

MORE NOTES ON HOW TO USE FULL-PHASE ASPECTS

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Since there is some interest in these Phase Charts, enclosed are a few graphics that will make learning and using Phase Charts easier.

One of the attractions of Phase Charts is that it remedies one long-standing failing of modern astrology, that of interpreting mirror-aspects as the same. For example, take the 90-degree Square aspect. We all use it, but in the years when I came up in astrology, everyone interpreted a waxing square the same as they did a waning square. In other words, a square is a square is a square, and so on. This would be equivalent to saying that a First-Quarter Moon is the same as a Fourth-Quarter Moon. I doubt that any astrologer would make that mistake, but then we turn around and interpret planetary aspects that are mirrors (Squares, Sextiles, etc.) the same. Go figure.

Well not everyone. L. Edward Johndro, Dane Rudhyar, and a few others pointed out that these mirror aspects should be interpreted differently, but almost no one paid any attention.

Some years ago I became very interested in the aspect cycle, what is called the synodic cycle of any two planets, the fact that the fast planet makes a 360-degree circle of aspects to the slower planet. Of course the most famous heavenly synodic cycle is the solunar cycle from New Moon through Full Moon and back to New Moon again.

For years after that I studied all kinds of cycles, and I especially studied the phases of any cycle, everything from the heartbeat, the breath, the cycle of day and night and on up. I was surprised how very little has ever been written about cycle "phases," even though our lives depend on them. I studied and learned about them.

As my interest grew, I put aside the books and just studied the cycles themselves, in nature and astrologically. And sure enough, it became very clear to me that all of the mirrored aspects, aspects that form on either side of the opposition-aspect in both waxing and waning form, are quite different from one another. In fact only the Conjunction and Opposition have no mirrored form, unless they could be considered mirrors of one another.

For example, there is a great difference between a waxing Square (90-degree aspect) and its mirrored aspect, the waning Square. The waxing Square is all about putting energy into something, while the waning Square has the same energy, but is about using that energy to get something out of a situation.

The sad thing was that for all of these years I had treated any square as the same, and yet I often needed more information for my clients. With these mirrored aspects being

interpreted differently from one another, I immediately doubled my aspect interpretation vocabulary. I wish I had done this decades before.

And of course I tested these full-phase aspects out on clients and any charts I looked at for some years before I really threw any doubts I had to the wind and just jumped in. I began to consider the whole cycle of phases, being sure to note whether a particular aspect was waxing or waning and interpreting thus. I call this study of the phases of a synodic cycle (or any cycle) Full-Phase Aspects and the charts that reflect them Phase Charts.

Another vestigial organ also went out the window, and that is aspect orbs. Back when everything was done with pencil and paper, perhaps orbs made sense, but as soon as home computers reared their heads (and I led that charge), any aspect that we declared out-of-orb never appeared again on a printout and was, effectively, forgotten. Big mistake.

The whole idea of aspect orbs was just a tool to help me organize the plethora of nodes and points that the average astrology chart offered my attention. When an aspect was out-of-orb, I used to ignore the planet. There is no such thing as a planet or body that is nowhere. Every body is somewhere, and if it is not within some orb I set, then it sits just beyond that body on one side or the other.

I began to look at the entire phase cycle of aspects in this way, realizing that there is no such thing as an "unaspected" planet. Every planet is near one major aspect or another, but perhaps just not right on top of it. Instead of orbs, I at first just divided the space between the 16 major (most commonly used) aspects as a somewhat arbitrary guide, if I needed one. And soon I didn't even do that. I just looked at where the planet was in its 360-degree cycle in its journey around another planet.

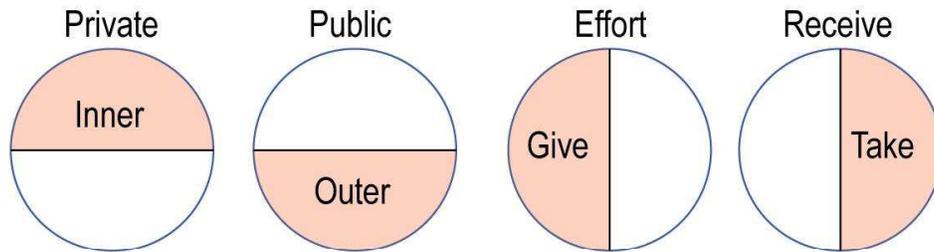
Was it going out and toward the Opposition or was it beyond the Opposition and coming back in to make another Conjunction. If I just looked with my eyes, I could see exactly where it was, perhaps beyond this particular exact aspect, but then heading toward the next one. To repeat: there is no such thing as an unaspected planet, only poorly aspected bodies, but aspected just the same.

