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Introduction to Relationship Astrology 2:Synastry (subjective compatibility factors) written by Philip Graves Jan 30 2003 reformatted for WordPress, June 9th, 2016 SynastryIn this second part of the article, comprising the third and fourth overall subsections, we are going to consider the astrological factors connecting the birth charts of two particular people, which are known as synastric factors. These linking factors largely determine the potentialities for the quality, extent and areas of manifestation of the interactions between the two people concerned, independently of their objective natures and needs as individual people (covered in the first part). They are therefore often known as the subjective factors influencing the relationship.It is worth remembering that synastric factors are not evenly and mutually felt by the two people involved in the same way, since they consist of the factors belonging to one persons chart being conditioned and affected, for better or worse, by those in the other persons chart with which they are connected; and the other person in turn will feel the factors in his / her chart being conditioned by those in the first chart with which they are connected. It is precisely because for each person there is a different set of factors in the other persons chart acting as agents of altered behaviour and perception, that neither person experiences the interaction in the same light; and what may for one person be a very positive linkage may in the reverse direction feel like a burden, or go by almost unnoticed. 3. Synastric house overlaysThis term refers to connections between the two peoples birth charts whereby the factors in one are placed (overlain) in the houses of the other, and vice versa.Draw up a vertical list for the first person of the zodiacal signs and degrees where each of his / her twelve natal house cusps are situated. Then look to the second persons luminaries, planets and lunar nodes at birth, and place them within the houses of the first person, according to which house they would fall into by their zodiacal sign and degree position if they were in the first persons birth chart. Remember that if they are within three degrees of the cusp of the next house after the one they are in, they may effectively be considered equally powerful in that house.Then draw up a like vertical list of the second persons house cusp signs and degrees, and fit the first persons luminaries, planets and lunar nodes within it.This combined information yields 24 synastric factors: twelve showing the houses of the first persons chart into which the second persons significant non-house-cusp factors (two luminaries, eight planets, two nodes) fall, and twelve showing the inverse.Just as in a birth chart, the house occupied synastrically by any chart factor in one persons chart will show the area of life in which it is inclined to be manifested when it is given expression in the interactions with the second person. E. W. Neville talks of planets being captured in the other persons houses, as though the house concerned had somehow stolen them away and preset the nature of their expression in accordance with its particular filtering effect.In synastry, the house placements of the Moon and Venus are of particular importance to emotional and physical relationships, while that of the Sun influences the Sun persons sense of his / her own identity as reflected in interaction with the house person.Any planets in the other persons 1st house will also accent the qualities of the planet concerned in the behavior, manner and apparent sense of identity of the planetary person, when he / she interacts with the house person.The house placement of Mercury will naturally influence the scope of the Mercury persons verbal communication, and that of Mars the direction in which the Mars persons energies will be expressed.Any planets in the other persons 5th house will influence the planetary persons inclinations towards and perceptions of feelings of love and fun, according to the nature of the planet concerned.The Moon, Venus or Jupiter in the 5th are extremely favorable influences for the flow of positive emotion.Any planets in the other persons 7th house will influence the planetary persons inclinations towards treating the house person in a partnership context, and perceptions of this situation.The Sun, Moon, Venus or Jupiter in the 7th house favor marriage or a long-term partnership.Any planets in the other persons 8th house will connect the planetary principle concerned for the planetary person to the darker, more forbidden and powerful undercurrents of the house persons life-force, and are therefore strongly associated with sexual attraction, colored by the nature of the planet concerned.Luminaries, personal planets, and especially benefics in the 1st, 5th and 7th houses are generally very favorable indications for any relationship.Saturn will experience feelings of inhibition or restriction but also disciplined application in whatever area of life, in connection with the other person, is indicated by its synastric house placement.Saturn in the more practical houses such as the 2nd, 4th, 6th and 10th is easier to handle than in the more emotional and personalhouses, where a love relationship is concerned. 4. Synastric interplanetary aspectsThis term refers to interplanetary aspects connecting the two peoples birth charts, whereby factors in one chart are said to be in synastric aspect to those in the other.Draw up an X-Y aspect grid (similar to the one suggested for the birth chart in my Introduction to aspects article), with vertical columns for the first persons Sun, Moon, planets, North Node, Ascendant and Midheaven (the latter two only if the birth time is known to be accurate) along the x-axis, and horizontal rows for the second persons equivalent factors along the y-axis. Be sure to include the sign and degree position (preferably to the nearest decimal point of one degree) of all factors when labelling the columns and rows. It is very helpful when drawing up aspect grids to be in the practice of drawing and instantly recognising glyphs (astrological symbols) as shorthand for the full wording of the planets and signs, since it saves a lot of space.You will now have a two-dimensional grid full of empty boxes that represent the connections between the sign and degree positions of the luminaries, planets, nodes, Ascendant and Midheaven in one chart with those of all the equivalent factors in the other. Use a calculator to determine the number of degrees and tenths of a degree separating every factor listed in the first chart with every factor listed (in turn) in the second, and fill in the number into the appropriate box in the grid in each case.Then determine which of these numbers of degrees of angular separation qualify as significant aspects, and for those which do write down the glyph for the aspect concerned (if known) in the same box, or alternatively simply write out in word form beneath the grid the full name of the aspect between Person As factor concerned and Person Bs factor concerned. It is important to keep a note of whose factor is which, since in synastry, as noted earlier, the experience is not equal for the two individuals.The recommended orbs of allowance for the major synastric aspects are more limited than those for the birth chart, with the conjunction being capped at 6, the opposition at 5, the square at 4.5, the trine at 4, the sextile at 2.7, the semisquare and sesquiquadrate at 1.8, and the semisextile and quincunx at 1.5. It is questionable that