

Two Approaches to Electional Astrology

Introduction

There are two very different approaches to electional astrology or two different ways to choose the most favorable time to initiate your project or endeavor. One way depends heavily on the individual's natal chart as the basis for a search involving various predictive factors such as transits, progressions, solar arcs, and even solar returns. The elections based solely upon the natal horoscope are called radical elections.

A second electional astrology technique involves a stand-alone electional chart that is based on the transiting planets themselves and their aspects with one another as seen in the ephemeris. These types of elections are called ephemeral elections and may or may not have any relationship with the natal chart during the electional search or even with the final result. Any natal involvement depends on the significance of the election and its impact on the native. Simple elections for the purchase of an automobile may not be reflected in the transits to the natal chart at all, while the purchase of a home or the establishment of a business is an event of such importance it is likely to be reflected in transiting and progressing aspects to the natal horoscope.

Radical Elections Involve the Natal Chart

Radical elections based on the natal chart may be the most common electional astrology technique used by professional and amateur astrologers. Astrologers have used this technique since horoscopes and transiting planets were first recognized ages ago. An astrologer would scan the transits, progressions, and solar arcs to find a time period with auspicious or favorable aspects to the natal chart. Occasionally the astrologer might also check the solar return if the coming event was highly significant and long lasting. Knowing the nature of the project or the endeavor one wishes to initiate, the astrologer would pick a time period, month, week, or day that looked most beneficial and complementary to the intended goal.

Timing is key with radical elections. For example, you might want Jupiter, known as the greater benefic, to make an applying or exact beneficial transit to the Sun while initiating an important project or endeavor. If the project is imminent, you would want the Jupiter transit to be close to perfecting the beneficial aspect. If you plan to launch your project over a period of several weeks or months, you might allow more time for applying Jupiter to complete the aspect to the Sun. Is your project or endeavor quick and easy, or long term and more involved? Then adjust your timing accordingly. If the project is long and involved, you might also search into the future to estimate when the endeavor is expected to be completed. Knowing this in advance can keep things moving forward to completion in a timely manner, avoiding any tendency to procrastination.

When doing a radical election, you can use an ephemeris for your search, but a Transitmaster or a similar listing can be very helpful, making the search process faster and easier. Many computer astrological calculation programs have the ability to produce a detailed chronological listing of your transits, progressions, and arcs over a set period of time. This can be done for whatever time span you choose whether it be long or short duration, and for whatever level of detail you desire. Do you wish to include personal planets or just the outer planets? Most parameters can be customized in the program including aspects and orbs. If you are considering a major transition such as a relocation, career change, or marriage, you should include your secondary progressions and solar arcs in addition to your transits. If you are buying a car, you might only require a listing of your transits. Once you have a Transitmaster, it becomes easy to scan the listing for the most stressful times and also the most beneficial times.

Aspect	Date	Type	P1	P1 Pos	H1	P2	P2 Pos	H2
♄ -- ♂ Asc	07-28-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	01° 035'	7th	Asc	01° 035'	1st
♄ -- > 07	07-28-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	01° 035'	7th	07		
♄ -- ♂ ♄	07-31-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	01° 058'	7th	♄	01° 058'	7th
♄ ---- ♂ ♀	08-01-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	09° 056' R _x	1st	♀	09° 056'	1st
♀ - ♂ ♄	08-12-2005	Pro-Pro	♀	20° 001'	3rd	♄	20° 001' R _x	9th
♄ -- ♂ ☉	08-27-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	17° 037'	8th	☉	17° 037'	2nd
♀ - ♀ ♀	08-30-2005	Pro-Nat	♀	20° 004'	3rd	♀	20° 004'	2nd
♄ -- ♄ ♄	08-31-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	18° 031'	8th	♄	18° 031'	5th
♄ ---- ♂	09-02-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	21° 049'	11th			
♄ ♂ ♀	09-06-2005	Pro-Pro	♄	05° 009'	11th	♀	05° 009'	5th
♄ -- ♀ ♄	10-04-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	09° 013'	7th	♀	09° 013' R _x	8th
♄ -- > 09	10-13-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	27° 023'	9th	09		
♄ -- > ♄	10-25-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	00° 000'	9th	♄		
♄ ---- ♂	10-26-2005	Tra-Nat	♄	14° 049'	1st			
♄ > 12	10-28-2005	Pro-Pro	♄	06° 052'	12th	12		
♄ > 12	10-28-2005	Pro-Nat	♄	06° 052'	12th	12		