Suddenly I had all kinds of information for my clients that I had shut out before. My understanding of aspects became holistic and organic. The cycle breathed and the interpretations of these mirror aspects made so much more sense than what I had been doing.

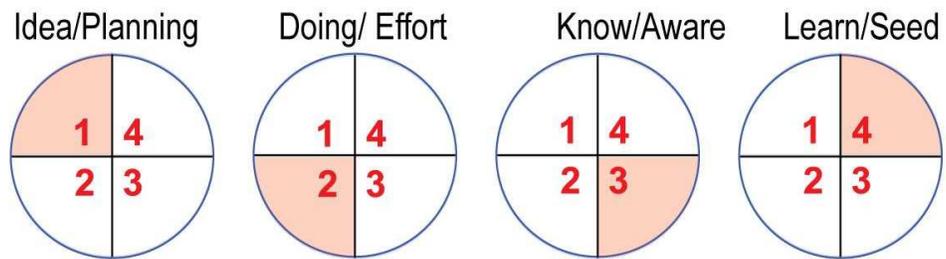
Anyway all of this led to my wanting to look more carefully at the phase angles, waxing or waning pairs of planets, for any particular planet. I had to rearrange the chart so that all the waxing planets were laid out on one side of the chart wheel, while the waning planets were put on the other side. Suddenly I had a chart that not only clicked, but also seemed to tell a story. I call them, as mentioned, Phase Charts.

Phase Chart Notes

Hemispheres



Quadrants



STEP-BY-STEP

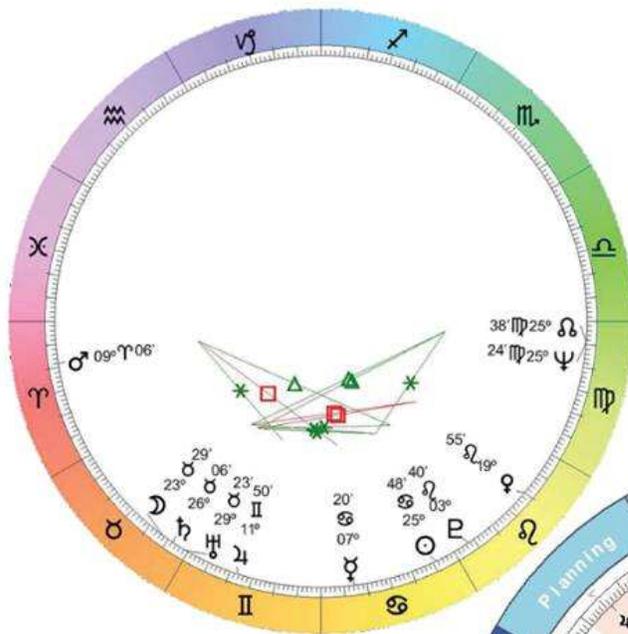
(1) Obtain Open-Wheel Natal Chart (upper-left)

(2) Note Angular Separation of each body to the selected body, in this case the Sun is selected. Let's use Mars as the second body. The angle from Mars to the Sun, looking at the geocentric natal chart (upper left) is about 106-degrees. Since Mars is the slower moving planet, Mars is in the Waxing half of the Phase Chart because the Sun is moving AWAY from Mars toward the Opposition of the cycle.

(3) Plot the Sun/Mars angular separation on the Phase Chart, in this case on the Waxing or left-hand side.

(4) Do this for the other eight bodies. Plot them.

(5) That's it. You have a Phase Chart for the Sun. You can make separate charts for each body, of course.

