

Chapter 1

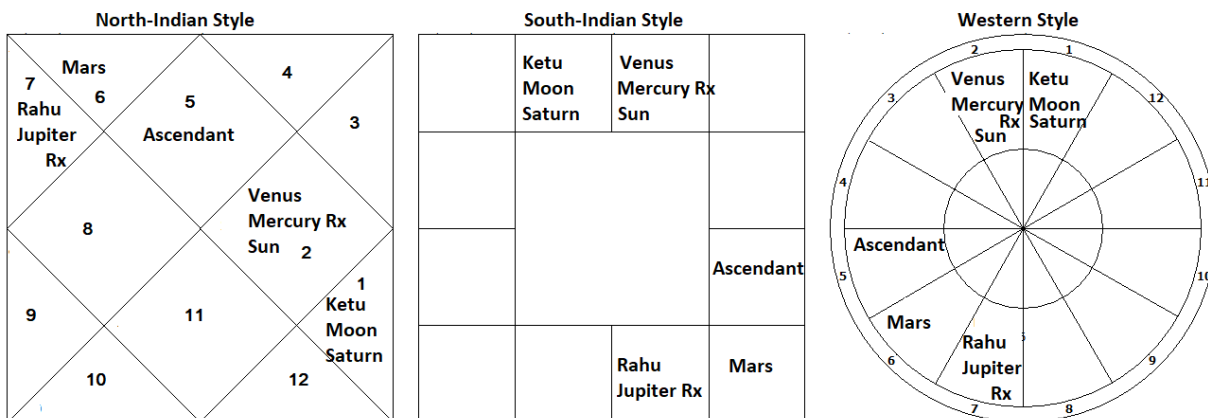
Basics of Horoscope

People have used astrology since Vedic times for predicting personal behavior, weather, the outcome of wars, electing appropriate times for doing any auspicious work, and many more jobs. It has been used in recent times for predicting the direction of commodities by eminent astrologer W.D. Gann. The stock market has also attracted the attention of astrologers. Names such as Bill Meridian, Louise McWhirter, and Captain David Williams are a few examples. This book is simply an extension of their work. I tried to apply the principles of Vedic astrology to the stock market. I am writing this book assuming a person does not know astrology but is interested in using it to select stocks and understand the direction of the market in addition to technical and fundamental analysis. Let us start with first things first.

The Horoscope or Birth-Chart

The horoscope shows the positions of the various planets in the sky at the time of birth, and it can be drawn in several ways. Astrologers in North India show it as a rectangle or a square with diagonal lines; those in South India show it as blocks placed in rectangular boxes. Western astrologers draw it as a circle. Fig 1.1 shows an example of each kind.

Fig 1.1 Example Chart 1



Whether the horoscope is drawn up in a circular or rectangular way, North Indian or South Indian way, it makes no difference as far as reading life's affairs is concerned. What is required is a complete understanding of the following three topics.

