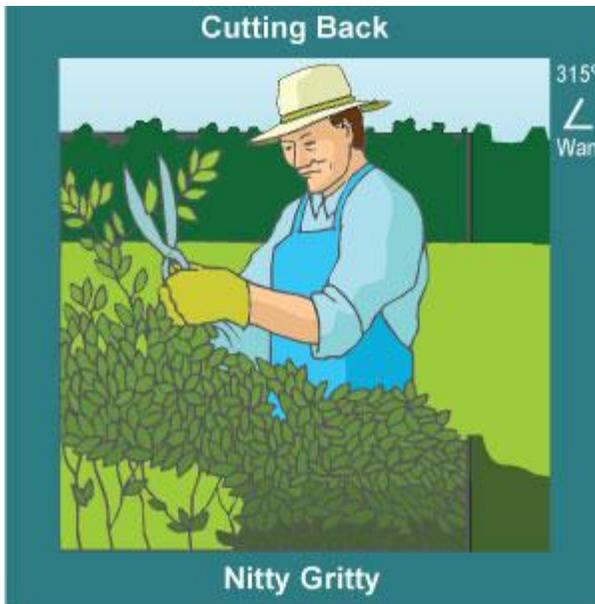
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Sextile: 300 Degrees

This is the energy point to be objective, to stand back, take everything in and to be impartial. Here you can see what has value versus what is sheer excess and can be cut out. This is a good aspect for business.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Semisquare: 315 Degrees

This is a point where the shift is away from whatever conclusions you are drawing, and toward actually concluding the business at hand, getting down to the nitty-gritty.

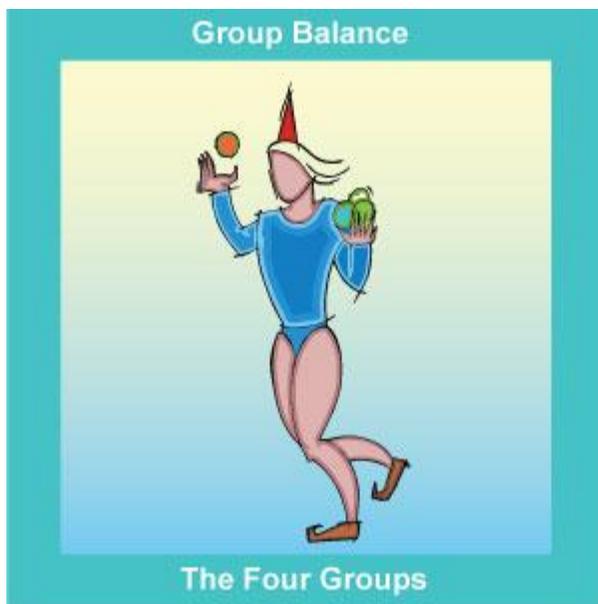
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Waning Semisextile: 330 Degrees

This is a point where everything non-essential is shut down, and only the most salient thoughts, the seed essence, and kernel are retained. Everything else is allowed to pass and blow away - keep the seed.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

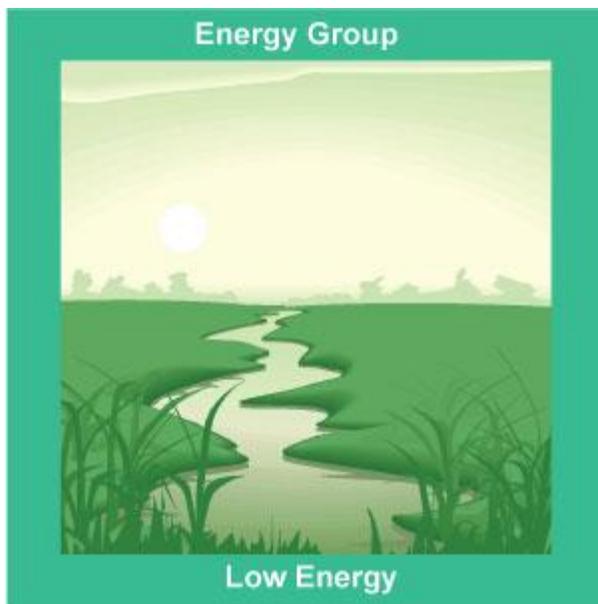


The Four Aspect Groups

A quick look at the aspect group balance provides a picture of where your strengths and weaknesses may be. For example, you may have a lot of aspects in the Energy Group and no aspects in the Challenge Group, which would point to great accomplishments with few obstacles. Here is how this chart shakes out:

The four major sets of aspects are: Pivotal (Conjunction, Squares, and Opposition), Energy (Trines and Sextiles), Challenges (SemiSquares) and Transitional (Inconjuncts and SemiSextiles).

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Energy Group: Low

Few Trine and Sextile aspects.

One thing you may not have enough of is the basic energy and space around you that makes it easy to get things done. You may feel cramped for room and tight on time, and might want to keep that in mind.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

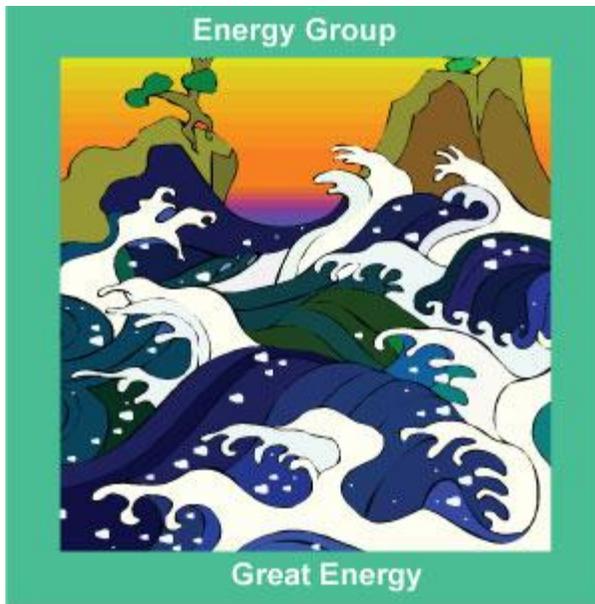


Energy Group: Good

Average Trine and Sextile aspects.

You have a normal amount of energy, just what it takes to take care of whatever happens to be on your plate, no more, no less.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Energy Group: Strong

Many Trine and Sextile aspects.

You have more than the average amount of energy and that kind of energy creates real space or room to get things done, so when it comes to being motivated and able, you have what it takes.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

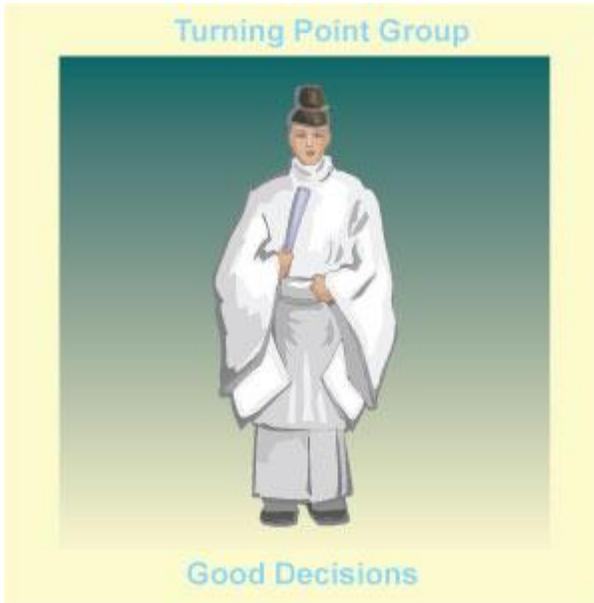


Turning Point Group: Low

Few Square and Opposition aspects.