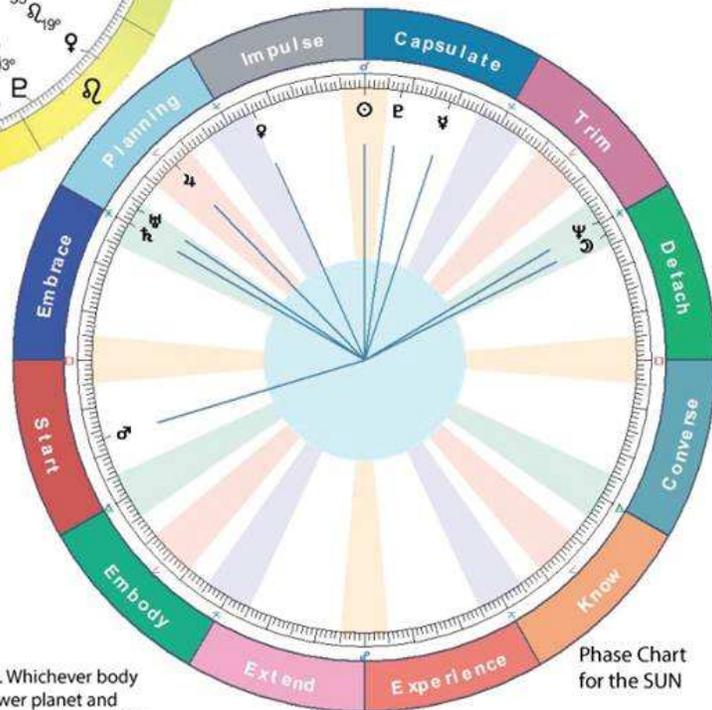


Standard Geocentric Chart

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"

In the above table, pick any pair of bodies in the list. Whichever body (of the two you picked) is lower on the list is the slower planet and the second planet (faster) is either moving away from it or toward. If it is moving AWAY FROM it (toward an opposition aspect), then it is listed on the LEFT side of the wheel. If it is moving TOWARD it (coming back from the opposition aspect), then it is listed on the right side of the wheel.



Phase Chart for the SUN

SAMPLE PHASE CHART INTERPRETATION

To help you understand how to read your own Phase Chart stories, I will briefly comment on the Phase Chart for the Sun in my own chart, which (as we all know) represents the Self, Me-Myself-and-I, the future, authority, and all of that. So what follows refers to these concepts. Remember there is a Phase Chart for each planet and body, so each body has its own story, and they are so easy to read.

The first thing I notice is the planet Mars all alone in the 2nd quadrant and, for that matter, alone in the whole lower hemisphere, which is called the Public or Outer Hemisphere. So this tells me that I will go public or reach out through Mars. In other words it suggests that it will be through my ambition and drive (Mars) that I will make whatever success I might have appear in the outer world.

And Mars is in the left hemisphere, the hemisphere of giving putting forth energy, so I will make great efforts. AND it is in the 2nd Quadrant (lower-left), which is the quadrant of building and creating outward forms (Near the Taurus Phase). AND it is near the TRINE aspect, which suggests that great energy is available and plenty of ease of room to work in.

So the sum of the Mars/Sun pair is that it will be through drive and ambition that I will reach outer success, by making effort and working hard. And I will be highly energetic and things will go easily.

Now, I could go through each planet this way, but there is not room here or probably enough patience on your part to read that much, so some general comments.