1. Signs of the Zodiac

2. Houses of the horoscope

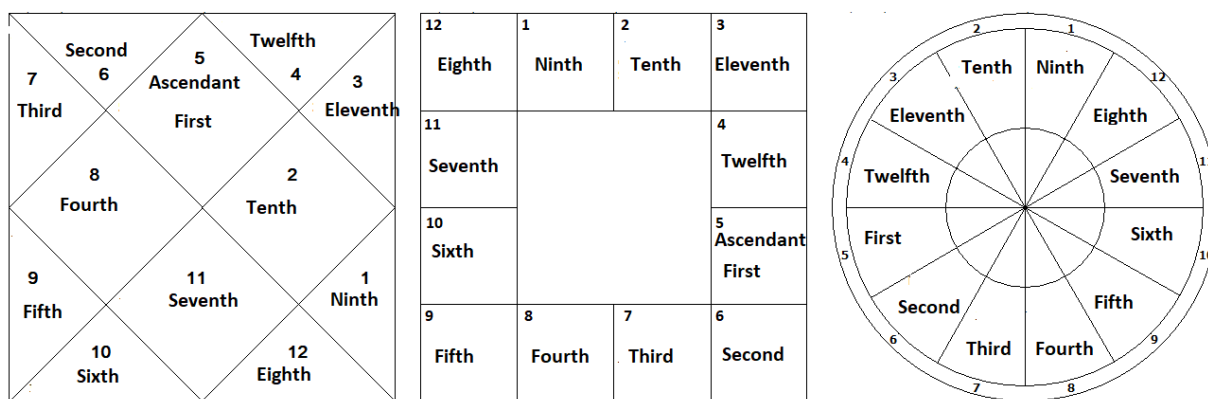
3. Planets

If an astrologer becomes even slightly negligent in any of these, he can draw incorrect conclusions. Therefore, it is essential to describe these three topics in detail so that a student of astrology can combine the effects of these three and make correct predictions. I will initially give a brief description of the houses, signs, and planets and later on deal with them in detail one by one. I follow this procedure so that you can grasp the principles of astrology slowly as you go along reading this book. I do not want to burden you with astrological terms or mathematical calculations right in the beginning. I hope that you enjoy reading this book as you learn about this great ancient Indian tradition.

Houses of the Horoscope

Fig 1.1 shows a few horoscopes. If you look carefully, you can see that each horoscope is divided into 12 parts. These parts are known as houses of the horoscope. We count these houses counterclockwise, starting from the first house for the North Indian and Western-style and clockwise for the South-Indian style, as shown in Fig 1.2.

Fig 1.2 The Twelve Houses of the Horoscope



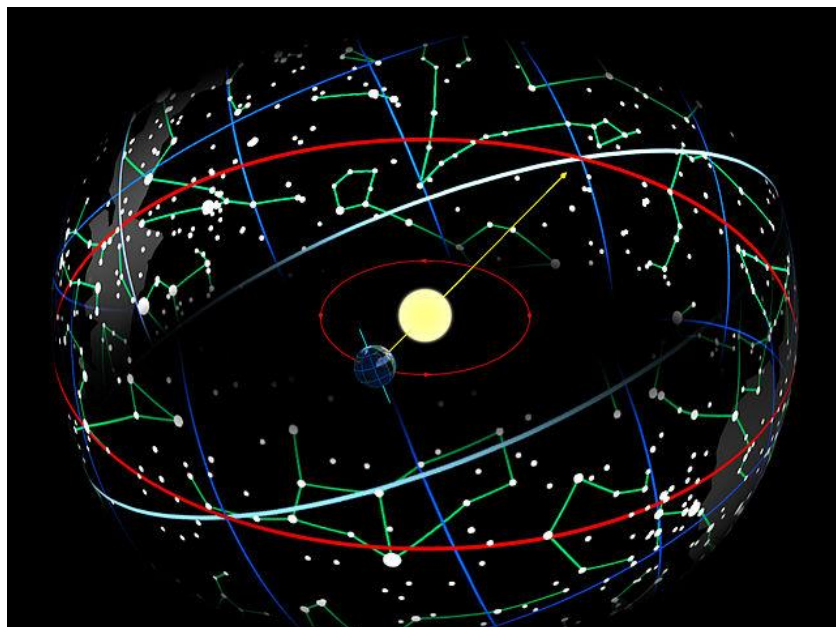
There is never a change in the sequence of the houses. The first house is also known as 'Janma Lagna' or Ascendant. This means that the counting always starts at the ascendant. You may note that in the charts of Fig 1.2, the first house is the one that has the digit 5. The second house is the one that has the digit 6; the third house has the digit 7, and so forth. The twelfth house is where the digit four is written.

It is important to remember that no matter what digit is placed in the first house, the counting or sequencing of the houses remains unchanged. It always starts at the house marked as ascendant in Fig 1.2, proceeds counterclockwise in north-Indian and Western styles, and clockwise in the south-Indian style. Also, remember that digits written in the houses do not represent the house numbers. We will describe houses in greater detail later in chapter 6.

Astrological Signs

The earth and other planets revolve around the Sun. Beyond the planets is the sky, where the stars can be seen. Since the planets are constantly moving and the position of the stars is relatively fixed, stars are used to describe the positions of planets. The path chalked by the planets during their revolution is known as Zodiac. This Zodiac is called the sidereal Zodiac because it is based on the position of the stars. The ancient astrologers divided the Zodiac into 12 parts, as shown in Fig 1.3.