You may find it difficult in times of stress to make snap decisions, and cope with major shifts of changes. You may want to keep this in mind.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

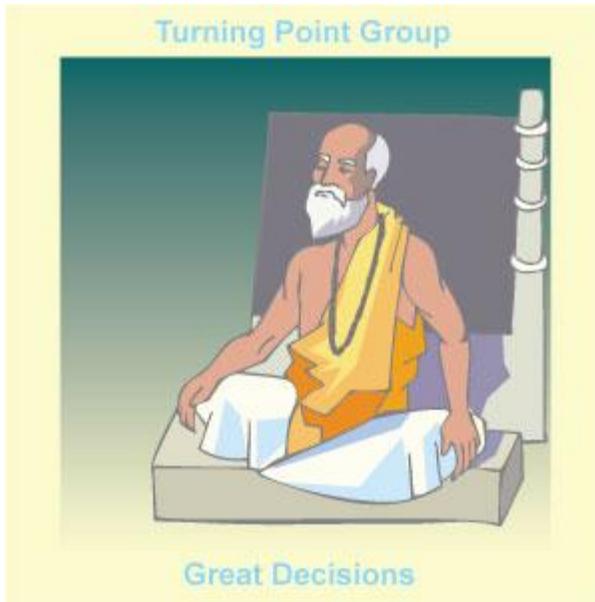


Turning Point: Good

Average amount of Square and Opposition aspects.

You have a normal amount of decision-making ability, able to handle yourself well-enough in times of change.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

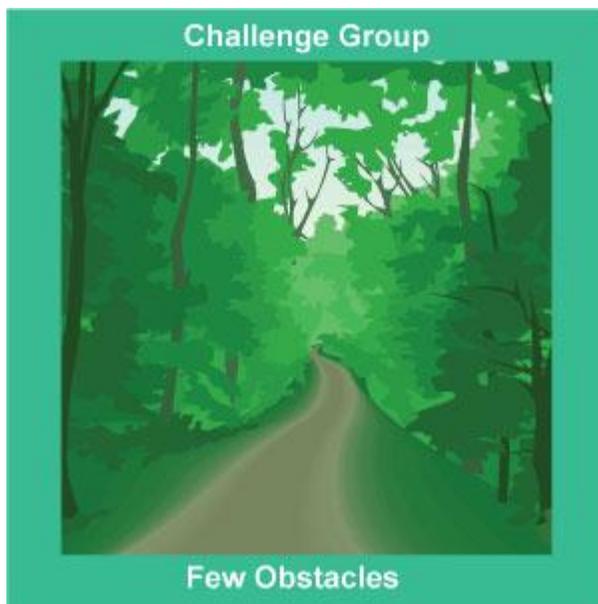


Turning Point Group: Strong

Many Square and Opposition aspects.

You are highly dynamic and handle yourself exceptionally well when it comes to making decisions and multi-tasking.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Challenge Group: Low

Few Semisquare and Sesquiquadrate aspects.

You have a low amount of stressful situations, compared to the average, and this may cut you a little slack when it comes to slipping past the tight spots life can bring. It also may make you unable to handle difficult times, when they do arise.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

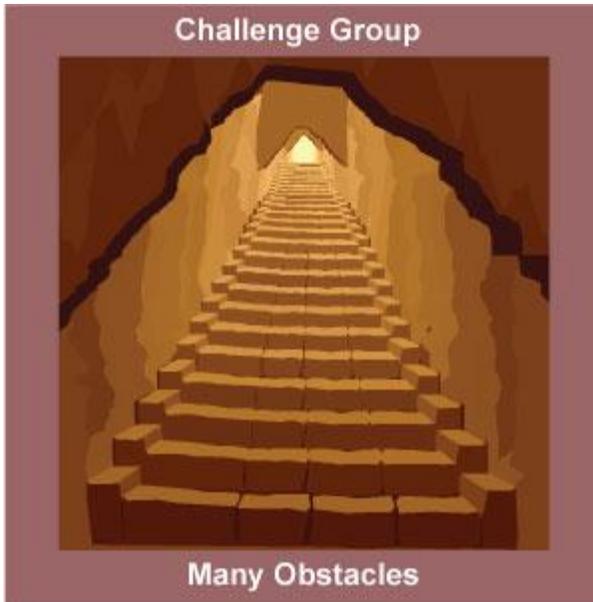


Challenge Group: Average

Average Semisquare and Sesquiquadrate aspects.

You have an average amount of challenges that you will face, times that demand your full attention and tend to put you in a tight spot.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

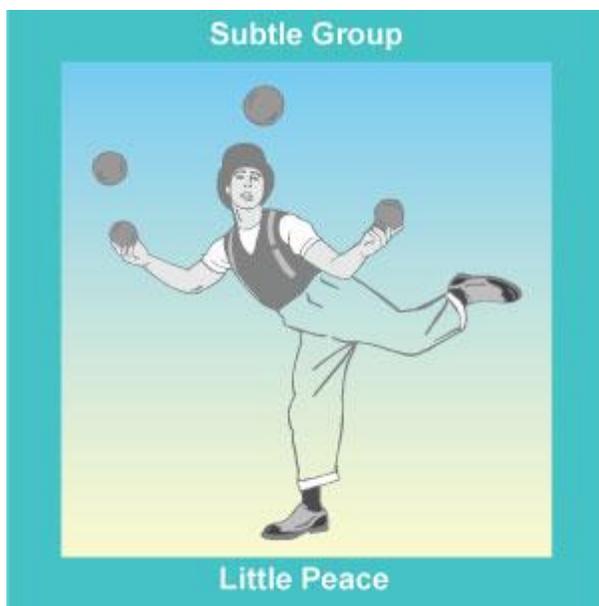


Challenge Group: Strong

Many Semisquare and Sesquiquadrate aspects.

You get more of your share of stress and may feel almost constantly tested or put in a spot where you have to deal with change and make tough decisions. If you can handle this, it makes you strong and able to react quickly.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Transitional Group: Low

Few Semisextile and Inconjunct aspects.

You have less than the average number of "transitional" aspects, meaning that things may for you more stable than most, in that you will seldom experience the flux resulting from either preparing for or recovering from others experience as shifts in direction.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Transitional Group: Average

Average Semisextile and Inconjunct aspects.

You have an average number of "transitional" aspects, meaning that things may be in flux, either preparing for or recovering from a shift in direction. This is not so much instability, as it is a reflection of change from one state to another.

