

HOW TO USE AN EPHEMERIS TO SEE TRANSITS

An Information Special from Astro Communications Services, Inc.

by David Dukelow

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this **Information Special** is to help you use your ephemeris to see when you have certain transits. I will also show you how to determine the zodiacal position of the Moon for whatever date and place you like. The **Information Special, How to Read an Ephemeris** (code **IEPHX**), is a good companion piece for this **Information Special**. In fact, I consider it to be a preface to this.

ABOUT TRANSITS

Transits are the positions of the planets at any particular time. Your natal chart is a particular transit chart — in fact, some people describe it as the transits your mother had for the date and time of your birth... but she got over them and you have them for a lifetime!

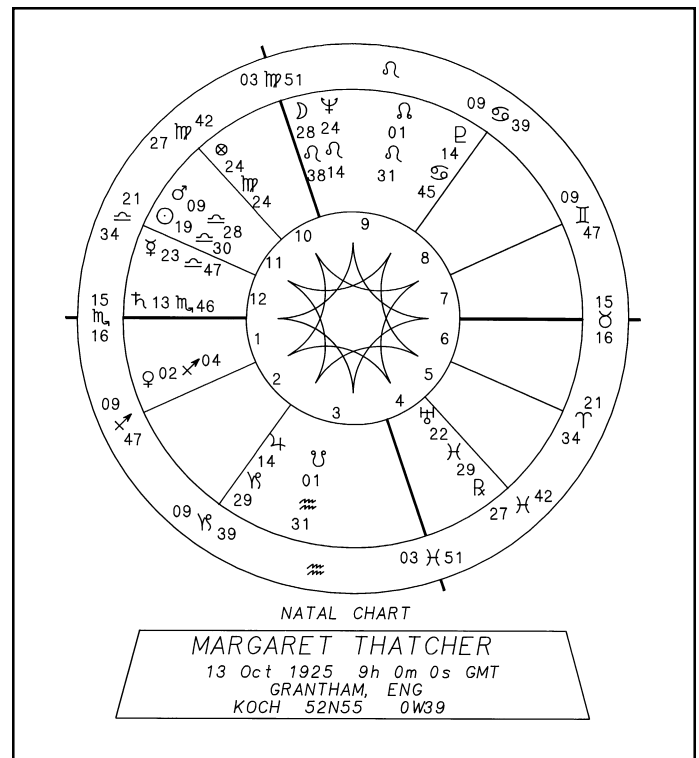
Sometimes the word “transit” is used as a verb, at other times as a noun. It is used as a noun when someone says, “Venus transits can be good for redecorating your home.” In this case, a whole collection of aspects by transit is singled out for a value judgement. It is used as a verb when someone says, “When Mars transits Venus...” Here, they are referring to the motion of Mars over the point in the zodiac occupied by Venus in someone’s natal chart. In some cases the speaker may be referring to another aspect rather than a conjunction, so care should be taken to specify the aspect in question.

On the upper right of this page you see the natal chart for former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Her chart is discussed in considerable detail in the fine book *The Only Way to... Learn about Tomorrow* by Marion March and Joan McEvers (book code **B136X**) — in particular, see pages 207-233. I’ll show you how to look up transits for a particular event in her life.

The event I selected is her election to the House of Commons on February 11, 1975. While she was first elected to Commons in 1959, the 1975 election saw her become the leader of the Conservative Party, and in 1979 she became Prime Minister. At the bottom of page three is the month of February 1975 from *The American Ephemeris for the 20th Century, Revised Fifth Edition*. I will make a few comments about the meaning of the transits, but since March and McEvers do such a thorough job on this, I will keep my comments minimal.

It is difficult sometimes to see all transits to a natal chart, especially the minor aspects, but you can see the bulk of them with practice. Let’s look at the main ones. I usually read from the right to the left, for it is the outer planets that set the stage. They move slowly and they give you the background. Start by looking at the row for the 11th.

Transiting Pluto was at 8° 60.0' of Libra, and was retrograde. (Since there are 60 minutes in a degree, the 60.0' means that it was in the last few seconds of arc of degree 8.) Usually, people use a 1° orb for transits. This means that they look for the natal position



±1°, or for aspects to the natal position within the same range. Her Mars is at 9°28' of Libra, so Pluto is well within this range. Hence, she had transiting Pluto conjunct her natal Mars. Her assertiveness was being transformed, certainly, and within the meaning of the 11th house — friends and groups of people.