This is a Transitmaster printout generated by Winstar, but something similar is available from Solar Fire, Kepler, Sirius, and many other computerized astrology calculation programs. You can see that this particular listing includes transits and progressions. Solar arcs were included in the search but are not listed since they did not occur during this time period. There are both stressful and beneficial periods between late July and late October. Note Saturn's return occurring on July 31st. Saturn returns to natal Saturn conjunct the 7th house cusp. As one might expect, this can be a stressful time involving a relationship. This was a significant time in Joan's life; it was the time of a final separation. Although she and her ex-husband had been divorced for seven years, her youngest child had just graduated college, secured a job, and was renting an apartment. There was no longer a need to maintain the family home and it had been sold. In late July, Joan is cleaning out the home, donating, selling, giving away, and

hauling to the dump the accumulations of twenty years of home ownership. Settlement occurred on August 1st and she and her ex parted ways. This is the last time they saw each other. The sale of the family home truly marked the end of their relationship.

Uranus transits conjunct Joan's natal Venus on August 1st, and Joan received half of the proceeds from the sale of the home. It has always amazed me how specific and revealing the timing of transits, progressions and arcs can be as seen in a Transitmaster. Here the timing occurring at the very end of July and the beginning of August along with the interpretation of the aspects perfectly fit the events occurring. As you look down the column of transits and progressions, note progressed Venus sextiling natal Mercury on August 30th. On August 31st, Jupiter transits trine to Uranus. If you were looking for a good radical electional time, you might choose the end of August. It is at this time that Joan left for an extended European vacation.

When picking a propitious time for a radical election, look for a time period with the best transits, progressions and arcs, while also avoiding a time period with difficult transits, progressions and arcs. Radical elections are most important for life changing events such as marriage, new business, or major relocation. In addition, a radical election search can be used as the initial step in choosing a more detailed election. For example, when electing a marriage time for the following year, a radical electional search can help you focus on the most favorable months. Progressions and solar arcs can be particular important for major events. Run an extended Transitmaster and search through the listing to ascertain the best months or time periods for a marriage.

Ephemeral Elections Involve a Stand-Alone Chart

The second approach to electional astrology is ephemeral elections. The process and result relative to an ephemeral election are totally different from that of a radical election. In fact, these elections may or may not relate back to the natal chart at all depending on the gravity of the situation. Ephemeral elections are based on current and future astrological conditions or astrological weather as seen in the ephemeris and aspectarian. In this technique, you are interested in how the transiting planets interact with one another and with the Moon. Unlike radical elections, you get to choose a specific date, time, and place for the initiation of your project or endeavor. This allows you to erect a stand-alone electional chart that not only relates directly to the transiting planets in the ephemeris, but also reflects your desired outcome and success. It is a valid chart, just like a natal chart, but for the beginning or birth of your project or endeavor. You can interpret this chart just like you would a natal chart.

There is a beauty associated with choosing a specific day, time, and location for an ephemeral electional chart. You begin to use astrological symbolism to tell the story of your goal, process, and success. Astrology comes alive as a language. An ephemeral election is a specific chart which you work from and with. It can tell you what steps to take, what pitfalls to avoid, and how best to proceed. You can gather information and intuitive insights from this chart that will help you be successful. In this way, electional astrology becomes an interactive, creative process that improves your effectiveness in any endeavor. This

is a level of detail that a radical election cannot supply. Specificity is limited because there is no chart, just a day or a time period. You might understand the impact that the transits, progressions, and solar arcs are having on your natal chart, but you will not get detailed guidance on how to succeed along with information regarding particular challenges you could face along the way.

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Radical Elections	Ephemeral Elections
<p>Radical elections are based on the natal chart. The astrologer searches the native's:</p> <p>Transits</p> <p>Progressions</p> <p>Solar arcs</p> <p>Solar return</p> <p>then picks a favorable time period or date that looks good for initiating a project or event.</p>	<p>Ephemeral elections are based on the ephemeris & aspectarian. You choose a goal, then the astrologer searches for a:</p> <p>Day</p> <p>Time</p> <p>At your location</p> <p>that yields a chart favorable for your project. The chart includes information on how to proceed.</p>