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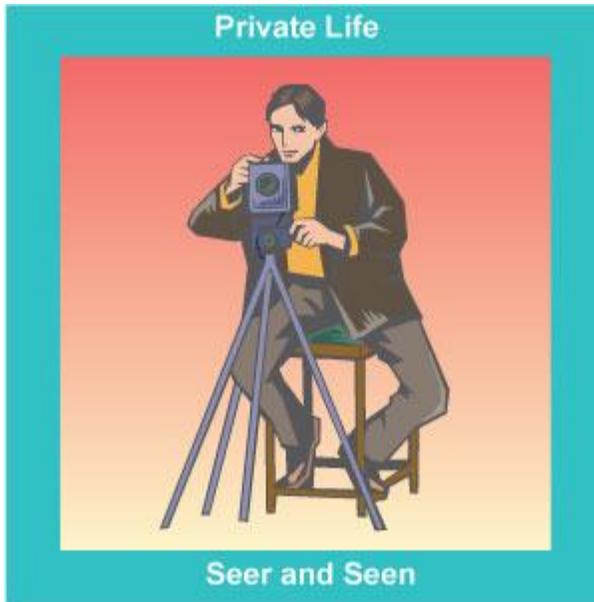


Transitional Group: Strong

Many Semisextile and Inconjunct aspects.

You have a higher than average number of "transitional" aspects, meaning that things may often be in flux, either preparing for or recovering from a shift in direction. This is not so much instability, as it is a reflection of change from one state to another.

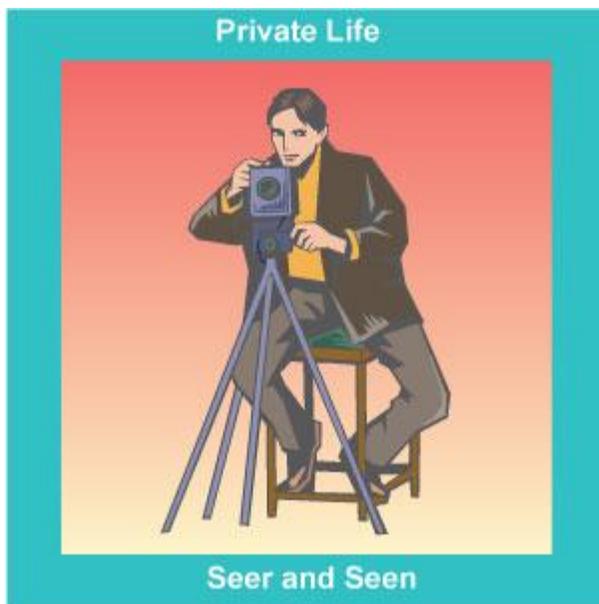
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



The Four Sectors

The Four Sectors are the four 90-degree quadrants centered on the four cardinal points, which are: Conjunction, Opposition, and the two Squares.

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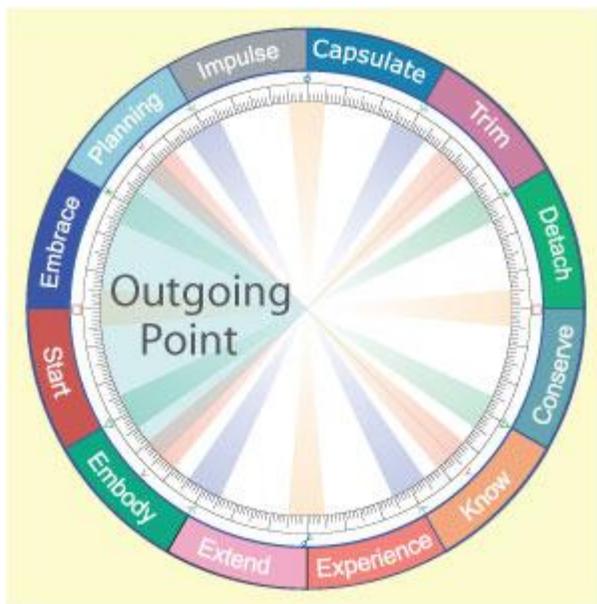


Active Sector

This planets in this sector are very active in outreach, bringing plans and ideas into reality, making things happen, and building incrementally toward success. This is how you can get things done.

The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waxing 45-degrees to 135-degrees quadrant, as shown on the screen in light blue. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

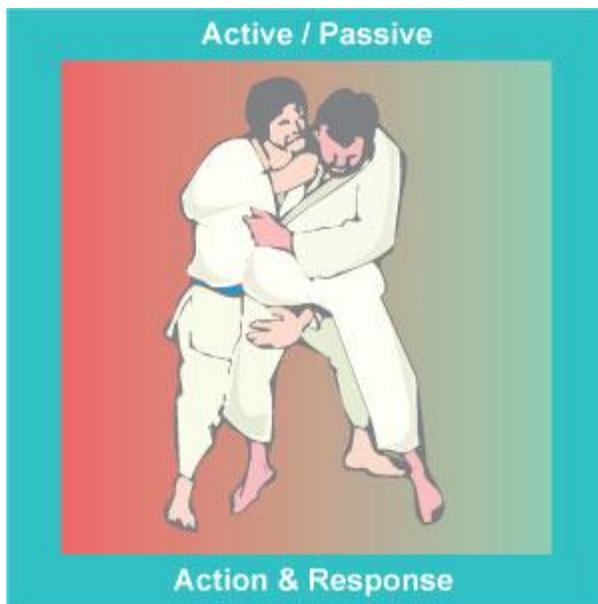
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Active or Outgoing Sector

Many planets in this sector suggest that the chart is very active in outreach, bringing plans and ideas into reality, making things happen, and building incrementally toward success. This is how things get done.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

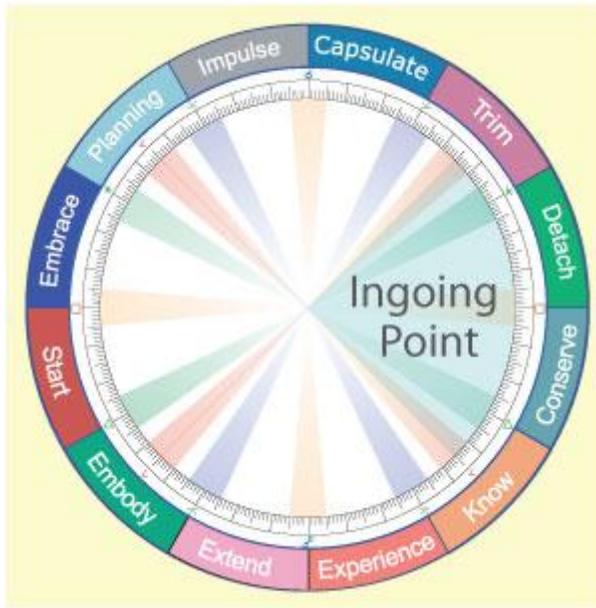


Responsive Sector

The planets in this sector indicates that that their strength is in response, reacting to and working with situations already in existence, guiding and shaping them, helping them out.