Transiting Neptune was at 11° Sagittarius, in her second house (later than her 9° 47' cusp, but earlier than the 9° 39' cusp of the third house). It does not conjunct anything there. Sagittarius is a mutable sign. If there are any planets at 11° of any of the other mutable signs — Pisces, Gemini and Virgo — they will either square or oppose transiting Neptune. Nothing is close. Look for quincunxes made by transiting Neptune: this is the 150° aspect. Nothing at either 11° of Taurus or Cancer, so no quincunxes.

Next is Uranus. It was at 2° of Scorpio. As with transiting Neptune, it does not conjunct anything. However, it does make a wide square to her Nodal axis and semisextiles Venus.

Saturn is at 12° of Cancer. If you have an ephemeris you’ll see that transiting Saturn, which was retrograde then, passed over (i.e., conjuncted) her natal Pluto in January, 1975. Saturn and Pluto can denote responsibility and power when the individual has a positive frame of mind, while in others it can connote the violation of boundaries. It is clear that Mrs. Thatcher manifested this transit in a positive manner. Her natal Saturn was also trined by transiting Saturn at the end of January. Note also that she has Pluto opposite to Jupiter natively, so this opposition was “set off” by the transit of Saturn.

Where was Jupiter? It was at 21° of Pisces, almost conjunct

her natal Uranus. This is an important position in her chart. Uranus makes a quincunx to natal Mercury and Neptune, while they are sextile to each other. (This kind of configuration is called a *yod*.) Hence, Jupiter quincunxed Mercury and Neptune as well.

Transiting Mars was conjunct her natal Jupiter. It opposed her natal Pluto and sextiled her natal Saturn and Ascendant.

Transiting Venus was at 14° of Pisces, thus making a sextile to her Jupiter and a grand trine with her Pluto and Saturn/Ascendant. Note that three transiting planets make aspects to her natal Jupiter-Pluto opposition. Transiting Mercury (15 ≈ 51) was square her Ascendant.

The transiting Node was at 7° of Sagittarius. It did not make a major aspect to any natal positions. While there are a lot of aspects to consider, it is not uncommon for a planet not to aspect anything for a time.

Where was the Moon? I don't know exactly when the election took place. If we suppose that (say) the election result became official at 6:00 PM, then the Moon was at about 28° of Aquarius. Thus, it opposed her natal Moon; this likely **was** an emotional time for her.

How did I get the Moon position from the ephemeris? This requires a little extra work. The position of the Moon is given at 0 hours and at noon. Thus, 6:00 PM is halfway from the noon position on the 11th to the 0 hour position on the 12th. At noon on the 11th, the ephemeris gives 25 ≈ 10 37 and the 0 hour position on the 12th is 1 ♋ 6 43. We need to take half the distance between these two positions in this example, subtracting the former from the latter. Since each sign has 30 degrees, we can rename 1 ♋ as 31 ≈. So our subtraction changes from:

$$\begin{array}{r} 1^\circ \text{ ♋ } 6' 43'' \\ - 25^\circ \approx 10' 37'' \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \text{to this:} \quad \begin{array}{r} 31^\circ \approx 6' 43'' \\ - 25^\circ \approx 10' 37'' \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Each degree contains 60 minutes of arc, so we can change the above to:

$$\begin{array}{r} 30^\circ \approx 66' 43'' \\ - 25^\circ \approx 10' 37'' \\ \hline 5^\circ \quad 56' \quad 6'' \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{(This is the borrow and carry routine} \\ \text{from high school mathematics.)} \end{array}$$

This is just shy of 6° in 12 hours. Since it's halfway between, we add ½ of six (that is, 3°) to the earlier position, to get the approximate value of 28 ≈. If the 6:00 PM time were from another time zone — London is in time zone zero, GMT — then we'd have to adjust for that difference first. I will show you how to do this shortly.

Finally, the Sun was at 21° of Aquarius; like the North Node, it made no exact major aspects to anything. It had trined her natal Sun two days earlier and trined her Mercury two days later.

Do you get the idea? Except for the transiting Moon, you very easily pick the planets one by one from the ephemeris and compare them to planets in the natal chart. This is a lot to do, but with practice it becomes easier.