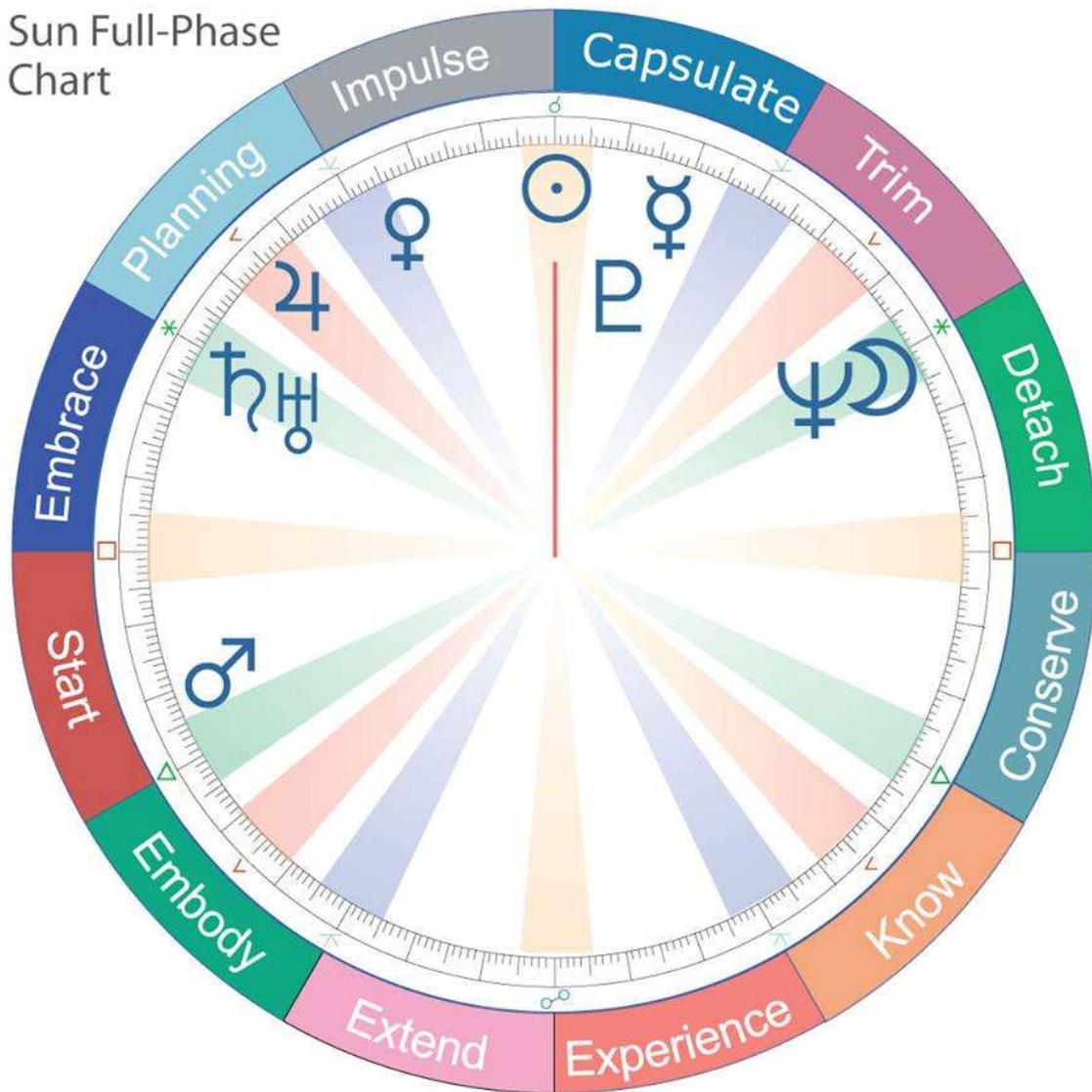
It is clear that most of my planets are in the left or waxing hemisphere, the hemisphere of Giving or effort, so I will probably Give more than I will Receive as regards my Self (Sun). I have four planets in the 1st Quadrant (upper-left), the quadrant of ideas and planning, so I will have plenty of inspiration. And those ideas will be led by Venus, since it is the closest to the Conjunction (deepest). And note that Saturn and Uranus are at the Sextile aspect, so once again when it comes to making effort, I will have energy and ease, and Uranus there too makes me inventive and insightful.

Only Jupiter sits on one of the challenging aspects (a Semi-Square or 45-degrees), and I consider Semi-Squares more challenging than regular Square Aspects (90-degrees). So I can expect that my career (Jupiter) will definitely be challenging.

Now let's look briefly at the right or waning hemisphere, where I have four planets. While the left or waxing hemisphere is where we "Give," the right or waning hemisphere is where we "Receive," where things come to us naturally or without undue effort. I have no planets in the public (lower 3rd quadrant, in the public hemisphere), so the Neptune Moon Conjunction are as outward as I get. As since they are waning, it is through Neptune and the Moon that I will most receive, and that things will come to me. As you may know, I am an astrologer, a musician, and esoteric thinker, etc., so Moon/Neptune makes a lot of sense. And note that both the Moon and Neptune are in a close Sextile (60-degrees aspect), so things will come easily to me in this area.

And last, but not least, Mercury Pluto are together deep in the 4th quadrant, which has to do with what we take away or the essence of what we learn. So, Mercury-Pluto suggests deep thinking, which sometimes I do. In other words, I will receive from life through that deep thinking.

So there you have a quick run-through of my Sun chart, just so that you can see how these charts tell an easy-to-read story. If I looked at my Jupiter Phase Chart, it would tell the story of my career and so on. This technique is not hard to do, and easy to read. Read your own stories and enjoy!