The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waning 225-degrees to 315-degrees quadrant, as shown on the screen in light blue. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

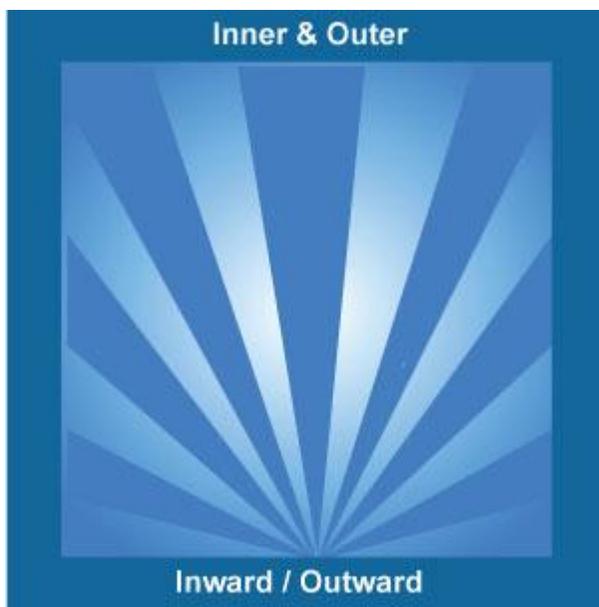
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Responsive or Ingoing Sector

Many planets in this sector indicate that the strength of this chart is in response, reacting to and working with situations already in existence, guiding and shaping them, helping them out.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects

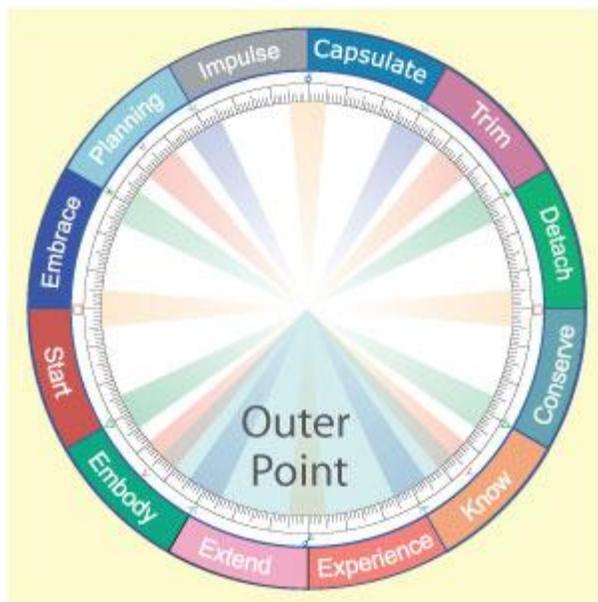


Public Sector

The planets in this sector emphasize the public quadrant or sector, which indicates outward visibility and perhaps success. Look to this planets for an indication of where outward or public success might be achieved. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waxing 135-degrees through the Opposition to the 225-degrees quadrant, as shown on the screen in light blue. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

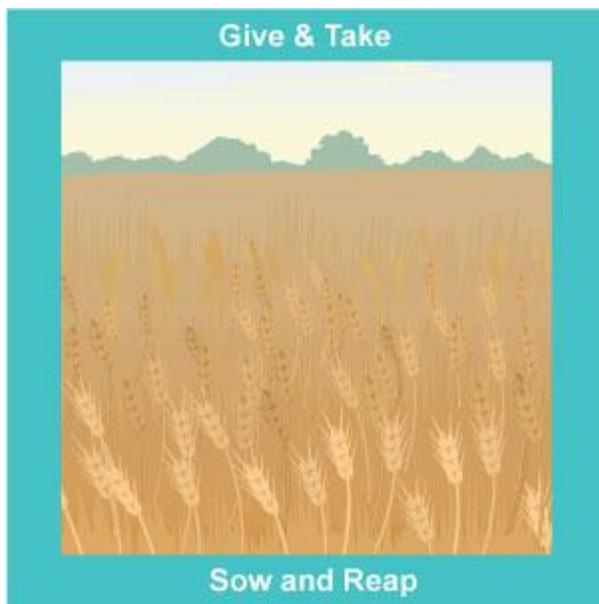
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Public or Outer Sector

Many planets in this sector emphasize the public quadrant or sector, which indicates outward visibility and perhaps success. Look to this planets for an indication of where outward or public success might be achieved. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Private Sector

The planets in this sector emphasize the private quadrant or sector, which points to a more personal or inward use of the planets in this area.

The focus area for this indicator encompasses the waning 315-degrees through the Conjunction to the 45-degrees quadrant, as shown on the screen in light blue. Examine the planets in this area for more details by pressing the planet symbol in the upper middle of the screen.

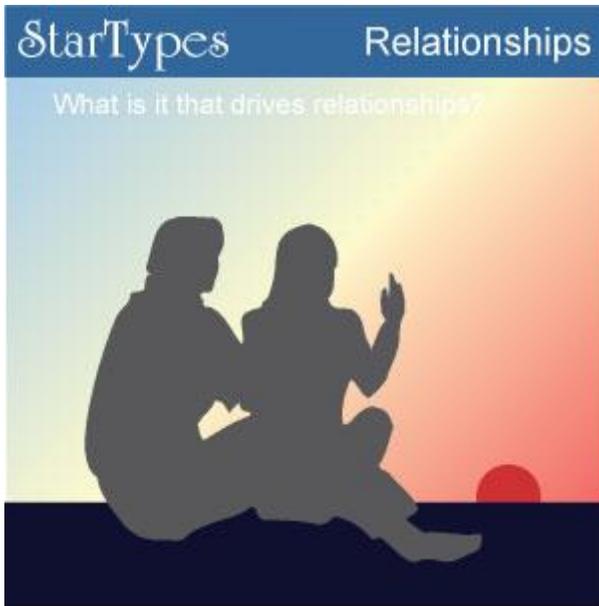
Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



Private Sector

Many planets in this sector emphasize the private quadrant or sector, which points to a much more personal or inwardness, at home in the realm of thoughts and creative ideas.

Astrology's Mirror: Full-Phase Aspects



StarType Patterns

In closing, I just want to say a few words about how aspects can link together to form patterns. These patterns relate to one another just as people, which is what astrology is all about anyway. These major patterns are the topic of another book I am working on, but here is a brief introduction.

"Opposition is true friendship." - William Blake

"Sympathy constitutes friendship; but in love there is a sort of antipathy, or opposing passion. Each strives to be the other, and both together make up one whole." - Samuel Taylor Coleridge

"Conscious love evokes the same in response. Emotional love evokes the opposite. Physical love depends on type and polarity." - G.I. Gurdjieff

What is love? What is it that drives relationships? If we sift through the sands of the world's writing, we come up

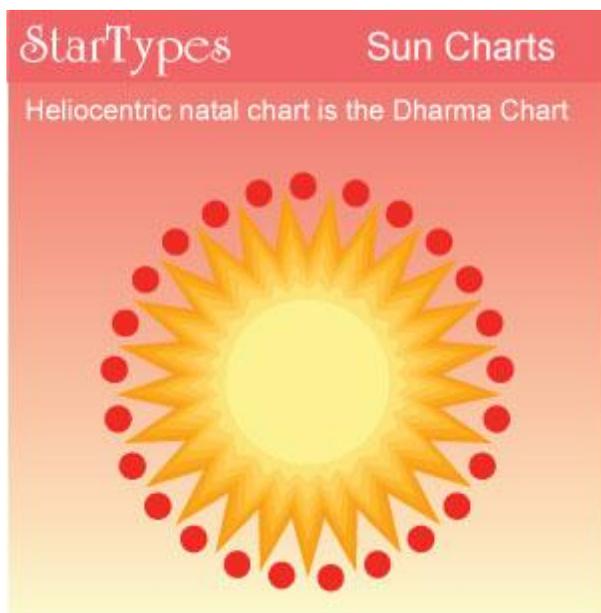
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with quotes like those above. Yet, surprisingly, there is little conjecture (and fewer things written) about the nature of that attraction (how it works) and yet this force keeps us endlessly relating to one another.