You may wish to pick one planet and follow it through several months in the ephemeris. If you do this, you'll get a better feel for how the planets move. Remember that people don't memorize the ephemeris — they just refer to it for the information that they need.

Information Special IASPX will help you spot aspects in general. You can order the Aspect Scan (code **SCAN**); it is

discussed in **Information Special ISCANX**. The Aspect Scan makes finding all aspects between transiting planets and your natal planets a piece of cake. It's four pages in length.

Here are a few general hints about when aspects from the transiting planets take place. Please regard these comments as guidelines, not absolutes.

Sun — The Sun moves just barely less than 1° per day. The Sun will square its natal position about three months before and after your date of birth. It will oppose its natal position in the opposite month to your month of birth, i. e., six months before or after your month of birth. Quincunxes occur five months after or five months before. Trines from the transiting Sun to your natal Sun occur about 120 days before or after your date of birth.

Moon — The Moon circles the zodiac in less than a month's time. Hence, you're never very far from this or that aspect. More on the Moon below.

Mercury and Venus — These two are never very far from the Sun. In fact the farthest they can be is about 45° ahead of or behind the Sun. Mercury goes retrograde three times a year, so there is no easy way to guesstimate when it will be at a certain place. Venus may not go retrograde for more than a year at a time. Because of these facts, probably the easiest way to find when Mercury or Venus makes some aspect to a natal planet is to guesstimate when the Sun makes that aspect and then to hunt before or after that date until you find when either Mercury or Venus is where you want it to be.

Mars — Mars takes about two years to move through the zodiac. For example, find your date of birth in the ephemeris. Note where Mars is located. Move ahead two years to the same month. You've got really good odds that Mars is either in the same sign then or the month before or after. Thus, to find when transiting Mars opposes its natal position, look ahead one year. For a square, use six months as your guesstimate. What can throw you off in this, however, is when Mars goes retrograde. When a planet goes retrograde, it may make three passes over a particular point — first direct, then retrograde for the second pass, and finally direct for the third pass. So if you do find that particular transit, check ahead and back a few months to see if you have other transits that make the same aspect.

Jupiter — Jupiter takes a little under twelve years to circle the zodiac, so it spends about one year in each sign. Retrogrades for Jupiter are similar to those of Mars, except they take longer. Jupiter makes an opposition to its natal position about six years after birth.

Saturn — Saturn takes about 29½ years to go through the zodiac. When transiting Saturn reaches the degree it occupies in someone's natal chart, we call it a **Saturn Return**, but this really denotes about a one year period. Saturn spends about 2½ years in each sign, opposes a natal position in 14 to 15 years, and makes its first squares at about ages seven and 21.

Uranus — This planet takes about 84 years to circle the zodiac, so it spends about seven years in a sign. It opposes its natal position at about age 42, plus or minus a bit. This is the **Uranus opposition**, and the classic mid-life crisis period is associated with it.

Neptune — The orbital period of Neptune is about 164 years, so it spends about 14 years in a sign. It squares its natal position at about age 41, setting the stage for the **Uranus opposition**.

Pluto — Pluto lumbers along very slowly. It takes 248 years to complete its cycle. It squares its natal position earliest for those born with Pluto at about 15° of Scorpio. It moves fastest through Scorpio, taking only about 12 years, but it takes about 30 years in the opposite sign of Taurus. These are the extremes. Pluto spends about 45% of its time in retrograde motion. It will move out of Scorpio and into Sagittarius for a little while in early 1995, then retrograde back into Scorpio for a few months. It will move out of Scorpio for more than two centuries, in November, 1995.

LOCATING THE MOON

Look at the portion of the ephemeris page. We only need the part that shows where the Moon was. The Moon moves so quickly that its position is given twice a day. The "0 hr D" column tells you where the Moon was at the first instant of the day. This is GMT, standard time in London, England. The first entry in this column is "12 32 47." This means that the Moon was at 12° 32' 47" of Libra. (This is just a bit past twelve and one-half degrees.) By noon, 12 hours later, it had transited a little over seven degrees farther. If you had been in New York City, which is in time zone five, on the first of February 1975, you would **subtract** five hours from noon to get the local New York time for when the Moon was at the "Noon D" position; this time would be 7:00 AM. But if daylight savings time had been in effect then, you would only subtract four hours from the "Noon D" position, giving you 8:00 AM. Daylight time is not used in an ephemeris.