any more minor aspects whose recommended orb is lower than 1 should be used at all. Typically, you will still find around 20-30 synastric aspects to interpret.There are many factors in relationship astrology; and when working out the aspects alone, with twice as many planets involved as in a single birth chart there is a potential for a very large number of factors, so it is essential to restrict analysis to those which will be likely to be felt as significant and omit from the equation those tiny influences sure to be drowned out by the greater smog of the rest and consideration of which would only obscure the greater overall picture. There are some interplanetary aspects that are particularly helpful to harmony and love, and to physical attraction, and others that can be particularly problematic. See below for a quick description from experience and observations of the more common suspects. Conjunctions and easy aspects (sextiles and trines) will feel quite different from the harsher interactions associated with squares, oppositions, semisquares, sesquiquadrates, semisextiles and quincunxes. It is worth referring to the quick guide to the effects of the different types of aspects in my Introduction to Aspects article. Because human needs from relationships are complex, including the resolution of internal conflicts and complexes, indicated by the birth chart or caused by childhood experiences, it is not necessarily the case that people will be attracted to partners with whom they share a large number of easy synastric aspects. While trines, sextiles and benefic conjunctions may promote friendship and easy rapport, they may equally induce laziness, complacency, and a lack of interest in pursuing the relationship to a deeper level. The needs for different qualitative characteristics in a relationship will vary widely from one individual to another; and very often people are drawn to relationships wherein the potentials are complicated and difficult.Aspects from Sun or the Ascendant to Venus generate or condition feelings of love and harmony, and when the aspects are easy or conjunctions they are major positive influences upon any relationship.Aspects from Sun or the Ascendant to the Moon connect the ego identity and general life force (Sun) or socially projected countenance (Ascendant) of the first person with the emotional nature of the second, and are also very favorable bonding influences unless the type of aspect is a hard one. Aspects from the Sun to the Sun or Ascendant show basic qualities of harmony or disharmony in the interaction between the individuals respective personalities. Aspects from the Moon to Venus create a sublimely emotional bond, linking the general emotional nature of one person with the love nature of the other.Aspects from Venus to Venus and from the Moon to the Moon also accentuate and condition the emotional interaction between the individuals, but with regard to like emotional principles. Hard aspects between these like principles may cause emotional tension and conflict.Aspects from the Sun or the Ascendant to Mars create a distinctly energetic interaction between the two people, usually manifest on a level of physical activity in some form, but in certain circumstances may cause arguments, the assertive energy or Mars clashing with the ego of the Sun.Aspects from Mars to Mars are even more energetic, with a greater risk of clashes where hard aspects are concerned.Aspects from the Moon to Mars are generally very favorable, connecting the emotional realms and instincts of the Moon person with the energetic self-assertion of the Mars person.Aspects from Venus to Mars are particularly associated with physical and sexual attraction, since they link the Venus principle of beauty and love with the Mars one of physical energy; and in this instance all types of aspects are favorable, including squares and oppositions, whose more conflicting inherent energies make for a magnetically appealing challenge to be grounded in this arena of life.Aspects from the Moon or Venus to Neptune are generally very pleasant emotional influences, sensitising the interaction to the more subtle, romantic and otherwise unseen realms of feeling and awareness, though with the potential for self-delusion particularly applying to the Moon or Venus person in receipt of the Neptune contact to his / her emotional principle concerned.Aspects from the Moon or Venus to Pluto add a dark intensity and power to the emotional sphere influenced by whichever of the first two factors applies. Relationships with these contacts often are characterised by a compulsive quality.All aspects to Mercury impact upon communication, especially verbal communication.All contacts to Jupiter will promote optimism, bonhomie and humor in the areas affected by the factor aspected by Jupiter.All aspects to Saturn act as restrictive, dampening, but often stabilising and grounding influences upon the interaction. Sextiles and trines, and conjunctions to the benefics, are a lot easier to handle than the harsher aspects, and conjunctions to the malefics.The overall balance of Saturn contacts can make or break any relationship. A relationship with little in the way of synastric aspects to Saturn tends to feel deficient in stability and structure; it may be light and easy, but there can be too little to hold it together.An excess of Saturn contacts to the personal planets, conversely, makes for misery, taking the joy out of the interaction, and, where the Moon or Venus are involved, tending to deaden the emotional expression, though also providing a stable context for it.Saturn conjunctions and hard aspects to the Sun, Mars, Uranus or Pluto are generally very unwelcome, troubling influences.Conjunctions and hard aspects from the Sun or Mars to Pluto are potentially equally problematic, inducing disruptive or obsessive energies. Contacts between Uranus and the Sun, Ascendant, Mars or Jupiter introduce a certain unpredictability into the interaction, and a risk of sudden separation and other upsetting changes.Harsh contacts to Uranus, like those to Saturn, are among the most unwelcome synastric influences on a relationship, their ultimate tendency, beyond the introduction of a certain degree of welcome excitement, seeming to be to keep people apart from each other.Aspects from the Moon or Venus to Uranus introduce an element of excitement and unpredictability into an emotional relationship, which can be positive; but where the hard aspects are concerned can tend to cause emotional separations, or at least to be very unsettling.Aspects to the Moons Nodes, especially conjunctions (and their concurrent oppositions to the opposite node) often create a feeling of strong karmic bonding between people, in accordance with the planets involved and the nature of the aspect. There can be a sense with North Node conjunctions of mutual assistance towards evolutionary development, while with South Node conjunctions one of a more comfortable, unchallenging, familiar and reassuring feel to the connection.It is worth remembering that the experiencing of any synastric linkage of a factor in ones own chart with one in the other persons, although to a certain extent operating by itself, will tie into the whole configuration of natal aspects to the factor concerned in ones own birth chart, and be experienced as a modifying deviation from ones experiences as an individual in isolation. It is not possible to completely separate the experience of a synastric aspect from the lens onto it of the person experiencing it, this lens being shaped by his or her innate nature. Continue To Part Three of