

Astrix

Microseeds Publishing, Inc.

Astrix is a program for those with a casual interest in astrology. Anyone can generate an astrological chart, complete with interpretation, in just a few minutes. There is an online help file under the "Apple Menu".

The charts you create are stored in groups. You might have one group for family members, another for people from your work and another for friends. This setup is a little awkward but it does keep things neat and orderly.

Select "New Member" from the "Member Menu" and a box will open requesting the necessary information to produce the astrological chart. (Illust. 1)

Name: Easy enough....enter the name of the person whose chart you are preparing.

Date: Enter the date of birth. There doesn't seem to be any year limitations here. (More about this later) The information may be typed in or a handy set of arrows will adjust the month, day and year for you.

Time: Enter the exact time of birth. If you don't know the time of birth the manual suggests that you use noon. Click on the hour/minute and enter the information from the keyboard or use the cute little up and down arrows that appear. Next use the pop-up menus to select the time zone and the time system in effect on that special date in history.

Longitude/Latitude = L/L: Also known as place of birth. If you know the L/L of the city you can enter that information with those crafty arrows or use the boring keyboard method. Microseeds Publishing figured that most of us don't know what a L/L is so they supplied us with some help. Click on the map button. A nice map of the United States appears (Illust. 2). Type in the name of the city then click on the "Find City" button and the L/L will magically appear....sometimes. Many of the major cities of the world have been entered into the program along with their time zone information. If the city isn't there you can click on the map at its approximate location (if the city is in the U.S.A.) and the L/L and time zone information will be supplied. If you want the program to remember this little town, type in the name and click the "Add City" button.

After all the information has been entered, click on the "OK" button and an astrological chart will be drawn up. The chart that appears is a "Daily Horoscope" which will give you some information about what is going on at the present time in the life of the chartee. Proceed to the "Member Menu" and select "Natal Horoscope" and you will get the birth chart for the person.

The Natal/Daily Horoscope will give you the astrological chart with the planets in place and a 2 to 3 page somewhat canned interpretation of what it all means (in other words the fun stuff). The Natal/Daily Chart will give you the astrological chart with the placement of the planets along with the numerical data and planetary aspects (in other words the technical stuff).

The Manual: It suggests that you can draw charts for events but the interpretation of the chart is strained at best. You also have the choice of 3 house systems used in astrology but Astrix fails to explain the differences of these systems. It gives you a brief understanding of astrological terms and seems clear on the use of the program.

Summary: If you decide to get this program

1) Make sure it is version 1.01 or later. The earlier version (1.0) was seriously flawed and its calculations were incorrect.

2) I checked the calculations for planets and house cusps as far back as 1860 and forward to 2000 and found all calculations to be very accurate. You can draw a chart up for almost any year you want.

3) Double check the time zone information. Portions of Michigan and all of Ohio are in the eastern time zone but the program lists them as central time zone.

4) The chart produced is black with the planet placement in white.....this really eats up printer ribbons.

I felt that the program could have been presented with a better Macintosh format. It gets the job done but in a rather awkward manner. If you have an interest in learning something about astrology and want to have a little fun this program may be right in line for you. If you are looking for heavy duty astrology stuff, well...keep looking. On my scale of 1 to 10 Astrix gets a weak-kneed 4.

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