

The Wandering Hermit

Star-ting Astrology

by Peter Denvi Wright

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Introduction to Charts

The easiest way to do an astrological reading is to make up a chart of the information needed. A chart is a snapshot of the planets at a specific time. We put the information on paper in a circular diagram using glyphs with the degrees and minutes written down so we know where all the planets and houses are located on a specific chart. We will look at an example chart in the next section.

The Birth Chart

The type of chart most frequently used in astrology is a birth chart. In this tutorial we will be using Albert Einstein's chart as an example. I picked him because he is a well known figure and because he's dead, so it is not likely I will offend him. I also can't help but to think it probably would not bother him. Although I have this chart included in this section, if you are reading this tutorial online, I strongly suggest you print out the chart so it is nearby for easy reference. If you have downloaded this tutorial, I still suggest you print out the chart for easy reference.

BIRTH HOROSCOPE:

Name: Albert Einstein

Birth Date: 3/4/1879

Time: 11:30 AM

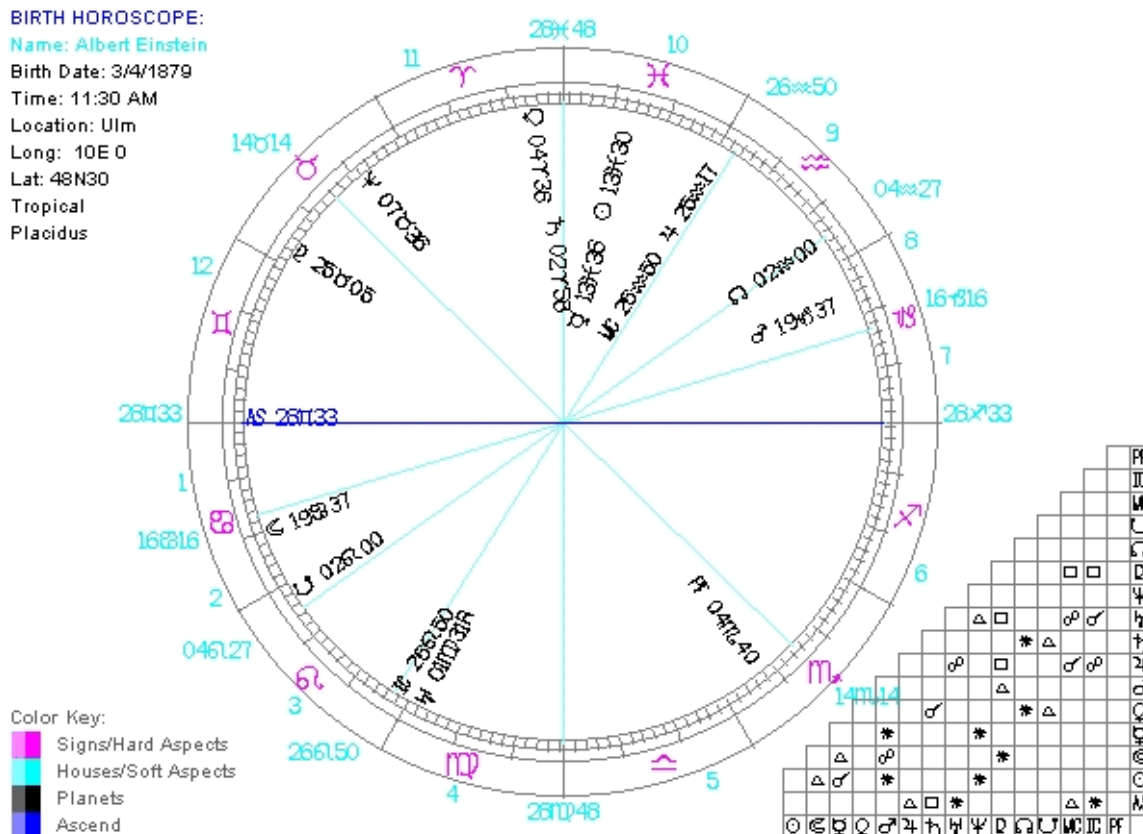
Location: Ulm

Long: 10E 0

Lat: 48N30

Tropical

Placidus



Take a look at Einstein's chart now. Notice there are twelve dashed lines dividing up the circle into pie pieces. These are the 12 houses. Remember, I said earlier that the houses are usually not equal in size. Often, though, astrologers will use a chart print out that shows the houses as equal size. Many people find such charts easier to read and to work with. It is a personal preference of mine to work with the charts that show the houses as unequal.

As I refer to the chart, I will use a clock face as a map. Directly up is 12:00, 9:00 is to the left, and so on. At 9:00 you will see written 28GEM33 (although with the Gemini glyph instead of GEM), then, following, AS 28GEM33. This is the first house cusp. The next dotted line (moving around counter-clockwise) is the second house cusp, and so on. The first house cusp is in Gemini, the second house cusp is in Cancer (16CAN16), the third in Leo (4LEO27). When we learn how to read the chart, we will learn what those mean.

Look at the glyphs inside the chart. The Moon (represented by the crescent glyph) is at 19CAN37. The Sun is close to the top of the chart at 13PIS30. All the planets (plus the nodes and what is called the part of fortune) are shown on this chart. We can look at this chart and see where every planet was when Einstein was born. We can also see how the houses are laid out for this chart, where the house cusps are, and what house each planet is in. This is not a top-secret arcane document. It is a simple diagram showing where all the planets were at a particular time, which, in this case, was the time of birth for Albert Einstein.

Take time to look over the chart. This is a good time to practice with glyphs. Practice locating the planets and being able to say where each one is. Also practice being able to say where, in a sign, each house cusp is. Don't worry about the AS, PF, IC, and MC in the big circle that are marked as if they were planets. We'll talk about them later.

People always ask if they need their exact time for a birth chart. A chart can change in four minutes, so the answer is yes. Notice the time on this chart is 11:30. Often when times are rounded like that, astrologers double check to make sure that is the actual time instead of just an approximation. If this chart were done for someone born 10 minutes later, the first house cusp would be in Cancer instead of Gemini. That would make a big difference in personality and life.

Different Types of Charts

This tutorial will not cover any charts other than birth charts, however, it will help to know that there are many other charts that can be done and that they all have their own uses. For example, a transit chart would be a chart made for any particular time. For example, if I did a chart for right now, I could compare it to my birth chart. When I looked at the relationships of the planets in my birth chart to the transit chart, I would have a good idea of what kind of energies or currents are effecting my life now.

It is also possible to compare the charts of two people to see how they will get along with each other. We can also take the birth chart and use that information to make progressed charts, solar arc progressions, or other progressed charts. Without going into details, these progressed charts involve making projections into the future from someone's birth chart.

The Next Step

After you have learned to find the planets and house cusps and feel like a birth chart is not an arcane document, but something that you will soon learn to read and understand, it's time to start learning what the signs, planets, and houses mean. Then we can go on to reading good ol' Albert's birth chart.

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