CONFIGURATIONS & close aspect networks

By Carol A. Tebbs, MA, CAP
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PTOLEMAIC ASPECTS

Increasingly many astrologers use the 8th harmonic to focus only on the major and minor hard (action) aspects:

- **Harmonic 1** = Conjunction – 0° (8° orb)
- **Harmonic 2** = Opposition – 180° (7-8° orb)
- **Harmonic 4** = Square – 90° (6° orb)
- **Harmonic 8** = Semi-square – 45° (3° orb)
  - **Minor Aspect**
  = Sesqui-square – 135° (3° orb)
  - **Minor Aspect**

Most modern astrologers use the 12th harmonic that shows major and minor easy and hard Ptolemaic aspects:

- **Harmonic 1** = Conjunction – 0° (8° orb)
- **Harmonic 2** = Opposition – 180° (7-8° orb)
- **Harmonic 3** = Trine – 120° (6° orb)
- **Harmonic 4** = Square – 90° (6° orb)
- **Harmonic 6** = Sextile – 60° (4° orb)
- **Harmonic 12** = Quincunx – 150° (2° orb)
- =Semi-sextile – 30° (1.5° orb) Minor Aspect
ASPECT ORBS MATTER

• ORB is the number of degrees of separation between planets in aspect, both applying and separating.

• A 1° orb = an aspect range of 2°

• Planets in 0-2° major aspect orb define major life themes.

• 3 or more planets in ASPECT ORB make a configuration.

• Planets in close aspect 0-2° are activated by movement in a close time range, so are more interpretively Important.

• Outer planet configurations, Jupiter through Pluto, are slow moving and generational, UNLESS with Sun ☉, Moon ♉ or Mercury, Venus, Mars.
• Most modern astrologers value networks of 3 or more planets in close aspect, 0-2°, if they include the Sun or Moon in $\odot$, $\varpi$, $\Box$, $\Delta$, $\bigstar$ or $\pi$.

• Until the 19th century, only Moon – Saturn were charted. 
• Discovery of Uranus, Neptune and Pluto make... 
• more configurations possible.

• The M. E. Jones configurations (geometric shapes) are too few and too limiting, but others have been added.
• Equally important are planets near the same degree of any sign in “irregular networks”.
CONFIGURATIONS & CLOSE ASPECT NETWORKS

Configurations
Symmetrical Patterns:
PLANETS ONLY

Close Aspect Networks
Asymmetrical Patterns:
PLANETS, ANGLES, NODES

Symmetrical Patterns:
- Grand Trine
- Kite Configuration
- Stellium Configuration
- Yod Configuration
- Grand Sextile Configuration

Asymmetrical Patterns:
- T-Square Configuration
A Close Aspect Network:

1. Personalizes and adds importance to the pattern due to Angles.

2. Most consider a planet square the Nodes important, at “the Bendings”.

CONFIGURATIONS & CLOSE ASPECT NETWORKS
A Configuration:

1. Is more important if the Sun or Moon is involved;
2. Less so if Mercury, Venus or Mars are fastest planets;
3. Marks social change if only generational planets, Jupiter - Pluto, are fastest in pattern.
4. The wider the aspect orb, the less prominent the effect.
5. More time needed for moving factors to span the orb range to activate planets.

Does the Moon Belong?
CONFIGURATIONS DEFINED

All are 20\textsuperscript{th} Century Creations

The Jones Seven

- Stellium – 3-4+ conjunct
- Grand Trine – 3+ a triangle
- T-Square – 3+ squares/opposite
- Grand Square – 4+ a square
- Yod – 3+ a focused arrow
- Kite – 4+ a kite
- Grand Sextile – 6+ a hexagon

And quite rare, especially using only planets in close aspect.

Most Astrologers do not include: midpoints, fixed stars or asteroids in configurations, though they may later add detail.

The Other Three

- Cradle - 4+ half a grand sextile
- Mystic Rectangle – 4+ a rectangle
- Boomerang – 4+ bow with arrow
THE STELLIUM = Conjunction

• The Stellium is 3 or 4 planets conjunct in orb of 0-8 ° ideally in the same sign and house.
• Planets in 0-2 ° orb is a very powerful configuration.

• Classical astrologers called 3 planets in the same sign a Stellium regardless of orb.

• Sun, Mercury and Venus are ever close in the geocentric view; therefore...

• Most require a 4th planet if Mercury or Venus are conjunct the Sun.
Configuration or CLOSE ASPECT NETWORK

Configuration:
• Are Taylor’s Pisces planets a Stellium? Should Neptune, Mars, Sun, Mercury be a configuration?