At the top of the next column is a brief table to help you make these conversions. First, find the time zone that you live in. Several of these are listed across the top. Second, determine whether you are using daylight time or not. Finally, subtract the number in the table from either 0 hours or Noon. If you use the zero hour time, you subtract one day from the date in the ephemeris. I give some examples below the table.

Zone Name	Eastern	Central	Mountain	Pacific	Yukon	Alaska-Hawaii
Standard	5	6	7	8	9	10
Daylight	4	5	6	7	8	9

Pick a Moon position listed in the ephemeris. If you picked a Noon position, to find the time when the Moon was (or will be) at that position and you are living in Denver, Colorado, subtract seven hours, giving 5:00 AM on the same day, if standard time was in effect. In the summer you'd only subtract six hours, giving you 6:00 AM. If you live in Honolulu, Hawaii, you only subtract ten hours from the Noon time, giving you 2:00 AM of the same day. If you select the zero hour Moon, then you still subtract ten hours, giving you 2:00 PM of the preceding day; that is, if you select the zero hour Moon for (say) December 1, 1993, then you get the position of the Moon at 2:00 PM on the afternoon of November 30, 1993.

Now let's shift gears. Suppose you want to pick your own time and find out where the Moon is located. To do this, you have to convert the time where you are located into the framework of the ephemeris and then adjust for how fast or how slow the Moon is traveling. It is especially important to remember that the Moon does not travel at a constant rate of speed; it is quite variable.