If we suggest that "beauty" is what attracts, that only leads to the question: What makes beauty attractive? What is the true nature and origin of beauty? Here is what I have come to understand:

The famous astrologer (and supreme court justice from Germany) Dr. Theodor Landscheidt pointed out many years ago in his book "Cosmic Cybernetics" that large-scale structures like our galaxy (and everything in it, like our solar system, our earth, us, etc.) can only cohere and continue to exist by circulating (in some way) information throughout the structure. That is what keeps these large structures together or coherent. Galaxies and all stellar structures circulate this vital information through some mechanism that is not known to us at the present.

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How StarTypes Came To Be

My own interest in how relationships worked quickened when I began checking out heliocentric (sun-centered) positions and charts. In the beginning, I approached heliocentrics like any other astrological technique. It was one more technique to be explored. But I soon found that it was markedly different than the astrology I had known up to that time. Not only did it provide for me much better results, but these results referred to another order of information, entirely. In other words, the helio or sun-centered chart is a different-by-nature view of the birth moment, not just another extension of earth-centered astrology. I was getting a different order of information, something that I had long tried to extract from the traditional geocentric chart.

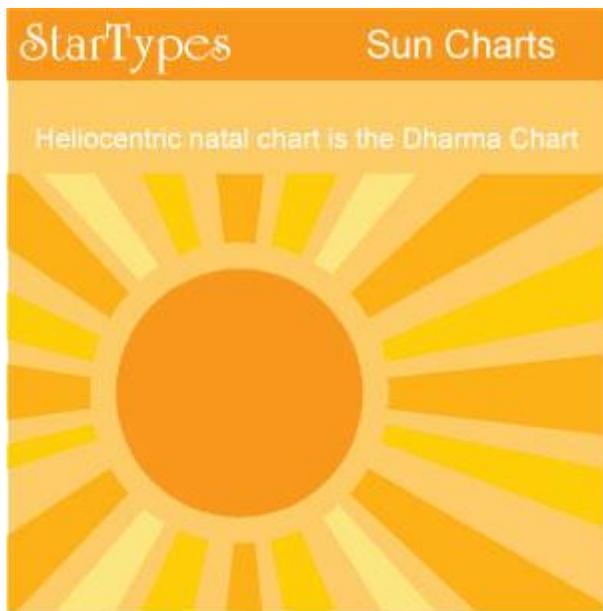
Of course it took me quite a while to believe this. I tested it again and again, using thousands and

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thousands of charts, but sure, enough: here was a different KIND of astrology.

And I tried all of the standard astrological techniques (aspects, transits, etc.) in this new sun-centered dimension and, of course, they worked, just as they work in earth-centered astrology. But there arose through this bag of techniques something that completely caught my attention, something I had never experienced before: Large-scale planetary patterns in the sun-centered chart accurately described individuals as they knew themselves to be at their deepest levels.

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Sun-Centered Astrology

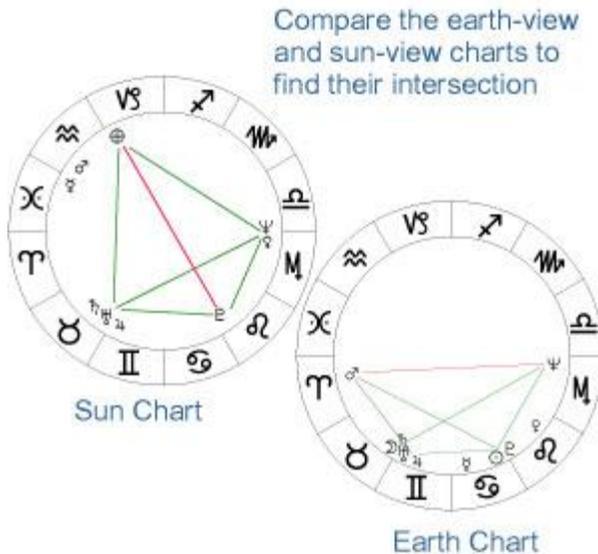
The standard earth-centered astrology chart, which was all that I had known up to that point, began to resolve itself to my mind as a chart of the circumstances and psychology in which each of us is involved or incarnated - however you want to phrase that. And the sun-centered heliocentric chart revealed itself as the core essence of our individuality: what we are underneath that earth-centered chart when we work through all of the outer appearances. I soon came to call it the chart of one's 'Dharma', what we become when we get to know our self, when we become aware of who we are - our Dharma Chart.

So, where before I had but one astrology chart and one notion of astrology, now I had two. What I had known up to that point (the earth-centered astrology chart) became a map of how I appeared in the world, the various circumstances in which I was involved (my outer

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chart) AND the sun-centered astrology chart became a map of who I was beneath all of what I was going through (my inner chart).

This was, to me, somewhat of a big deal, most of all because for the first time I began to understand who I was, underneath it all, so to speak. Best of all, as I began to study the sun-centered charts of those around me in life, these heliocentric charts proved to be the key to how I related to others. They accurately charted the nature of the relationships I had in the world. It was as if, suddenly, my understandings of relationships came into focus. Before, I was seeing things, but as through a glass darkly, as the saying goes. Suddenly I could see clearly.



Two Indispensable Charts

Over the years, I have heard all kinds of retorts from astrologers that have never studied sun-centered charts themselves about how could I abandon the standard

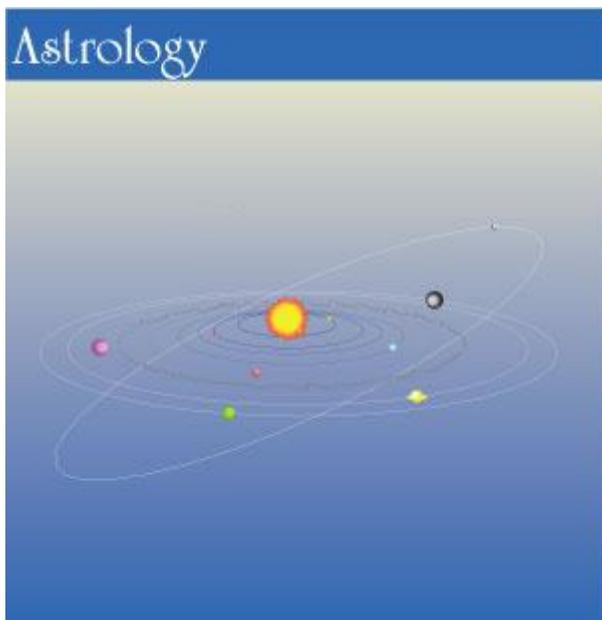
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geocentric astrology chart. Of course, I never have. Instead, I now have two indispensable charts, each of which provides me with invaluable information on an ongoing basis. Best of all, where these two charts intersect, I get a kind of stereo effect, much like the old stereopticons, as the two perspectives produce a single focus.

Remember that each of these charts is a map of the exact same moment in time, and the very same planets. The only difference is the perspective or view. And to those astrologers unwilling or too lazy to take a look for themselves, I say:

If we can agree that the traditional astrological chart is a snapshot of the solar system, taken from the earth's perspective within that system (this is a fact), and we can agree that this snapshot is meaningful (history of astrology), then we should be able to agree that the solar system itself (that actual object of the earth's snapshot) should also be worth examining. It is that simple. And it is more than worth examining the sun-centered map or chart. And that is what StarTypes is all about.