Fig 1.3 Sun, revolving planets (represented by earth), and the stars



Each part is known as a Sign, and each sign contains several stars. The ancient stargazers connected the stars to imagine a figure for all signs, just as a small child connects the dots to make a picture in a drawing book. Obviously, while imagining the figures, the ancient astrologers kept the humans' behavior and physical appearance in mind. I will give the full description of the figures in Chapter 2. Here we provide only the names of these figures or the astrological signs:

Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra,

Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, and Pisces

A beginner in astrology should remember not only the names of the signs but also their order.

There is one difficulty I need to bring up here. The beginners of astrology can overlook this and the following three paragraphs for the time being if they wish to. Since Zodiac is an

elliptical path, it isn't easy to define the starting point of the Zodiac. Therefore astrologers adopt an alternate way of measuring the starting point. The planet Sun is assumed to enter the first sign, Aries, when the day and night are precisely equal in spring. Then the position of other signs is marked after that at a distance of 30 degrees. This Zodiac is known as Tropical Zodiac.

We know that the earth takes a day to spin around its own axis and a year to go around Sun. There is another wobbly motion - earth takes about 26000 years to complete one revolution. Because of this motion, the date when spring starts (day and night time are equal) moves very slowly (about 70" per year) in the backward direction. This motion is known as the precession of equinoxes. The Tropical Zodiac is thus not fixed. The difference between Sidereal Zodiac and Tropical Zodiac is known as Ayanamsha. Most astrologers in India prefer the Sidereal Zodiac and Western astrologers use Tropical Zodiac. Even the sidereal astrologers calculate the position of planets with the tropical Zodiac first, then subtract Ayanamsha to find the sidereal positions. My extensive research in Astrology has convinced me to use Tropical Zodiac, the one preferred by westerners, while interpreting the chart with Vedic astrology techniques. (Note 1)

The difference between the two systems can be seen simply from the dates assigned for the months. Earth makes one complete revolution around the Sun in one year. In other words, the earth moves through the astral system of 12 signs in 12 months. This means it moves through one sign each month. We live on the earth. From earth, it appears to us that it is the Sun that moves through these signs at a rate of one sign per month. If we follow the Tropical system, we can say that Sun stays in the sign Aries between March 23 and April 22 and then moves on to the sign Taurus. If we follow Sidereal Zodiac, we would say that the Sun remains in the sign Aries from April 13 to May 13, then it moves on to the sign Taurus. I include Table 1.1 here, which shows the dates of months and the Sun's signs for both systems for your convenience.

Table 1.1 The dates for the Sun's movement through various signs

Tropical Month	Sun Sign	Sidereal Month	Hindu month
March 21 - April 19	Aries	April 13 - May 13	Vaishakh
April 20 - May 20	Taurus	May 14 - June 14	Jyeshtha
May 21 - June 20	Gemini	June 15 - July 15	Asharda
June 21 - July 22	Cancer	July 16 - August 16	Shrawan
July 23 - August 22	Leo	August 17 - September 16	Bhadrapad
August 23 - September 22	Virgo	September 17 - October 16	Ashvin
September 23 - October 22	Libra	October 17 - November 15	Kartika
October 23 - November 21	Scorpio	November 16 - December 15	Margshirsha
November 22 - December 21	Sagittarius	December 16 - January 13	Paush
December 22 - January 19	Capricorn	January 14 - February 12	Magh

January 20 – February 18	Aquarius	February 13 - March 13	Phalgun
February 19 – March 20	Pisces	March 14 - April 12	Chaitra

People who look up their daily or weekly future in the newspapers or magazines will find that they use the Tropical system. In table 1.1, the names of the months of the Hindu calendar are also included. These names are similar to the names January, February, etc. There is no need to memorize these names.