Here is how to do it. I select a particular time so that I can refer

LONGITUDE FEBRUARY 1975

Day	Std. Time	☉	0 hr D	Noon D	True Ω	♈	♉	♊	♋	♌	♍	♎	♏	♐
1 Sa	8 42 19	11 32 31	12 32 47	19 38 25	7 58.4	25 12.9	2 10.7	7 29.4	19 20.3	13 26.6	2 27.8	11 19.2	9 8.3	
2 Su	8 46 16	12 30 24	26 37 12	3 29 10	7 55.1	24 49.9	3 25.5	8 13.6	19 33.3	13 22.6	2 28.0	11 20.5	9 7.6	
3 M	8 50 13	13 31 17	10 14 32	16 53 38	7 51.9	24 16.0	4 40.2	8 57.9	19 46.4	13 18.7	2 28.2	11 21.8	9 6.9	
4 Tu	8 54 9	14 32 9	23 26 51	29 54 40	7 54.1	23 32.2	5 55.0	9 42.2	19 59.5	13 14.8	2 28.4	11 23.1	9 6.1	
5 W	8 58 6	15 33 0	6 17 34	12 36 6	7 54.5	22 39.4	7 9.7	10 26.5	20 12.7	13 11.0	2 28.5	11 24.4	9 5.3	
6 Th	9 2 2	16 33 50	18 50 44	25 2 0	7 54.0	21 39.2	8 24.4	11 10.8	20 26.0	13 7.3	2 28.5	11 25.6	9 4.5	
7 F	9 5 59	17 34 39	1 10 20	7 16 10	7 51.5	20 33.2	9 39.1	11 55.2	20 39.3	13 3.6	2 28.5	11 26.7	9 3.7	
8 Sa	9 9 55	18 35 27	13 19 53	21 21 50	7 46.2	19 23.5	10 53.7	12 39.6	20 52.7	13 0.0	2 28.4	11 27.9	9 2.8	
9 Su	9 13 52	19 36 14	25 22 18	1 21 34	7 37.9	18 11.9	12 8.3	13 24.1	21 6.1	12 56.6	2 28.3	11 29.0	9 1.9	
10 M	9 17 48	20 37 0	7 19 51	13 17 20	7 26.8	17 0.5	13 22.9	14 8.6	21 19.6	12 53.2	2 28.1	11 30.1	9 0.9	
11 Tu	9 21 45	21 37 44	19 14 13	25 10 37	7 13.5	15 51.1	14 37.5	14 53.1	21 33.2	12 49.8	2 27.8	11 31.2	8 60.0	
12 W	9 25 42	22 38 28	1 6 43	7 2 40	6 59.0	14 45.4	15 52.0	15 37.6	21 46.8	12 46.6	2 27.5	11 32.2	8 59.0	
13 Th	9 29 38	23 39 9	12 58 38	18 54 47	6 44.5	13 44.8	17 6.5	16 22.2	22 0.4	12 43.5	2 27.1	11 33.2	8 57.9	
14 F	9 33 35	24 39 50	24 51 22	0 48 37	6 31.2	12 50.4	18 21.0	17 6.8	22 14.1	12 40.4	2 26.7	11 34.1	8 56.9	
15 Sa	9 37 31	25 40 28	6 46 49	12 46 19	6 20.2	12 2.9	19 35.4	17 51.5	22 27.9	12 37.5	2 26.3	11 35.1	8 55.8	
16 Su	9 41 28	26 41 6	18 47 30	24 50 46	6 11.9	11 22.9	20 49.8	18 36.1	22 41.7	12 34.6	2 25.7	11 36.0	8 54.7	
17 M	9 45 24	27 41 41	0 56 36	7 5 32	6 6.7	10 50.6	22 4.2	19 20.8	22 55.5	12 31.8	2 25.2	11 36.8	8 53.6	
18 Tu	9 49 21	28 42 15	13 18 5	19 34 49	6 4.1	10 26.1	23 18.5	20 5.6	23 9.4	12 29.2	2 24.5	11 37.7	8 52.4	
19 W	9 53 17	29 42 47	25 56 21	2 23 14	6 3.4	10 9.3	24 32.8	20 50.3	23 23.3	12 26.6	2 23.9	11 38.5	8 51.3	
20 Th	9 57 14	0 43 17	8 56 1	15 35 15	6 3.4	9 59.9	25 47.0	21 35.1	23 37.3	12 24.1	2 23.1	11 39.2	8 50.1	
21 F	10 1 11	1 43 46	22 21 19	29 14 34	6 2.8	9 57.8	27 1.2	22 19.9	23 51.3	12 21.8	2 22.3	11 40.0	8 48.8	
22 Sa	10 5 7	2 44 12	6 15 12	13 23 13	6 0.4	10 2.4	28 15.4	23 4.8	24 5.3	12 19.5	2 21.5	11 40.7	8 47.6	
23 Su	10 9 4	3 44 37	20 38 26	28 0 26	5 55.5	10 13.4	29 29.5	23 49.6	24 19.4	12 17.3	2 20.6	11 41.4	8 46.3	
24 M	10 13 0	4 44 59	5 28 34	13 1 54	5 47.8	10 30.5	0 43.6	24 34.5	24 33.5	12 15.3	2 19.7	11 42.0	8 45.0	
25 Tu	10 16 57	5 45 20	20 39 20	28 19 31	5 37.8	10 53.2	1 57.6	25 19.5	24 47.6	12 13.3	2 18.7	11 42.6	8 43.7	
26 W	10 20 53	6 45 39	6 1 0	13 42 16	5 26.4	11 21.1	3 11.6	26 4.4	25 1.8	12 11.5	2 17.6	11 43.2	8 42.4	
27 Th	10 24 50	7 45 57	21 21 46	28 58 6	5 15.0	11 53.8	4 25.5	26 49.4	25 16.0	12 9.7	2 16.5	11 43.7	8 41.0	
28 F	10 28 46	8 46 12	6 29 56	13 56 11	5 4.9	12 31.1	5 39.4	27 34.4	25 30.2	12 8.1	2 15.4	11 44.2	8 39.7	