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Large-Scale Planetary Patterns

Scientists and astrophysicists have speculated about how the universe might communicate within itself. They have examined the various possible carriers of information, like light rays and other forms of radiation, including gravitational radiation. It has been suggested that information stemming from the heart nucleus of the galaxy is probably streaming through us constantly. Experiments have been set up to detect what has been called the "Weak Force," these gravity waves. Gravity waves also travel at the speed of light, but they are very weak or subtle, and hard to detect. Scientists point out that it would take an antennae the size of our solar system to be an appropriate receiver. Hmmmm.

Well, that last phrase, about an antennae the size of the solar system rings a bell with me. Another interesting fact is that gravity wavers are quadri-polar in nature, rather than dipolar, as with light waves. In other words,

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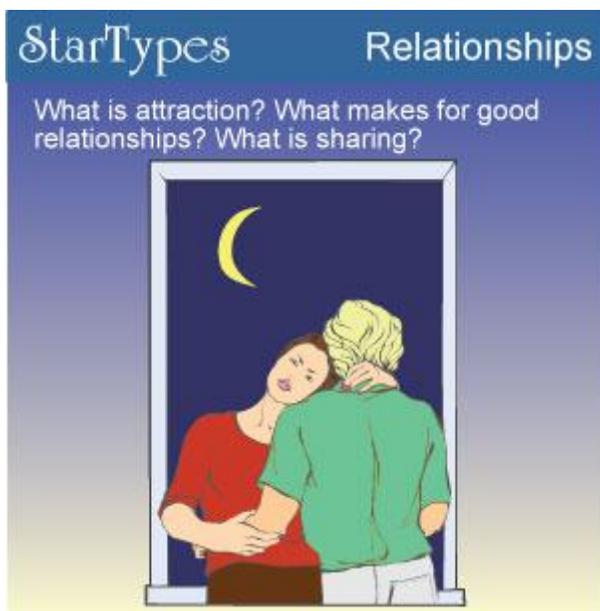
the proper antennae to receive and decode gravity radiation would be one in the form of a cross. A very large cross-shaped antenna is what is required to receive gravity radiation coming from a source like the center of our galaxy.

Well, the solar system itself is itself a cross-shaped antennae, every time the planets line up to create a cross, like the Grand Cross and T-Square aspect patterns. And here comes the "What if?"

What if, at the times when the planets create a cross in our solar system, there is increased receptivity to gravitational radiation, AND persons born during that time SOMEHOW represent, contain, or incorporate that information in their very being. Those born with a cross in their heliocentric chart share that information with the rest of us throughout their lives - somehow.

Well, who knows how, but it is worth considering.

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Green Lines and Red Lines

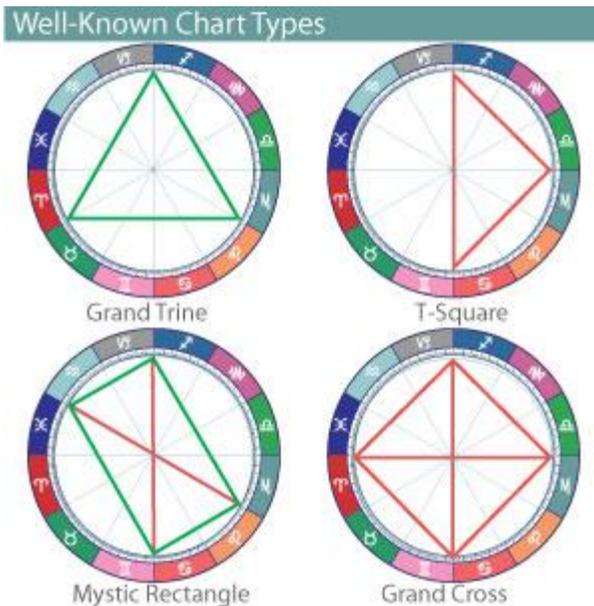
Regardless of the above speculation, it is a fact that there is something that drives all our relationships, something that makes for attraction among people and serves to fuel the myriads of relationships around us. Each of us can say things like "I am strangely attracted to that person." Well, what is that attraction? Could it be something inside us that senses information of some sort, information that we personally need and desire, that would somehow complete us?

Why not look at relationships, at least for a moment, as an endless balancing act, with some of us walking around effusing this cosmic information that was embedded in us at birth, and others of us decoding and interpreting this same information. Some are carriers or transmitters of this information, and others of us are receivers and decoders. Together, it all works.

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Working with these sun-centered charts, I soon lost interest in applying standard astrological techniques to the heliocentric chart, because something much more significant was emerging and that was the integrity and validity of the large-scale planetary patterns, what are now called StarTypes.

Of course, I started out examining all of the traditional aspects: the square or 90-degree aspect, the trine or 120-degree aspect, and so on. But it soon became apparent that what really proved significant was when these aspects linked together to form a pattern that went around the whole chart, like the Grand Trine and T-Square.



Major Patterns

Grand Trines, Grand Crosses, and T-Squares have been a part of traditional astrology for centuries, but not front and center. They are noted, but often just mentioned along with any other aspect or configuration

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of aspects. Yet, here, in these sun-centered charts, that immediately took on increased significance.

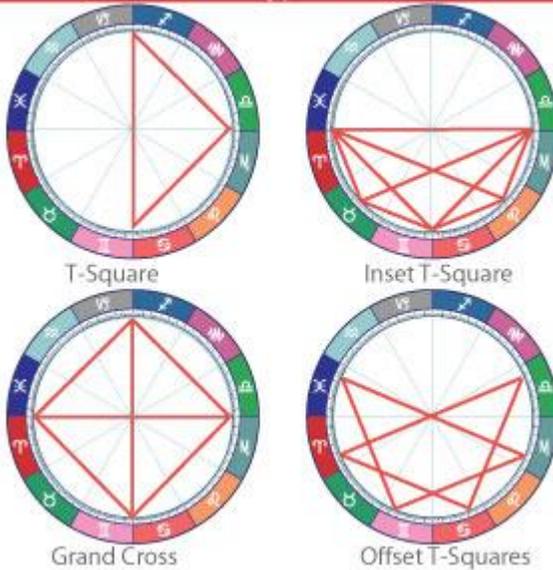
And they were significant because, as I began to understand these large patterns in individual charts and persons, they accurately described the essential nature of that person. This was important. This was helpful to me.

Before long, I had dozens of these large-scale patterns that I was aware of and tracking through all of the charts I could manage to draw. Along the way, I ran out of accurate heliocentric ephemerides, and had to create my own, which became my first book "The Sun Is Shining," a book with heliocentric positions for more than 400 years.

Today, that list of patterns has grown to around 60, and more could be added. And though 60 patterns seem somewhat complex, in reality, all of these patterns can be boiled down to answering a simple question: Is there or is there not a cross through the center of the solar system at the time of the birth?

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The Love-One Chart Types



Sun Cross

For some reason, it all revolves around these birth charts that have a cross through the sun. And we are talking heliocentric here, not geocentric. While some of this effect can be tracked by looking at geocentric positions, it soon became clear that the geocentric chart is just a peek at what was going on heliocentrically, with the sun at the center. Why not take a look at what we are peeking at. These sun-centered patterns best represented what was going on in our solar system.