We come back to our topic of astrological signs now. Earth spins around its own axis once a day, i.e., in 24 hours. The sign that is arising over the eastern horizon at the time of birth is known as the ascendant. This sign change approximately in 2 (24/12) hours. Earth also makes one complete revolution around Sun in one year. It appears that Sun is moving around the earth at the rate of one sign per month. The sign in which the Sun is apparently moving at the time of birth is known as Sun-sign, something most people are familiar with.

Since there are 12 signs and 12 houses in the horoscope, each horoscope house contains a sign. For north-Indian and Western-style charts, the signs are not represented in a horoscope by their names like Aries, Taurus, etc., but merely by the digits 1, 2, etc. The digits corresponding to the signs are given here.

Aries=1, Taurus=2, Gemini=3, Cancer=4, Leo=5, Virgo=6, Libra=7, Scorpio=8, Sagittarius=9, Capricorn=10, Aquarius=11 and Pisces=12.

Thus digit 1 is used for the sign Aries, 2 for Taurus, 3 for Gemini, so and so forth. If you see a digit in a house of the horoscope, you should immediately realize the sign that the house contains. For example, if the first house contains the digit 5, as is the case in the charts of Fig 1.1, its sign is Leo because digit 5 is set for Leo. If a house contains the digit 10, its sign is Capricorn. So it is essential to commit to memory not only the names of the signs but also their corresponding digits. Note that the digits are written in a horoscope and not the full names of signs merely for convenience. Some people have also started using a shorter version of the names of the signs for this purpose. They use Ar, Ta, Ge, Cn, Le, Vi, Li, Sc, Sg, Cp, Aq, and Pi.

I said earlier that the order of the houses does not change, although signs in the house may change. It is the time of the birth of a person that determines the signs of houses. The earth spins around its own axis once a day. Therefore it moves through each sign in approximately 2 hours. From earth, it looks as if the Sun is moving through each sign in about 2 hours. The sign through which the Sun is passing at the time of an individual's birth, due to the earth's spin, is known as the ascendant sign. In the Chart of Fig 1.1, the ascendant sign is Leo. Once the sign of the first house is determined, the signs of the following houses are merely the next signs. For example, if the ascendant is Aquarius (11), as is the case in Fig 1.4, Pisces (12) will be the sign of the second house, Aries (1) of the third house, Taurus (2) of the fourth house and Capricorn (10) of the twelfth house. Fig 1.4 shows an example chart and gives the full explanation of the signs and planets of all houses.

Fig 1.4 North Indian Style Chart

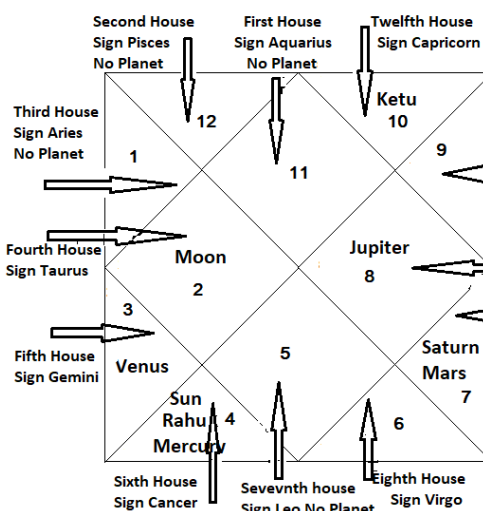
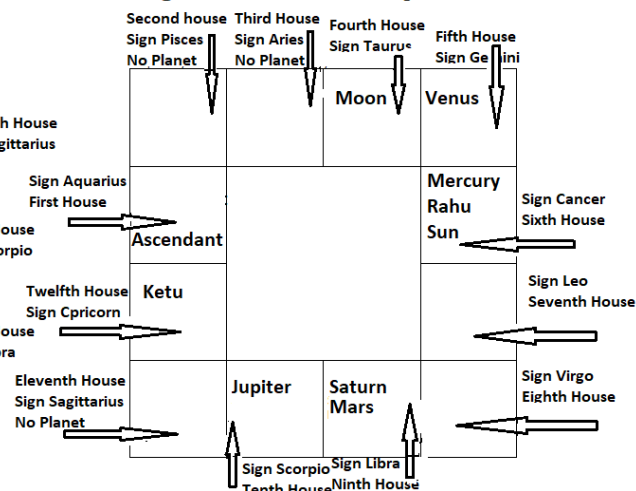