Astro Data	Planet Ingress	Last Aspect	Ingress	Last Aspect	Ingress	Phases & Eclipses	Astro Data
Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn	Dy Hr Mn
☉ S 2:23:10	♀ ♋ 6:39	♂ ♋ 16:50	♂ ♋ 17:32	♂ ♋ 1:21:00	♈ 2 5:53	☾ 4 19:04	1 JANUARY 1975
♃ ♏ 10:20:34	♃ ♏ 8:21:58	♂ ♏ 3:13:36	♂ ♏ 3:19:21	♂ ♏ 4:09:09	♈ 4 12:10	☾ 12 10:20	Julian Day # 27394
♁ R 11:10:47	♁ R 20:16:36	♂ ♏ 5:22:55	♂ ♏ 5:23:39	♂ ♏ 6:50:07	♈ 6 21:42	☾ 20 15:14	Delta T 45.5 sec
♂ N 17 4:18	♂ ♃ 21 18:49	♂ ♃ 4:24	♂ ♃ 8 6:39	♂ ♃ 8 15:18	♈ 9 9:16	☾ 27 15:09	SVP 05 36°15"
♃ ♏ 22:16:39	♀ ♋ 30 6:05	♂ ♏ 9:23:22	♂ ♏ 10:15:58	♂ ♏ 11 5:17	♈ 11 21:45		Obliquity 23°26'29"
☉ S 30 8:26		♂ ♏ 12 10:20	♂ ♏ 13 3:03	♂ ♏ 13 18:36	♈ 14 10:22		♂ Chiron 19 57.1
♃ R 30 10:41	♁ R 19 6:50	♂ ♏ 15 5:45	♂ ♏ 15 15:23	♂ ♏ 16 17:03	♈ 16 22:09		Mean Ω 8 257.3
	♀ ♃ 23 9:53	♂ ♏ 17 22:24	♂ ♏ 18 4:03	♂ ♏ 18 21:06	♈ 19 7:35		
♂ R 5 21:44		♂ ♏ 20 15:14	♂ ♏ 20 15:21	♂ ♏ 21 8:57	♈ 21 13:18		1 FEBRUARY 1975
♂ N 13 11:23		♂ ♏ 22 5:07	♂ ♏ 22 23:23	♂ ♏ 23 6:07	♈ 23 15:13		Julian Day # 27425
♃ D 20 19:22		♂ ♏ 24 15:34	♂ ♏ 25 3:20	♂ ♏ 24 9:54	♈ 25 14:37		Delta T 45.6 sec
♀ N 25 7:04		♂ ♏ 26 9:03	♂ ♏ 27 4:00	♂ ♏ 27 9:03	♈ 27 13:38		SVP 05 36°10"
☉ S 26 19:47		♂ ♏ 29 0:50	♂ ♏ 29 3:14				Obliquity 23°26'30"
		♂ ♏ 30 9:23	♂ ♏ 31 3:13				♂ Chiron 20 24.2
							Mean Ω 6 257.3

to the portion of the ephemeris page shown. Suppose we need to find out where the Moon is at 11:25 AM on February 1, 1975, and that we are in Cleveland, Ohio. Eastern Standard time was in effect, so we are in zone 5. Convert 11:25 AM EST to GMT. Here we **add** five hours, giving 4:25 PM GMT. Thus, this time is between the Noon position given in the ephemeris for February 1 and the 0 hour position for the next day, February 2. (Before, we **subtracted**, but we were finding when local time was equivalent to GMT. Here, we are doing the opposite: we stick with local time and find the equivalent GMT; we **add** here — the opposite of before.) Hence, the Moon is between $19^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle} 38' 25''$ and $26^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle} 37' 12''$. How far between? These positions are 12 hours apart. We need to move a little more than one-third of the way from the first to the second — exactly 4:25 from the first to the second. Next, we need to know how fast the Moon is traveling. Here we have to do a little subtraction: take the latter position and subtract the former. (Remember to subtract from one column and carry to the one to the right. That is, each minute of arc in the middle column is equal to 60 seconds of arc for the third column; each degree contains 60 minutes.)

$$\begin{array}{r}
 26^{\circ} 37' 12'' \\
 - 19^{\circ} 38' 25'' \\
 \hline
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{l}
 \text{(Borrow } 1^{\circ}, \text{ which} \\
 \text{is } 60'. \text{ Borrow } 1', \\
 \text{which is } 60''.)
 \end{array}
 \quad
 \begin{array}{r}
 25^{\circ} 96' 72'' \\
 - 19^{\circ} 38' 25'' \\
 \hline
 6^{\circ} 58' 47''
 \end{array}$$

This is the motion of the Moon in 12 hours. Thus we take a little more than one-third of this and add it to the earlier of the two positions. If you'll settle for a rough figure, then add $2^{\circ} 20'$ to the $19^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle} 38' 25''$ figure to get $22^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle}$.

Exact calculations can be tedious. Both *The American Book of Tables* (for the Placidus house system) and *The Koch Book of Tables* (for the Koch house system) have detailed instructions on how to calculate a natal chart. They go over how to find the Moon position.