ThreeSaturn's position in synastry can significantly impact a relationship, representing themes of commitment, responsibility, structure, and limitations, regardless of the house it occupies. Saturn is known as the great teacher, providing lessons for growth by enabling structure and imposing limitations.The strength of its influence in synastry, and on each individual in the relationship, depends on its position in one's natal chart, as well as the aspects it forms with other planets and points. Looking at Saturn in the houses in synastry, for the house person, it is similar to Saturn's transit through the certain house when together.For the Saturn person, it projects their Saturnian personality traits.The house placement of Saturn in the synastry chart can reveal where these themes are likely to manifest in the relationship.Saturn in synastry can impact various aspects of a relationship, including sexual expression. While Saturn is not directly related to sex, its influence on a couple's overall dynamic can have an impact on their sexual connection.In this article, we will explore Saturn's placement in houses 1-12 in synastry, including its potential effects on sexual dynamics.Synastry Saturn in the 1st HouseIn synastry, when one person's Saturn falls in the other person's first house, the Saturn person can bring a sense of structure and discipline to the relationship. The first house person may feel a strong sense of responsibility towards the Saturn person, and may look up to them as a mentor or authority figure. The Saturn person, in turn, may see the first house person as someone they can help guide and provide structure for.However, the Saturn person's influence can also be perceived as restrictive or limiting by the first house person. The Saturn person may be seen as too serious or too critical, which can lead to tension and frustration in the relationship. This can also extend to the sexual aspect of the relationship, where the Saturn person may have a more reserved or cautious approach to sex, and may prefer to stick to traditional values and beliefs.On the positive side, the influence of Saturn in the first house can bring a sense of stability and longevity to the relationship. The Saturn person's sense of responsibility and commitment can help ensure that the relationship lasts long-term, and that both parties are willing to work through any challenges that arise.However, it's important to note that the Saturn person's influence can also be perceived as overly controlling or oppressive. The first house person may feel like they are walking on eggshells around the Saturn person, or that they are being held back from expressing themselves fully. This can have a negative impact on the sexual aspect of the relationship, where the first house person may feel like they are not able to fully explore their desires or express themselves sexually.Synastry Saturn in the 2nd HouseWhen Saturn is in the second house of a synastry chart, it can indicate a deep sense of responsibility and practicality in the area of finances and material possessions in the relationship. The second house also relates to one's self-worth and values, so when Saturn is present in this house, it can bring a serious and cautious approach to these matters.In a romantic relationship, the presence of Saturn in the second house can manifest as a desire for financial stability and security. The individuals may take a practical and methodical approach to their joint finances, carefully budgeting and planning for the future. They may be more reserved when it comes to spending money and may prioritize saving and investing.On the other hand, the presence of Saturn in the second house can also bring up issues of scarcity and fear around money. One or both individuals may have experienced financial difficulties or lack in the past, leading to a cautious and sometimes restrictive approach to finances in the relationship. This can potentially lead to conflicts around money and values.Regarding sex, the second house also relates to sensuality and physical pleasure. When Saturn is present in this house in synastry, there may be a tendency to approach sexual intimacy in a serious and responsible manner. This can lead to a lack of spontaneity or playfulness in the sexual dynamic, with both individuals taking a more cautious and methodical approach.However, the presence of Saturn in the second house can also indicate a deep desire for physical and material security, which can be expressed through sexual intimacy. The individuals may find comfort in physical touch and closeness, and may prioritize building a solid foundation of trust and stability in their sexual relationship.Synastry Saturn in the 3rd HouseWhen Saturn is in the 3rd house of a synastry chart, it indicates a relationship that is likely to be serious and focused on communication and intellectual pursuits. The 3rd house rules over communication, intellectual pursuits, and mental processes. Saturn here can bring a sense of maturity and discipline to the way the two people communicate and think.In a romantic relationship, Saturn in the 3rd house can indicate a couple who communicates in a very serious and structured way. They may prefer to talk about practical matters, planning and organizing their lives together, rather than engage in frivolous or superficial conversations. This placement can also indicate a couple who values knowledge and education, and who enjoys sharing ideas and discussing intellectual topics.However, when it comes to sex, this placement can present some challenges. Saturn's restrictive influence can create a sense of inhibition and self-consciousness when it comes to sexual expression. The 3rd house is also associated with communication, which means that the couple may find it difficult to express their sexual desires and needs to each other. They may feel embarrassed or uncomfortable discussing such intimate topics, which can lead to a lack of sexual satisfaction and fulfillment.On the positive side, Saturn in the 3rd house can also indicate a couple who approaches sex with a sense of responsibility and maturity. They may value sexual intimacy as a serious and meaningful aspect of their relationship, and they may take steps to ensure that their sexual experiences are safe, respectful, and mutually satisfying. They may also have a deep understanding of each other's sexual preferences and needs, even if they struggle to express them verbally.Overall, Saturn in the 3rd house in a synastry chart indicates a relationship that is focused on communication, structure, and discipline. This placement can lead to a serious and mature relationship, but when it comes to sex, it may require effort and patience to overcome any inhibitions or difficulties in communication. With open and honest communication, however, this placement can lead to a deep and fulfilling sexual connection.Synastry Saturn in the 4th HouseWhen Saturn is placed in the 4th house of a synastry chart, it affects the foundation of the relationship, particularly the emotional security and stability of the couple. This placement can create a strong bond based on a shared need for security and stability, but it can also indicate some challenges in the area of emotional expression and intimacy.Saturn in the 4th house often suggests that both partners have deep-rooted emotional patterns and issues stemming from their childhood and family backgrounds. They may have experienced a lack of emotional support or stability in their upbringing, leading to a fear of emotional vulnerability and intimacy. They may also have a strong attachment to