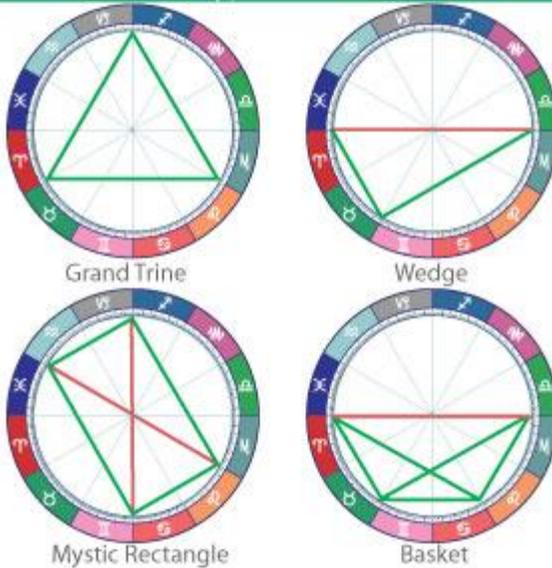
These sun-centered charts with the cross through their center, for reasons we could talk all night about and still not know why, seemed to have 'something' within them that other people felt attracted enough toward, as to want to be around them, to care for them, and to even serve them. Now, that is something to note..

These T-Square StarTypes exuded some kind of energy, call it information or whatever, that others wanted to

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absorb and experience. They were, for all practical purposes, the 'beloved', the 'loved one' fabled in poetry and verse throughout the ages. They were magnetic, and their charisma was undeniable.

The Lover Chart Types



The Receivers

Well, good for them, but what about the rest of us, those who were born without this T-Square in our helio charts? It appears that our job, those without the cross, is to care for and perhaps decode (if that makes sense) the information locked into these Square StarTypes. They have it; we don't. They are the "Haves," we the "Have-Nots."

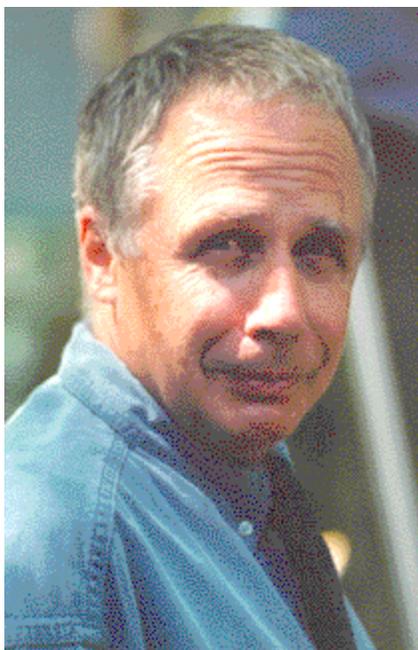
You see, it seems that the 'Haves' don't know what they have, and the 'Have-Nots' can see what the 'Haves' have (if that sentence will be allowed). It is like the T-Square StarTypes have this attractive information embedded in their very being and the other StarTypes can read and decipher this information.

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In fact, the single whole-chart pattern that most effectively AVOIDS sending a cross through the sun-center is the Grand Trine, and therefore that StarType is perhaps best at reading the T-Square StarTypes's embedded information.

Keep in mind: this is just an alternate way to look at relationships, with one caveat. If you find that this method is useful, you have a way to examine all of the relationships around you. And that is what StarTypes is: a tool for analyzing relationships, and a good one at that.

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Michael Erlewine

Internationally known astrologer and author Noel Tyl (author of 34 books on astrology) has this to say about Michael Erlewine:

Michael Erlewine

“Michael Erlewine is the giant influence whose creativity is forever imprinted on all astrologers’ work since the beginning of the Computer era! He is the man who single-handedly applied computer technology to astrological measurement, research, and interpretation, and has been the formative and leading light of astrology’s modern growth. Erlewine humanized it all, adding perception and incisive practical analyses to modern, computerized astrology. Now, for a second generation of astrologers and their public, Erlewine’s genius continues with StarTypes ... and it’s simply amazing!”

A Brief Bio of Michael Erlewine

Michael Erlewine has studied and practiced astrology for over 40 years, as an author, teacher, lecturer, personal consultant, programmer, and conference producer.

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Erlewine was the first astrologer to program astrology, on microcomputers and make those programs available to his fellow astrologers. This was in 1977. He founded Matrix Astrology in 1978, and his company, along with Microsoft, are the two oldest software companies still on the Internet.

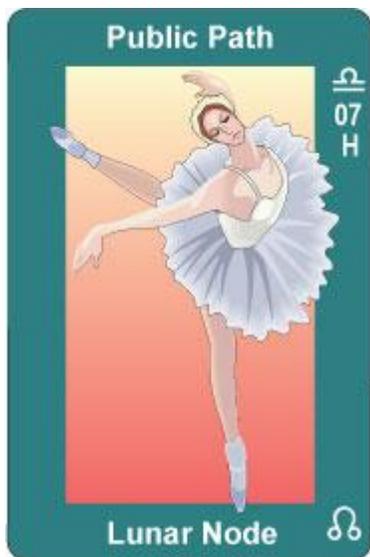
Michael, soon joined by his astrologer-brother Stephen Erlewine, went on to revolutionize astrology by producing, for the new microcomputers, the first written astrological reports, first research system, first high resolution chart wheels, geographic and star maps, and on and on.

Along the way Matrix produced programs that spoke astrology (audio), personal astrological videos, infomercials, and many other pioneering feats.

Michael Erlewine has received major awards from UAC (United Astrological Conferences), AFA (American Federation of Astrologers), and the PIA (Professional Astrologers Incorporated), and scores of on online awards.

Michael and Stephen Erlewine have published a yearly calendar for almost 30 years, since 1969. Michael Erlewine has produced and put on more than 36 conferences in the areas of astrology and Buddhism.

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Example Astro*Image Card

Aside from his current work as a consultant for NBC's iVillage and Astrology.com, Erlewine has personally designed over 6,000 tarot-like astrology cards, making authentic astrology available to people with little or no experience in the topic. These Astro*Image™ cards are available through a variety of small astrological programs and in eBooks. Some examples can be found at WWW.StarTypes.com, where there is also a link to his astrological software.

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Personal Astrology Readings

Michael Erlewine has been doing personal astrology readings for almost forty years and enjoys sharing his knowledge with others. However, his busy schedule makes it difficult to honor all requests. However, feel free to email (Michael@Erlewine.net) him if you wish a personal chart reading. He will let you know if his current schedule will allow him to work with you.

The sections that follow will give you more details about Michael Erlewine and his very active center.



The Heart Center House

In 1972, Michael and Margaret Erlewine established the Heart Center, a center for community studies. Today, the Heart Center continues to be a center for astrological and spiritual work. Over the years, hundreds of invited guests have stayed at the Heart Center, some for just a night, others for many years. Astrologers, authors, musicians, Sanskrit scholars, swamis - you name it, the Heart Center has been a home for a wide

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group of individuals, all united by their interest in spiritual or cultural ideas.



Heart Center Library

Erlewine also founded and directs The Heart Center Astrological Library, the largest astrological library in the United States, and probably the world, that is open to researchers. Meticulously catalogued, the current library project is the scanning of the Table of Contents for all major books and periodicals on astrology.

The library does not have regular hours, so contact ahead of time if you wish to visit. Michael@erlewine.net.

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The All-Music Guide / All-Movie Guide

Michael Erlewine's devotion to studying and playing the music of Black Americans, in particular blues, led to his traveling to small blues clubs of Chicago and hearing live, blues greats like Little Walter, Magic Sam, Big Walter Horton, and many others. He went on to interview many dozens of performers. Much of this interviewing took place at the Ann Arbor Blues Festivals, in 1969 and 1970, the first electric blues festivals of any size ever held in North America, and than later at the Ann Arbor Blues & Jazz Festivals.