Close Aspect Network:
• Does Liz have mutable T-square with Neptune, ASC, Sun, Mercury, Mars? Is it more prominent for its 1° orb?

Elizabeth Taylor
Noted actress of film and stage.
Feb 27, 1932, 2:00 am UT,
London, Eng.
Rating: A
THE STELLIUM = conjunction

Stellium

- Are the Cancer/Leo Planets a Stellium?

- What should be included or excluded?

- Is Sun, Neptune, Nodes, and Asc/Des a T-Square?
The T-Square is 3 or more planets in the same modality, cardinal, fixed or mutable - two opposite and the third square to both.

The T-square apex planet is most important, because it receives two square “action” aspects.

The Apex planet is most important by: dignity, house placement or if a light or a ruler.

Some consider the fastest moving personal planet as key, because it represents the drive from within.
THE T-SQUARE

• The Cardinal T-Square focuses on taking action and receiving recognition for the results.

• The Fixed T-Square focuses on safety and stability. It is the least likely to change, even in a bad situation.

• The Mutable T-Square focuses on fitting in and adapting to any situation to make the best of it.

An Out of Sign T-Square is weaker unless in a closer orb
Should the full range of Brooke’s Taurus-Gemini Stellium be included? Why or why not?

Brooke’s Moon/Venus/MC Conjunction is also Parallel
THE GRAND TRINE = Elements

• The Grand Trine is 3 or more planets in the same element, each making a trine to the others in close 1-2-degree orb.

• Trines bring ease and harmony between the planet natures and the Grand Trine compounds the effect by three trines.

• The Grand Trine is a self-contained circuit and can reflect things either coming very easily, or laziness in the areas described by its planets and placements.
THE GRAND TRINE = Elements

• The Fire Grand Trine is the most active. Enthusiasm and action are hallmarks, but may overextend and burn out.

• The Earth Grand Trine is the most grounded and practical, seeking security and structure, content with status quo.

• The Air Grand Trine is the most social, though not comfortable with emotions, seeking ideas and discussion over action.

• The Water Grand Trine is the most emotional and spiritual, seeking intensity that may run to excess.
THE GRAND TRINE = Elements

Configuration:
• Jimmy Swaggart has a close Grand trine with Sun, Jupiter and Pluto, in 23-degrees of water signs. Pluto is also part of a close T-Square with Venus/Mars.

Close Network:
• Moon conjunct SNode and quincunx Asc. forms a T-square with Uranus.

Is Swaggart prone to spiritual or emotional excess?

Jimmy Swaggart
March 15, 1935,
Ferriday, LA
1:35 am CST
Rating: AA
THE YOD = focus, arrow

• The Yod is 3 or more planets with two in sextile and the third planet forms two inconjuncts (quincunx) to each of the planets in sextile.

• “The Finger of God” is a challenge to the apex planet; the perfect Yod is the apex planet also being fastest moving.

• The quincunxes show discomfort or frustration, “the square peg in a round hole”; but the sextile gives opportunity for a good resolution.
**THE YOD**

**Configuration:**
- Actress, Meryl Streep, has a Yod configuration with Jupiter as the “Eye of the Yod”.

**Close Aspect Network:**
- If Ascendant is included, a Boomerang close aspect network is formed.

Meryl Streep
June 22, 1949,
8:05 am EDT,
Summit, NJ
Rating: AA
THE GRAND CROSS = Qualities

- The Grand Cross is 4 planets square across 4 houses forming 2 oppositions emphasizing modality.

- The Cardinal Grand Cross is the most decisive and purposeful, but needs an outlet for energy.

- The Fixed Grand Cross most difficult to integrate since one is less adaptable and likely to get in a rut and spin wheels.

- The Mutable Grand Cross suggests that the energy is too flexible and may overly yield to the wants of others.

Out-of-Sign Grand Cross is weaker unless in close aspect.
THE GRAND CROSS = Qualities

Close Aspect Network

- Charles Manson has 4 planets in Fire/Air/Water Grand Cross, but two planets are out-of-sign, for a more blended interpretation.

- The Sun/Venus square Saturn is an important 3-planet network, but not on the configuration list!
THE GRAND CROSS = Qualities

Close Aspect Network

- Steve Jobs has 5 planets in a Cardinal Grand Cross, but Venus is a wide square orb to Mars. Do you allow it?

- The Sun/Venus square Saturn is an important 3-planet network, but not on the configuration list!
Configuration:

- WWII general, George S. Patton, has Mars at the T-square apex. Should MC be added for a Grand Cross?

Aspect Network:

- Closeness of aspect matters. Do you consider the Yod with Patton’s Sun, Moon, Asc important?
The Kite is 4 or more planets forming a Grand Trine with a 4th planet opposite one leg and sextile the other two that channels the Grand Trine benefits.