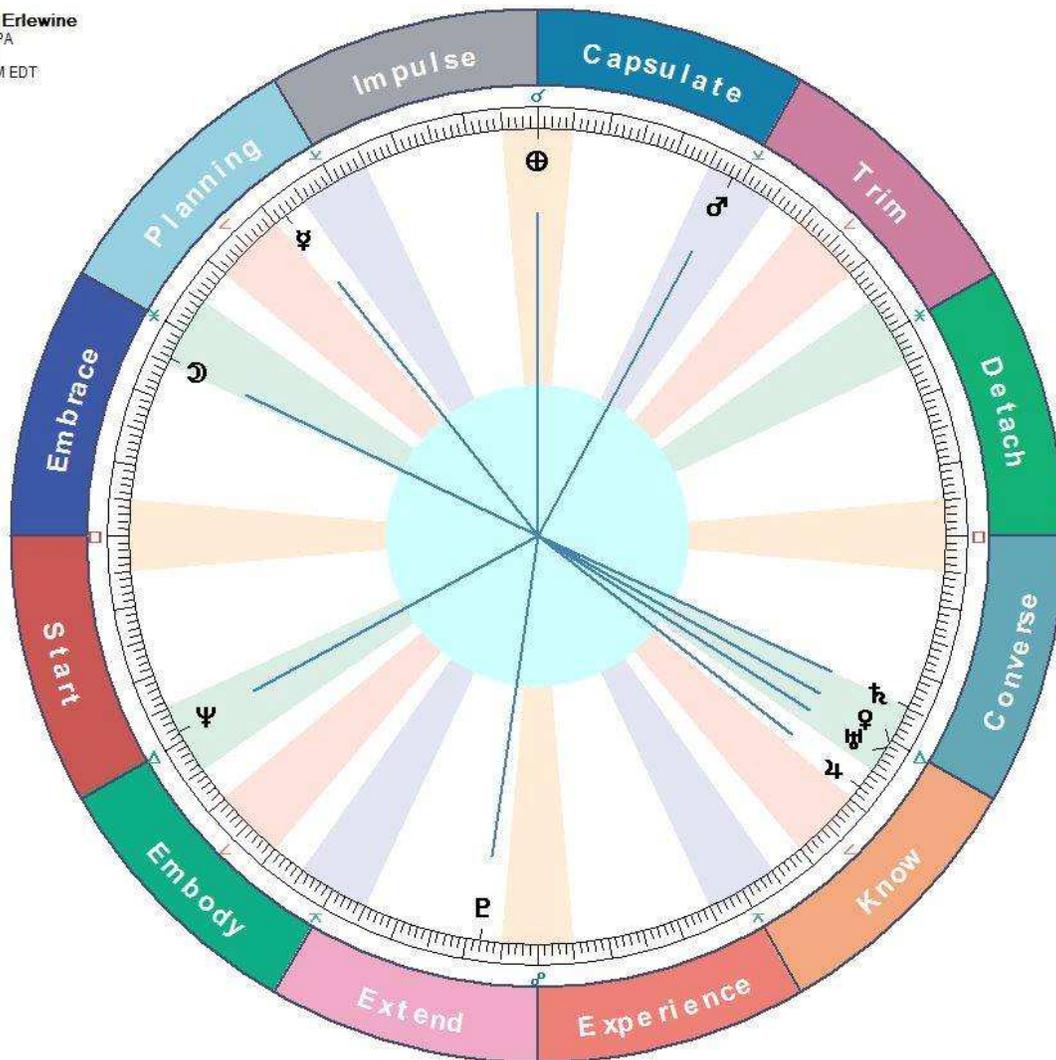


- Heliocentric charts work just the same. For example, here is my heliocentric Phase Chart for Earth, instead of the Sun as used in the geocentric analysis.

As you can see, my inner or dharma life is almost TOTALLY different from my natal Sun Phase Chart, a whole other story to tell. I won't go through all of that, but do look at the cluster of Saturn, Venus, Uranus, and Jupiter right on the waning Trine point (240- degrees), so this would be how I receive internally, in my dharma life. And the highly elevated Pluto in the PUBLIC hemisphere makes me "deep" in that sense. And lastly, Neptune is where I make effort. Note: The Moon should not be there, and I will tell the programmers to remove it.

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Earth



For reference, here is my natal heliocentric chart, what I refer to as the "Dharma Chart," since it describes our inner life and life path. As you can see, it is a bit of "Trine City."