their home and family, and may prioritize these aspects of their lives over other pursuits.When it comes to sex, Saturn in the 4th house may indicate a need for emotional safety and security before being willing to open up sexually. This can lead to a slow development of sexual intimacy in the relationship, but once it's established, it can be deeply satisfying and fulfilling.However, if the emotional patterns and issues of the partners are not addressed, it can lead to a lack of emotional connection and distance in the relationship. The partners may struggle to express their emotions and communicate their needs to each other, leading to a sense of isolation and loneliness.On the positive side, Saturn in the 4th house can also create a strong foundation for a long-lasting relationship, based on mutual respect, commitment, and loyalty. Both partners may have a strong sense of responsibility towards each other, and they may be willing to work through any challenges that arise in order to maintain the relationship.Synastry Saturn in the 5th HouseSynastry Saturn in the 5th house can significantly impact a couple's romantic relationship, particularly their sexual expression. The 5th house governs pleasure, creativity, and self-expression, and Saturn's influence on this area can bring both challenges and growth opportunities.Saturn's placement in the 5th house of a synastry chart can make it difficult for the couple to express themselves creatively and have fun, particularly in intimate settings. Saturn's energy is restrictive and inhibiting, which can make it challenging for individuals to let loose and enjoy the moment together. They may feel like they are being judged or that they're not good enough to express themselves freely.On the positive side, this placement can create a strong sense of responsibility, making the couple more committed to building a strong foundation for their relationship. They may have a clear idea of what they want and need from each other, which can lead to a more fulfilling sexual experience.In a sexual context, Saturn in the 5th house can also create a sense of obligation and duty. The couple may feel like they have to follow a certain script or set of rules when it comes to their sexual expression. They may be more reserved and cautious in bed, preferring a more traditional and conservative approach. This can create some tension and frustration for couples who are looking for more spontaneity and experimentation in their sexual life.Another potential challenge with this placement is the issue surrounding having children. The 5th house governs children and creativity, and Saturn's influence can make it difficult for the couple to conceive or experience challenges with pregnancy, childbirth and relating to children.Synastry Saturn in the 6th HouseWhen Saturn is in the 6th house of a synastry chart, it can bring a sense of responsibility and duty to the relationship. The 6th house represents daily work, routine, health, and service to others, so with Saturn here, there may be a sense of obligation to each other in these areas. One of the challenges of Saturn in the 6th house is that it can bring a feeling of being overburdened with responsibilities and obligations. There may be a sense of duty towards the other person that can feel like a heavy weight, and it's important for both partners to communicate openly about their needs and boundaries to avoid resentment building up over time. In terms of sex, Saturn in the 6th house can bring a practical and methodical approach to physical intimacy. There may be a focus on sexual health and hygiene, and a need for a certain level of structure and routine in the bedroom. Both partners may have a strong desire to please each other and perform their sexual duties well. However, this can also lead to a lack of spontaneity and playfulness in the relationship, which can be addressed by making an effort to let go and have fun together. Synastry Saturn in the 7th HouseWhen Saturn is in the 7th house of a synastry chart, the focus is on the dynamics of the relationship itself, as well as the qualities that each partner brings to it. The 7th house is the house of partnerships and relationships, and Saturn here can bring a sense of responsibility and commitment to the union.Saturn in the 7th house can indicate a relationship that has a serious and practical tone to it. Both partners may feel a strong sense of duty and responsibility towards each other, and may take their commitments very seriously. This can be a positive thing, as it can create a stable and lasting partnership, but it can also lead to a sense of heaviness or obligation in the relationship.In terms of sex, Saturn in the 7th house can indicate a desire for sexual responsibility and respect in the partnership. Both partners may feel a need to approach sex in a mature and responsible way, as they consider the relationship for the long term, and may place a lot of importance on sexual boundaries. While this can create a healthy sexual dynamic, it can also lead to a sense of restriction or inhibition.It's important to note that the placement of other planets in the chart can significantly influence how Saturn in the 7th house plays out in a synastry chart. For example, if Venus is also in the 7th house, there may be a strong emphasis on the romantic and aesthetic aspects of the partnership. Conversely, if Mars is in the 7th house, there may be a more passionate and potentially volatile energy in the relationship.Overall, Saturn in the 7th house of a synastry chart can indicate a partnership that is built on a foundation of responsibility and commitment. While this can create a stable and lasting union, it's important for both partners to make sure that they don't let the weight of their responsibilities crush the joy and spontaneity that is also important in any relationship.Synastry Saturn in the 8th HouseSynastry Saturn in the 8th house can bring a very intense and transformative energy to a relationship. The 8th house is associated with themes such as power, control, intimacy, and sexuality, and when Saturn is placed here in a synastry chart, these themes become even more pronounced.Saturn's influence in the 8th house can create a sense of responsibility and seriousness in matters of intimacy and sexuality. This can lead to a very deep and committed relationship, but it can also lead to a fear of vulnerability and a tendency to hold back emotionally. In some cases, this can result in a serious and sober approach to sex, with a focus on control and restraint.In terms of power dynamics, Saturn in the 8th house can create a sense of struggle and competition for control. There may be a fear of being controlled by the other person, and a need to maintain a sense of power and control in the relationship. This can lead to issues of trust, as one or both partners may feel that they are not being completely honest or open with each other.Sexually, Saturn in the 8th house can manifest in a number of ways. There may be a tendency towards deep and intense experiences, with a focus on the psychological aspects of sex. However, as mentioned before, there may also be a fear of intimacy and a tendency to withdraw emotionally, which can make it difficult to develop a truly deep and meaningful sexual connection.In terms of practical concerns, Saturn in the 8th house can create issues around shared finances and resources. There may be a need to establish clear boundaries and guidelines around money and assets, in order to prevent conflicts or misunderstandings in the future.Overall, Synastry Saturn in the 8th house can bring a