With their extensive knowledge of the blues music, Erlewine and his brother Daniel were asked to play host to the score or so of professional blues musicians and their bands. They were in charge of serving them food and (of course) drink. Michael went on to interview most of the performers in these early festivals, with an audio recorder, and later on with video.

The interviewing led to more study and ultimately resulted in Michael founding and developing AMG, the

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All-Music Guide, today the largest single database of music reviews and documentation on the planet.

Erlewine started from a one-room office, and the reviewers and music aficionados of the time laughed at his attempt to cover all music. But he persisted, and the all-Music Guide appeared as a Gopher Site, before the World Wide Web even existed—a database of popular music for all music lovers.

Over the years AMG grew, and the All-Movie Guide and All Game Guide were born, and also flourished. Later, Erlewine would create ClassicPosters.com, devoted to the history and documentation of rock n' roll posters, some 35,000 of them.

These guides changed the way music was reviewed and rated. Previous to AMG, review guides like the "Rolling Stones Record Guide" were run by a few sophisticated reviewers, and the emphasis was on the expertise of the reviewer, and their point of view. Erlewine insisted on treating all artists equally, and not comparing artist to artist, what can be important, Michael points out, is to find the best music any artist has produced, not if the artist is better or worse than Jimmie Hendrix or Bob Dylan.

Erlewine sold AMG in 1996, at which time he had 150 fulltime employees, and 500 free-lance writers. He had edited and published any number of books and CD-ROMs on music and film. During the time he owned and ran AMG, there were no advertisements on the site and nothing for sale. As Erlewine writes, "All of us deserve to have access to our own popular culture. That is what AMG and ClassicPosters.com are all about." Today, AMG reviews can be found everywhere across the Internet. Erlewine's music collection is housed in an AMG warehouse, numbering almost 500,000 CDs.

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Heart Center Meditation Room

Michael Erlewine has been active in Buddhism since the 1950s. Here are his own words:

“Back in the late 1950s, and early 1960, Buddhism was one of many ideas we stayed up late, smoked cigarettes, drank lots of coffee, and talked about, along with existentialism, poetry, and the like.

“It was not until I met the Tibetan lama, Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche, in 1974 that I understood Buddhism as not just Philosophy, but also as path, a way to get through life. Having been raised Catholic, serving as an altar boy, learning church Latin, and all that, I had not been given any kind of a path, other than the path of faith. I hung onto that faith as long as I could, but it told me very little about how to live and work in this world.,

“I had been trying to learn the basics of Tibetan Buddhism before I met Trungpa Rinpoche, but the spark that welded all of that together was missing. Trungpa

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provided that spark. I got to be his chauffeur for a weekend, and to design a poster for his public talk.

“More important: only about an hour after we met, Trungpa took me into a small room for a couple of hours and taught me to meditate. I didn't even understand what I was learning. All that I know was that I was learning about myself.

“After that meeting, I begin to understand a lot more of what I had read, but it was almost ten years later that I met my teacher, Khenpo Karthar, Rinpoche, the abbot of Karma Triyana Dharmachakra Monastery, in the mountains above Woodstock, NY. Meeting Rinpoche was life-changing.



Heart Center Symbol

“It was not long after that we started the Heart Center Meditation Center here in Big Rapids, which is still going today. My wife and I became more and more involved with the monastery in New York, and we ended up serving on several boards, and even as fundraisers for the monastery. We helped to raise the funds to build a

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3-year retreat in upstate New York, one for men and one for women.

“We also established KTD Dharma Goods, a mail-order dharma goods business that helped practitioners find the meditation materials they might need. We published many sadhanas, the traditional Buddhist practice texts, plus other teachings, in print and on audio tape.

Years have gone by, and I am still working with Khenpo, Rinpoche and the sangha at the Woodstock monastery. Some years ago, Rinpoche surprised my wife and I by telling us we should go to Tibet and meet His Holiness the 17th Karmapa, and that we should go right away, that summer, and I hate to leave the house!

That trip, and a second trip that followed some years later, turned out to be pilgrimages that were also life changing. Our center in Big Rapids has a separate building as a shrine room and even a small Stupa; pictures are shown below.

I can never repay the kindness that Khenpo Rinpoche and the other rinpoches that I have taken teachings from have shown me.

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Music Career



Michael Erlewine's career in music started early on, when he dropped out of high school and hitchhiked to Venice West, in Santa Monica, California, in an attempt to catch a ride on the tail end of the Beatnik era. This was 1960, and he was a little late for that, but right on time for the folk music revival that was just beginning to bloom at that time. Like many other people his age, Erlewine traveled from college center to center across the nation: Ann Arbor, Berkeley, Cambridge, and Greenwich Village. There was a well-beaten track on which traveled the young folk musicians of the future.

Erlewine, who also played folk guitar, hitchhiked for a stint with a young Bob Dylan, and then more extensively with guitar virtuoso and instrumentalist Perry Lederman. Erlewine helped to put on Dylan's first concert in Ann Arbor. He hung out with people like Ramblin' Jack Elliot, Joan Baez, The New Lost City Ramblers, and the County Gentlemen.

In 1965, the same year that the Grateful Dead were forming, Michael Erlewine, his brother Daniel, and a few

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others formed the first new-style band in the Midwest, the Prime Movers Blues Band. Iggy Pop was their drummer, and his stint in the band was how he got the name Iggy. This was the beginning of the hippie era. Michael was the band's lead singer, and played amplified Chicago-style blues harmonica. He still plays.

Erlewine was also the manager of the band, and personally designed and silkscreened the band's posters, one of which is shown below.

The Prime Movers became a seminal band throughout the Midwest, and even traveled as far as the West Coast, where the band spent 1967, the "summer of Love," playing at all of the famous clubs, for example, opening for Eric Clapton and Cream, at the Fillmore Auditorium.

As the 60s wound down, and bands began to break up, Erlewine was still studying the music of American Blacks, in particular blues. Because of their knowledge of blues and the players, Michael and his brother Dan were invited to help host the first major electric blues festival in the United States, the 1969 Ann Arbor Blues Festival. They got to wine and dine the performers, and generally look after them.

Michael interviewed (audio and video) most of the players at the first two Ann Arbor Blues Festivals, they included: Big Joe Turner, Luther Allison, Carey Bell, Bobby Bland, Clifton Chenier, James Cotton, Pee Wee Crayton, Arthur, Crudup, Jimmy Dawkins, Doctor Ross, Sleepy John Estes, Lowell Fulson, Buddy Guy, John Lee hooker, Howlin' wolf, J.B. Hutto, Albert King, B.B King, Freddie king, Sam Lay, Light-nin' Hopkins, Manse Lipscomb, Robert Lockwood, Magic Sam, Fred Mcdowell, Muddy Waters, Charlie Musslewhite, Louis Myers , Junior Parker, Brewer Phillips, Otis rush,

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Johnnie Shines, George Smith, Son House, Victoria Spivey, Hubert Sumlin, Sunnyland Slim, Roosevelt Sykes, Eddie Taylor, Hound Dog Taylor, Big mama Thornton, Eddie Vinson, Sippie Wallace, Junior Wells, Big Joe Williams, Robert Pete Williams, Johnny Young, and Mighty Joe Young.

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