Fig 1.5 South Indian Style Chart

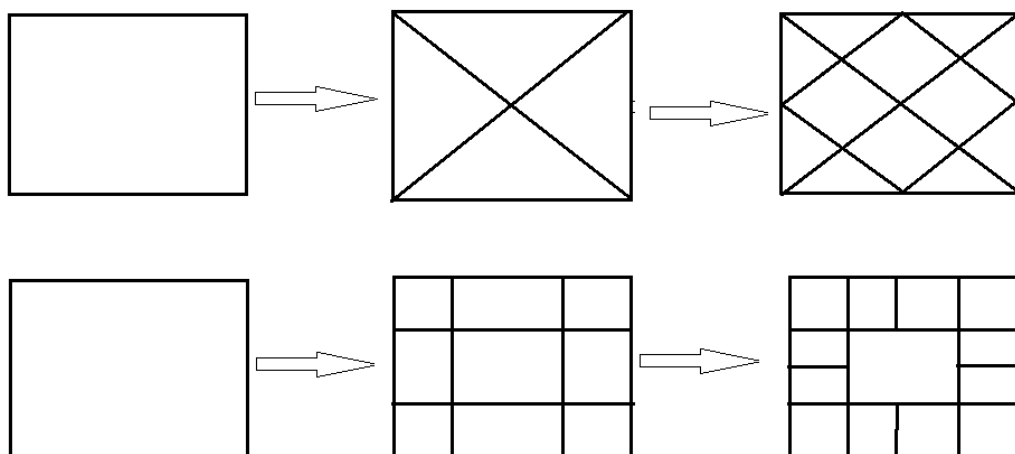


In the South Indian style horoscope (middle charts of Fig 1.1 and Fig 1.2, and Fig 1.5), the houses are sequenced not in the counterclockwise direction but in a clockwise fashion. The houses are shown as blocks, and these blocks are arranged in a square or rectangle. The first house is the one that has 'Birth' or 'Lagna', meaning ascendant written in it. Thus the First house could be different in different horoscopes. Here not even the signs or their corresponding numbers are written in the horoscope. The sign Aries is always assumed to be the second block of the upper row of the blocks, as shown in the middle chart of Fig 1.2. The other signs are progressed in the clockwise direction as indicated. Thus in the south Indian style chart, the signs are fixed in the blocks, but the first house (ascendant) varies.

I followed the north-Indian, rectangular style as I grew up in north India. However, if somebody wants to pursue the South Indian or Western style, he is free to do so. In this book, I am going to show all three in the diagrams. Most of the software programs used to construct the horoscopes can quickly draw all kinds of horoscopes. There are a large number of commercially available programs. To draw a horoscope using these programs, you would need your date of birth, time of birth, place of birth, and time zone. You should also know if daylight saving time was effective for the date of birth. Most of the software programs include built-in daylight savings data now. With this information, you may perhaps get your chart drawn up on the world-wide-web free of cost.

These days computers and printers do most of the work, but in case you need to draw the north-Indian or south-Indian style charts on paper, you can follow the steps given in Fig 1.6

Fig 1.6 Steps to follow to draw charts by hand



Planets

In Vedic astrology, nine planets are included in the horoscope. They are Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, Saturn, and north nodes, Rahu and Ketu. In Fig 1.4 and Fig 1.5, the full names of these planets are shown, whereas only the short names are used. The short names are Su, Mo, Ma, Me, Ju, Ve, Sa, Ra, and Ke. Western Astrologers prefer to use glyphs or symbols instead of the names of the planets and signs. A full description of the planets will be given later in Chapters 6-8. The symbol Rx stands for the retrograde planet. I will also talk about the retrograde motion of planets in Chapter 9.

Note 1. By doing so, I am not going against the wisdom of our Rishis. You may google the discussion on this topic and see the evidence that Rishis were also using the Tropical Zodiac. You can see it on the following link.

http://vicdicara.com/tropical_vedic_astrology.php