very complex and intense energy to a relationship. While it can create a deep and committed bond, it can also lead to issues of control, fear, and a sense of emotional distance. It is important for both partners to be aware of these dynamics and to work together to establish trust, openness, and a sense of mutual respect and understanding.Synastry Saturn in the 9th HouseWhen Saturn is in the 9th house of a synastry chart, the relationship tends to focus on philosophical and spiritual matters. The 9th house is associated with higher education, religion, foreign travel, and spiritual pursuits. Saturn's presence in this house suggests that the couple's beliefs and worldview will be an area of focus in their relationship. Synastry between people who have different religious backgrounds or belief systems can sometimes include Saturn in the 9th house. In this case, the Saturn person may challenge the house person's beliefs, encouraging them to broaden their perspective. Saturn's influence in the 9th house can also indicate that the couple has a strong desire to learn and expand their knowledge. They may share an interest in studying subjects such as philosophy, religion, or cultural traditions. This shared interest in learning can bring them closer together and deepen their connection.When it comes to sex, Saturn's placement in the 9th house can have both positive and negative effects. On the one hand, the couple may view sex as a sacred and spiritual act that is deeply connected to their beliefs and values. They may be interested in exploring new sexual experiences or incorporating spirituality into their intimate moments.On the other hand, Saturn's influence in the 9th house can also indicate a tendency towards strict moral codes and beliefs. This can create feelings of guilt or shame around sexuality, leading the couple to restrict or repress their desires. In extreme cases, this can lead to sexual dysfunction or a lack of intimacy in the relationship.Synastry Saturn in the 10th HouseIn synastry, Saturn in the 10th house can indicate a strong sense of responsibility, structure, and ambition in the relationship. This placement can signify a mutual drive for success and recognition, as well as a need for a stable and secure partnership.Saturn is a natural ruler of the 10th house, which is associated with career, reputation, and public image. In synastry, when Saturn is placed here, there may be a strong focus on achieving success together, as a couple. This placement can also indicate a sense of responsibility towards each other's reputation and public image.On the flip side, Saturn in the 10th house can also bring about a tendency towards workaholism, and an emphasis on professional success over personal relationships. This can lead to a neglect of the emotional needs of the partnership, including the sexual dimension. Partners may need to consciously work on finding a balance between their work and personal lives.When it comes to sex, Saturn in the 10th house can indicate a desire for sexual expression to be a responsible and disciplined activity. This can manifest as a preference for scheduled or ritualized sexual encounters, or a desire to maintain a sense of professionalism and control even in intimate situations. Overall, Saturn in the 10th house in synastry can signify a stable and secure partnership with a strong focus on success and professional accomplishment. Synastry Saturn in the 11th HouseWhen Saturn is placed in the 11th house of a synastry chart, the relationship may have a serious and long-lasting feel to it. The 11th house is associated with friendships, groups, and associations, and Saturn's influence here can bring a sense of responsibility, duty, and commitment to the relationship. Saturn's presence in the 11th house can indicate a sense of shared responsibility and common goals within the relationship. Both partners may feel a strong sense of duty towards each other, and may work together towards achieving shared goals and aspirations. There may also be a sense of accountability and reliability in the relationship, as both partners may hold each other to high standards.In terms of sex, Saturn's influence in the 11th house may bring a serious and responsible attitude towards sexual intimacy. Both partners may take their sexual connection seriously, and may be committed to building a strong foundation of trust and respect within their sexual relationship. There may also be a focus on sexual experimentation and exploration, as both partners may be willing to work together to find what works best for them.Synastry Saturn in the 12th HouseSaturn in the 12th house in a synastry chart can bring a sense of restriction and limitation to the relationship, especially in matters related to the 12th house themes, such as spirituality, introspection, and hidden emotions. The 12th house is associated with the subconscious mind, secrets, and hidden motivations, and Saturn's influence in this area can create a sense of distrust or unease between partners.When Saturn is in the 12th house of a synastry chart, the house person may feel a sense of isolation or emotional detachment from the Saturn person. This can be due to the Saturn person's tendency to hold back their emotions or to keep their feelings hidden. Saturn's influence in this house can sometimes cause extreme, difficult feeling of loneliness to the house person, when in the company of Saturn. On the other hand, the Saturn person may feel challenged and encouraged to open up about their deepest fears and secrets, leading to a deeper emotional connection between the two.Regarding sex, Saturn in the 12th house can indicate a sense of inhibition or reluctance to explore sexuality or express one's desires openly. This can lead to sexual frustration or a feeling of unfulfillment in the relationship.However, if both partners are willing to work on their communication and trust each other, Saturn in the 12th house can also bring a sense of deep emotional connection and spiritual growth to the relationship. The couple may find that they are able to help each other overcome their fears and limitations and develop a deeper understanding of themselves and each other.Saturn's placement in synastry can significantly impact a relationship, offering both challenges and opportunities for growth. By examining its house placement and aspects to other planets, we can gain valuable insights into the potential strengths and issues within the relationship.Liz Greene's "Saturn: A New Look at an Old Devil"offers profound insights into Saturn's psychological dimensions. This classic work reveals how Saturn's seemingly restrictive energy can actually lead to greater self-awareness and personal growth. Perfect for anyone looking to transform Saturn's challenges into opportunities for maturity and wisdom.Disclosure: As an Amazon Associate I earn from qualifying purchases. This means if you click on an affiliate link and purchase the product, I may receive a small commission at no extra cost to you. House Overlays House Overlays (Transposed houses):Synastry & Relationship Astrology Back to Synastry Main PageOn our main Synastry page, we offered an overview of considerations for compatibility. On our Compatibility Analysis page, we offered a weighting system for various interchart aspects and positions. On the More on Synastry page, we explore more Synastry details and compatibility factors.On our Synastry Books Compared page, we reveal our favorite books on relationship astrology, and why we like them.On this page, we explore House Overlays in more detail.House OverlaysWhen we look at interchart