If you want to approximate the position of the Moon, you can use the table below to help you. It tells you how far the Moon travels in one hour to twelve hours for any of several rates of travel. You always need to determine how fast the moon is traveling. Find the change in the **twelve** hour period that includes the time you are interested in; this gives you the correct column (6° , 6.5° , 7° or 7.5°). Then find the closest row across for the number of hours, like the 4:25 hour figure used above. Add your answer to the earlier of the two figures from the ephemeris. Just remember that this is not meant to be exact — just to help you approximate.

12 hour rate	6°	6.5°	7°	7.5°
1 hour	0°30'	0°32'	0°35'	0°37'
2 hours	1°00'	1°05'	1°10'	1°15'
3 hours	1°30'	1°37'	1°45'	1°52'
4 hours	2°00'	2°10'	2°20'	2°30'
5 hours	2°30'	2°42'	2°55'	3°07'
6 hours	3°00'	3°15'	3°30'	3°45'
7 hours	3°30'	3°47'	4°05'	4°22'
8 hours	4°00'	4°20'	4°40'	5°00'
9 hours	4°30'	4°52'	5°15'	5°37'
10 hours	5°00'	5°25'	5°50'	6°15'
11 hours	5°30'	5°57'	6°25'	6°52'
12 hours	6°00'	6°30'	7°00'	7°30'

For example, for the calculation of the Moon position, we would have taken the value in the 7° column. Since the 4:25 hour figure is closer to four hours, use the four hour row, giving you $2^{\circ} 20'$. We add that to the earlier of the Moon positions, $19^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle} 38'$, to get an approximate \mathcal{D} position of $21^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle} 58' \dots$ or $22^{\circ} \underline{\sphericalangle}$.

MORE ON THE MOON

Next, I consider the Void-of-Course Moon. A planet is said to be void of course (V/C) from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign in which it makes an aspect. Almost always, this is the next sign. The Moon may be V/C for a few minutes, a number of hours, or sometimes for over two days.

Look back to the bottom of the portion of the ephemeris page shown earlier. The third and fourth boxes from the left give you Moon transit data. Two months are given on each ephemeris page. Only the bottom month (February) is shown here, and the second of these two boxes relates to it. The rows in the boxes tell you two things. First, reading from the left-hand side of the box, you find the date and time, again in GMT, that the Moon makes its last so-called major aspect while it is in the sign it is in. For example, on the 1st of February it made a trine (the small triangle symbol) to Mercury at 21:00 (which is military 24-hour clock time for 9:00 PM). Second, it moved into Scorpio on the 2nd at 5:53 AM. You can convert these times to local time in the same way as above.

The V/C Moon **is** of importance in horary astrology, but in my opinion, its importance in other areas of astrology is often exaggerated.

The decade ephemerides cover one month per page. The top third is like one of the month panels from the century ephemerides. There is a middle third that gives the values of declinations and latitudes for the planets. And the bottom third is a daily aspectarian. It lists the aspects among **all** of the transiting planets, including parallels and contraparallels of declination. (Briefly, declination is how far from the Celestial Equator a planet is, either North or South. When two planets have the same declination within 1° , and are both North or both South, they are said to be parallel. If one planet is North and the other South, but their declinations have the same numerical value within 1° , they are contraparallel.) Since the decade ephemerides list this data on a daily basis, they do not have some of the boxes that the century versions have at the bottom of the page. This difference is just one of presentation. However, the Moon phase and V/C data **is** present, as in the century ephemerides.

INFORMATION SPECIALS OF RELATED INTEREST

- IASPX — Aspects (what they are, how to see them)
- ICSX — Constellations/Signs—what's the difference?
- ICUSX — Custom House Tables & Custom Ephemerides
- IECLX — Eclipses and Moon Phases
- IEPHX — How to Read an Ephemeris
- IGLOX — Glossary of Astrological Terminology
- IKEYSX — Astro Keys (Keywords for all signs, aspects, etc.)
- ISCANX — 360° Aspect Scan: Aspects in Your Chart
- ITIMEX — Time (daylight, war, Illinois problem, etc.)
- ITX — Transits (philosophical issues)
- IXBX — Extra Bodies (Chiron, Transpluto, Lilith, etc.)