The opposition adds focus to the Grand Trine; the person more likely uses his talents.

It matters which planet leads!!!

The lead planet is head of the Kite and its 2 sextiles give opportunity to channel the opposition energy productively.
Configuration:

- Actress Farrah Fawcett’s Kite configuration; has Pluto at the head; powerful others are in control.

- A Light and two personal planets at the tail is their weakest position – she follows others more powerful, rather than the lead of her own Sun already in detriment.
The Cradle is 4 or more planets each sextile the other. The opposition is a key area for expression, though it may take life experience to balance before opportunity is realized.

The Cradle occurs only in earth/water, or in fire/air signs, with 3 sextiles, 2 trines and 1 opposition.

The Cradle contains creative potential, but one must learn to harness the opposition energy as motivation to develop it.
Configuration:
• *Stephen King* has a very close Earth/Water Cradle. Does this chart meet the Cradle definition?

Aspect Network:
• King has a close Kite pattern with Mercury/Neptune/IC at the head.
**THE MYSTIC RECTANGLE**

- The Mystic Rectangle is 4 or more planets forming 2 sets of oppositions sextile and trine each other; occurs in masculine or feminine signs: fire & air, or earth & water.

- The person often seesaws between overdoing each end of the oppositions before finding the proper balance.

- Oppositions allow for awareness to achieve balance and structure between the planets involved.— noted for “practical mysticism”. 

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*MYSTIC RECTANGLE –

  can see big picture*
Would you describe Howard Hughes, the great aviation and film pioneer, as having “Practical Mysticism” able to see the big picture?

Aspect Network:
What importance does the MC/IC add to the configuration?
Configuration:

- Would you describe Angelina Jolie as having “Practical Mysticism” able to see the big picture?

Aspect Network:

What importance does the MC/IC add to the configuration?
THE BOOMERANG

• **The Boomerang** is 4 planets or more forming a Yod with a planet between the two sextile planets opposing the eye of the Yod.

• **Action for the focal planet** bounces between opposition planets before one learns to put the sextile to good use.

• **This configuration can be problematic** because needed adjustment may be delayed or ignored and deep frustration may ensue.
Configuration:
- Zsa Zsa Gabor, noted for her many marriages, was indecisive.

Aspect Network:
- Is the Boomerang opposition in orb to be useful? Will it be triggered by movement the same time as the rest?
- Should Saturn/MC be the apex of a T-square with Asc/Des?
THE BOOMERANG

Configuration:

- Tom Cruise, noted for his forceful focus on his career.

Aspect Network:

- Will the planets in the pattern be triggered by movement at the same time?
- Should NNode/MC be the focal point opposite τ?
Thor’s Hammer or “Finger of the World” is 2 planets square, both sesqui-square to third planet.

The focal planet leads to resolve challenge of squared planets.

Hard Rectangle is: 2 planet pairs opposite, with ends joined by 2 semi-squares and 2 sesqui-squares. This closed aspect pattern is self-contained, but less resistant than Grand Cross because it integrates cardinal, fixed and mutable.
Frank Sinatra, singer &
equal rights champ

“One who is compelled
to transform world
attitudes and prejudices
in a meaningful way”.

Sinatra’s Sun/Mercury
square Jupiter translates
hard reality into
powerful action on his
MC/Neptune to inspire
people to higher ideals.
Configuration:
The Rosetta trine and sextile is connected by two squares—interpreted as fortunate but built upon hard work.

Aspect Network:
Would you include the Ascendant in this non-traditional configuration? Why or why not?

Depp’s Mars/Uranus Conjunction is also parallel

Johnny Depp
June 9, 1963
8:44 am CST
Owensboro, KY
AA-data
The “Star of David” is 6 or more planets each sextile the other. External stimulus is needed because it has many ways to express and cannot choose.

It occurs only in earth/water, or fire/air signs, with 6 sextiles, 6 trines and 3 oppositions, plus 2 Grand Trines, 6 Kites and 3 Mystic Rectangles.

The Grand Sextile contains tremendous creative potential, but because it is so self-contained it has no inherent motivation to develop the potential.
GRAND SEXTILE = Rare

Self-contained, needs square to motivate; oppositions delay
• Close 1-2° orb aspects in the natal chart show the major life themes.

• The closer the aspect orb, the more important the configuration because: Closer time range for activation intensifies the experience.

• Lights, Angles, and Nodes elevate the importance of any planetary configuration, in that order.

• Configuration networks add nuance and depth to chart interpretation and distinguish interpretation from “cook book” computer reports.
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