aspects, we learn much about how two people in a relationship interact and what kind of impact they have on one another. If we place the planets and points of one chart into or around the other, we become privy to important information about which areas of life this interaction is concentrated, and how each person views the other person in more specific terms.Generating bi-wheel charts, such as the ones pictured below, is helpful when we are studying house overlays. Because its a two-way affair, two bi-wheels can be usedone with person As chart in the center and person Bs planets in the outside wheel, and another bi-wheel with the reverse: person Bs natal chart in the center and person As chart outside. In the above example bi-wheel chart, we have Britney Spears natal chart in the center, inner wheel, and we have overlayed Justin Timberlakes natal chart (his planets and points are found in the outer wheel). This way, we can easily see where Justins planets and points fall in Britneys chart. For example, we see that his Sun conjunct South Node fall in her 5th house, at her Moon. We also see Mars and Mercury overlaying her 5th house (Mercury is very close to her 6th house cusp). His Moon conjunct Neptune overlay her 3rd house. His Saturn falls in her 1st house, near her Ascendant. His Ascendant falls in her 11th house, and so forth.With this information, we can see more clearly and specifically how Justin impacts Britney.The above chart is the reverse. We have overlayed Britneys chart onto Justins, whose chart is in the middle. This bi-wheel chart helps us to visually discern where Britneys planets and points fall in Justins chart. We can see that there are a number of Britneys planets falling in Justins 4th house, for examplenamely, Uranus, Mercury, and the Sun. Her Neptune technically does fall in his 4th house, but it is tightly conjunct his 5th house, so we consider her Neptune as overlaying his 5th house. You can also see that her Neptune falls on his own Moon and Neptune conjunction. Now we have a clearer idea of how and where Britney impacts Justins life.House overlays go two ways. If my Sun overlays your sixth house, for example, you will view me as useful. If my Sun interacts with your planets in a generally challenging way, you may ultimately consider me to be counter-productive or meddling. I awaken sixth house issues in you. You may feel somewhat dependent on me in the areas of routines, work, and everyday issues, especially since the Sun is a positive, yang energy, and the sixth house has a yin, receptive energy. You receive, and I give, which can set up a co-dependent relationship if other factors in the synastry between us support this.Another example: If your Sun overlays my fourth house, you affect me in a very deep way. Because you bring out a very needy feeling in me, it would be easy for me to be extremely sensitive to your actions in our relationship. It can take students of astrology a bit of time to wrap their brains around the concept of house overlays in synastry. In order to get a clear understanding of the effects of house overlays (or transposed houses as they are often called), I have found it easiest to think about it this way: When somebodys Sun or Moon (or other planet) falls in a particular house in my natal chart, it is much like that person has the effect of a permanent transit to that house in my natal chart! If your Sun falls in my eighth house, for example, when I interact with you, it is somewhat like the Sun is transiting my eighth house, highlighting and illuminating 8th house issues for me. Similarly, if my Sun falls in your third house, I have a similar effect on your life as the Sun transiting your third house. Where the Moon falls in house overlays can be very revealing as well, especially in intimate relationships. I was consulted by a woman whose intimate friendship with a man had ended, and she felt completely torn apart. Their relationship wasnt lengthylasting perhaps 8-9 monthsbut it had affected her to the core of her being. She had had longer relationships with men that ended, and she felt she recovered from these more easily than she could from this comparatively brief relationship. Of course, many factors are involved, but one stood out for me, and it helps illustrate the importance of house overlays in relationship analysis. Her Moon falls in his fifth house, and his Moon falls in her fourth house (near the IC, the fourth house cusp). His affection towards her impacted the very core of her being (her words) in profound ways (fourth house/IC feelings!). She felt dependent on him for emotional sustenance. When their relationship ended, she felt what she expressed as primal anger, but predominantly a tremendous amount of hurt. He told her that he was saddened that the relationship ended as well, but he did not display the same kind of neediness and attachment to the relationship that she did. He missed the good feelings they shared, the laughs (fifth house feelings). He told her that no one he had ever met made him feel so good about himself. She had been a very receptive audience to his stories and jokes, and he expressed that he missed that aspect of their relationship very much.In the chart examples above, we can see that Britneys Sun and Moon (and many other planets) fell in Justins 4th and 6th houses. These are both dependent, subjective, and receptive houses. On the other hand, Justins Sun and Moon fell in Britneys 5th and 3rd houses, which are more outgoing houses. The fifth house has much to do with ego and identity, as it is a fire house, the house of Leo. The third house is another outgoing, active house. It is the house of Gemini, and has a social and mental quality to it. There is a clear imbalance represented here. I have no idea what happened between them, but these overlays suggest to me that the relationship affected Justin in a deeper manner than it did Britney. Perhaps, to her, the relationship was more fun and games than anything.Very often, we hear of breakup complaints in which one person feels used by the other, or accusations that one person did not care as much as the other. House overlays can be extremely illuminating for these situations. It can also help us to understand and accept instead of accuse. Lets say you and I were in an intimate relationship. If your planets fall primarily in houses that are active, positive, and outgoing in my chart, and my planets fall primarily in houses that are receptive in your chart, you may ultimately feel used by me. You may have impacted my identity, purpose, and ego more than anything, while I may have cut much deeper in my effect on your life. Because your very heart and soul were on the line, you may, in the end, consider me to be rather heartless. However, if I was involved in a relationship in which the tables were reversed, I might be the sensitive one whose heart and soul were on the line. Most relationships are more balanced than these examples. However, when you do come across these basic incompatibilities in house overlays, it should be noted as very significant.So, we can see that incompatibility issues can be clear when person As planets primarily overlay person Bs outgoing houses and Bs planets primarily overlay As receptive houses. [Note: outgoing houses are the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th houses; receptive houses are the 2nd, 4th, 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th houses.]The difference between the outgoing houses and the receptive houses can be thought of as in terms of objectivity versus subjectivity. A person whose partners planets are flanking his or