

ASTRIX REVIEW by Jacci D. Hall

I've had lots of fun working with ASTRIX by MICROSEEDS and I'd like to include information for people who are interested in astrology, just beginning, a serious student, or a professional astrologer.

ASTRIX is easy to learn and to use. It is a very good program for beginning and intermediate students of astrology. The manual was easy to follow, and the charting process is very fast on my Mac IIcx. The printing of the black chart with white symbols is much slower, and will use up your cartridge quickly. The developers are aware of this problem and are considering an outline wheel as an option.

All of the drudgery in casting the horoscope is done by the program. What's left is play. You can click on a space to enter information. or tab to advance to the next field. One big drawback is a lack of information on when and where daylight savings and war times were, or are in effect. This too the developers are aware of and will probably be taken care of in another version. For now, you can get the book "Time Changes In The USA" by Doris Chase Doane to find these facts. She has also authored books for other parts of the world. (see AFA below) You need to enter the correct time zone, and you will have to get that information from an atlas or map. Next version may have lines drawn on the map to give an idea of which zone to click on. There is a button you can click to find cities to get the latitude and longitude or you can click on a spot on the map to find this information. This is a very useful option, and adds to the fun.

ASTRIX has included some interpretations of natal and daily charts so you don't need to know anything about astrology to get started. The Astrix interpretations give little or no consideration to the house placement of the planets in the six Natal charts I did for this review, although they are covered in the transits. The scope is limited by the design and price of the program. Example; there is no computer blending of information, you will need to know or learn to do this yourself. ASTRIX does let you choose and switch between three house systems; Placidus, Equal, and Koch, a real plus for such an inexpensive program. The Nodes, Part of Fortune, Retrogrades and Asteroids are not listed. Some of these may be covered in the next version. Interceptions do not show as such on the wheel in the Placidus system, so a planet may show in one house on the graphic, and be described in another house in the text. Switching from Natal chart or Natal interpretation of the chart, to any daily chart or forecast is done with a pull down menu, as are many of the other options.

ASTRIX is great for parties, or for doing your own or a friends chart easily. It could be a good fund raising tool, keeping in mind the printing inconvenience. Most astrology programs I am familiar with are much more expensive, and some give less information. At \$69.00 retail and about half that from mail order houses, it's reasonable price makes it a helpful tool even for professional astrologers.

For more information about astrology, contact either of the following organizations.

American Federation of Astrologers, Inc.
6535 S. Rural Road, P.O.Box 22040
Tempe, AZ. 85282-0901
(602)838-1751

Arizona Society of Astrologers
P.O. Box 9340
Scottsdale, AZ 85252