her receptive houses is very subjective about the relationship. It is very difficult for this person to be objective or detached about the partner or the relationship. We can also pay attention to the elements associated with the houses.The 1st, 5th, and 9th houses are fire houses, and have much to do with identity and ego. The 2nd, 6th, and 10th houses are earth houses, and are more practical and material in nature. The 3rd, 7th, and 11th house are air houses, and these houses have a social and mental nature. The 4th, 8th, and 12th houses are water houses, and are emotional in nature. If I primarily activate (lets say with my Sun and Moon and one or more other planets) your earth houses, you may see me as a means to an end. You may be dependent on me for material support or emotional security, for example. Or, you may view me as particularly useful in your life. How this plays out will depend on how I react to this. I may feel like you see me as an object rather than a person, and this may be difficult to deal with. On the other hand, your seeming dependency on me could feel good to me. Perhaps I feel more useful, and I am boosted by my relationship with you as a result.If I primarily activate your water houses, my actions will have a deep impact on you. You will likely be very sensitive to me, viewing me as someone with whom you need to relate to intimately and profoundly. You may rely on me for emotional support, for example. Again, how I respond to this can be critical to the success of our relationship.If I primarily activate your fire houses, I will be integral in developing and perhaps transforming your ego and identity. I may inspire and stimulate you to express yourself and your creativity. You may see me as someone with whom you can have a good time. If I primarily activate your air houses, I may stimulate your social life, you may see me as a good friend, and perhaps not much more than that! Although I generate warm and friendly feelings in you, I may want a more profound relationship. I may want to get to you more deeply, and I might feel like your feelings for me are superficial. On the other hand, I might enjoy the lightness and good feelings that this partnership generates.Lets say that there is a general compatibility with the elements of the houses in overlays. This should be a good thing, although if it is too concentrated, the relationship may be unbalanced and lacking. For example, lets say my Sun and Moon and many other planets primarily activate your water and earth houses, and the same is true of your planets activating my water and earth houses. We may view each other in similar ways, and this can be a source of compatibility. However, in this case, because the air and fire houses are not activated in either direction, the relationship might easily become co-dependent and challenging. We might function as a couple for years, but at some point, either you or I (or both) might recognize the lack.The relationship may seem too heavy and lacking in fun times (Fire) and mental stimulation (Air).Similarly, if there are stelliums in each persons natal chart, we will find strong emphases on particular houses in the overlays. If my stellium overlays your 11th house, and your stellium overlays my 7th house, we are both activating outgoing, air houses in each other. However, there can be some disagreement nevertheless, as you may view me as a good friend, while I see you as an ideal partnersomeone with whom I want a rather exclusive partnership.In our example near the beginning of this article, when we compared a couples Moon overlaying the 4th and Moon overlaying the 5th, if we can expand our analysis by looking at the overall pattern of the overlays, we can see why this couple had such misunderstandings with regards to what the relationship was all about, and what it meant to each person. Her planets primarily overlayed his 5th and 11th houses. Only one of her personal planets overlayed a receptive house, the second house. Students of astrology may recognize these houses as fixed ones. On the other hand, his planets primarily overlayed her 4th, 6th, and 8th houses. She depended on him and their relationship, and it shouldnt come as a surprise that the impact of their break-up was so profound for her. With her planets primarily overlaying his 5th and 11th houses, he saw her as a friend, a romantic interest, and something rather light and casual in comparison to how she viewed him. She responded to him with a lot of emotion, and her dependency on him eventually wore him down. He did not return those deep feelings. Although he truly liked her and enjoyed her company, she wanted something more profound and intimate, and they had to go their separate ways.Perhaps ideally, there should be a better spread of overlays over the elements of the houses, in each of the two overlays. Otherwise, the relationship may become burdensome and unfulfilling over time.Of course, much depends on what is expected of the relationship. This brings us to our bottom line: House overlays can reveal whether or not there is a basic agreement on what each person expects from the relationship and from each other. However, it should be noted that even with this compatibility and agreement, it does not tell us whether or not the individuals involved will eventually outgrow the relationship.Note that in Love Formulas-2 by Nance McCullough, the author emphasizes that overlays of the Sun, Moon, or Ascendant to the second persons 7th house are very important in synastry. She feels that someone is most attracted to a person whose Sun, Moon, or Ascendant falls in their seventh house. She also suggests that many times when the attraction is one-sided, it is the seventh house person who is the one who is attracted. If the other persons seventh house isnt activated, he or she may not return the feelings.Read our article You Light Up My Life: The Sun in the Houses in Synastry for more details about the Sun falling in specific houses in synastry. Read our article Planet Overlays in Houses for more information about house overlays. Note that I never underestimate the power of house overlays (transposed houses) in synastry! In fact, it is one of my first considerations when I do a relationship analysis. When birth times are unknown or uncertain, I am disappointed that I cannot apply this portion of the analysis to my reading, as I consider it extremely revealing.Next: More on Synastry Synastry: Planet Overlays in HousesPlanet Overlays, or Transposed Houses, in SynastryWhere does your Sun fall in your partners chart? Where does your partners Venus fall in your own chart? An important technique that astrologers use in synastry is overlaying one persons chart onto the other, and vice versa.The basic idea is this: If your Sun is at, say, 3 degrees of Leo, what house would your Sun occupy in your partners chart?And, if your Moon is at 13 degrees of Taurus, in what house does 13 degrees of Taurus fall in your partners chart? If its the first house, then your Moon overlays your partners first house.Lets take a look at Mercury overlays. If your partners Mercury falls in your sixth house, for example, your partner has the effect of mercurializing (a term coined by astrologer Steven Forrest) sixth house matters in your life. The sixth house rules daily routines, health matters, and the like. It deals with the ways we organize our day-to-day life, and rules such things as making appointments, taking pills or vitamins, and other such routines that ensure our lives run relatively smoothly.When you are with your partner (whose Mercury falls in your 6th house), you may feel the need or desire to chat about your daily routines. This may be because your partner asks you questions about these matters. It may be because your partner seems to want you to define these matters. You might find this fun, you might find it annoying, and at different times, you might find it a bit of both!If your partners Mercury falls in your twelfth house, you might find yourself talking about personal or spiritual matters more than you would with other people. Something about your partner gives you the feeling that you are either free to discuss these things, or that you should discuss them.Now, the twelfth house is a tricky house when it is activated in synastry. When someones planet(s) fall in your twelfth house, you might feel somewhat unsettled, and you might find that your partner finds you somewhat elusive as well. Often, there is a distinct feeling of mistrust in these scenarios, especially on the part of the planet person. In our example, if your partners Mercury falls in your twelfth house, a rather impersonal, matter-of-fact energy (Mercury) is meeting a personal, elusive, and indefinable part of you. It is a difficult combination, because your partner is trying to get you to define, in a straightforward and matter-of-fact way, things that you feel are better left unspoken. At the very least, twelfth house matters can certainly be expressed, but not comfortably in a Mercury-energy manner. Your responses may not leave Mercury satisfied. Your partner may be puzzled as to why you dont seem to be capable of giving straight answers. He or she may even decide that you are holding back, purposely eluding him or her, hiding something, etc. If you are involved in a deep relationship with the Mercury person, he or she may, on some level, find you vaguely untrustworthy. You might react by holding back even more, and the effect can be quite difficult. Why does your partner always seem to want you to spell things out?Mercury overlaying the twelfth house stands in stark contrast to our example of Mercury overlaying the sixth house, where it feels comfortable (it is much easier to be factual about daily routines!). However, this doesnt mean that Mercury overlaying the 6th is a better position than Mercury overlaying the 12th. The Mercury/12th overlay can be a deeply rewarding one, while the Mercury/6th overlay, an annoying one! More probably, each combination has its pros and cons. Much will depend on the particular needs and personalities of the people involved.The position of the Moon in a partners chart reveals emotional ties in the affairs of the involved house. You may even feel somewhat dependent on the person whose Moon is involved in this area of life. This area of life can also be a tricky areaone that requires special attention, sensitivity, and gentleness. If your partners Moon falls in your fifth house, for example, this is a romantically sensitive overlay. Your partner will have a deep need to fulfill you in a romantic, fun, and creative way. There can be a dependency on one another for romance and entertainment. One of you (perhaps more likely you) will easily become emotional, perhaps even reverting to childlike insecurity, if the other person is having fun without you. You want to be your partners source of fun and good times!Over the years, when I was trying to grasp the significance of house overlays in synastry, I tried hard (and without much success) to find a basic or generalized rule as to which person (the planet or the house person) takes on which role. In synastry, when we are comparing one persons planet/point to another persons planet/point by aspect, it is rather straightforward to see what role a person takes in the playing out of the aspect. If my Moon squares your Mars, it is rather natural to believe that I would take on the role of the Moon, and you would take on the role of Mars, in this interplay. Sometimes, we will swing between the two roles, but for the most part, the roles are definite.In house overlays, however, the roles each person plays are not quite as straightforward. If my Moon is in your 5th house, I am effectively bringing the Moon to your 5th house (lunarizing, as Steven Forrest would say, your 5th house), and you would be 5th house-ing, so to speak, my Moon. The energy doesnt go only one way! My influence on you would effectively make you emotional about your own creativity and self-expression through romance, children, entertainment, and all of those fifth house matters. In turn, you would have an effect on my emotions by enlivening them with your own special blend of creative self-expression.In the example above with your partners Mercury overlaying your 6th house, your partner wouldnt just be curious or talk about your 6th house matters, your partners influence would have such an effect that you would want to or feel the need to talk about your 6th house matters with him or her. Some time ago, a friend of mine was casually describing a relationship with a man that she was in at the time. She looked a bit puzzled, and said, For some reason or another, we always end up telling each other the boring details of our day. I have never done this with anyone before! Out of curiosity, I looked to see if any of his planets fell in her sixth. Both his Sun and his Mercury fell in her sixth house! Another friend who had written poetry for herself in private much of her life told me that she had never shared her poetry with anyone before she became involved with a particular manwhose Moon fell in her 12th house!Although house overlays go both ways, it is helpful to remember that the planet person is impacting the house person in specific ways. The house person will see the planet person in a way that is colored by the matters and conditions of that particular house! So, as a general rule, if my Moon, for example, falls in your 4th house, you (as the house person) will see me as someone from whom you get emotional support. That is really the bottom line. Similarly, if my Sun falls in your 11th house, although we both will consider each other friends, you (as the house person) will be the one who is fixed in that impression. I will certainly react to the view you have of me, but I may eventually tire of being viewed as only a friend, for example, if your Sun overlays my 8th house and therefore I see you as someone with whom I want to share on an intimate, one-to-one level. You may be fine about sharing me with others, but I wont be so thrilled with the idea of passing you around.It can take students of astrology a bit of time to wrap their brains around the concept of house overlays in synastry. In order to get a clear understanding of the effects of house overlays (or transposed houses as they are often called), I have found it easiest to think about it this way: When somebodys Sun or Moon (or other planet) falls in a particular house in my natal chart, it is much like that person has the effect of a permanent transit to that house in my natal chart! If your Sun falls in my eighth house, for example, when I interact with you, it is somewhat like the Sun is transiting my eighth house, highlighting and illuminating 8th house issues for me. Similarly, if my Sun falls in your third house, I have a similar effect on your life as the Sun transiting your third house.Back to Synastry article.Back to Synastry & Relationship Astrology: House Overlays. Intermediate and advanced students of Astrology might enjoy our article, SoulMate Astrology.Dont know the positions of your planets? Be sure to find out your personal astrology data online, at no cost.

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