

## An Information Special from Astro Communications Services, Inc.

by David Dukelow and Jim Shawvan

A *Relocation Chart* is a chart for the actual moment of a person's birth, but for a location other than the birthplace. These charts are very useful in studying the ways individuals react to living in various locations. In this article we will explain how relocation charts are calculated, give some examples, and comment briefly on their interpretation.

First, it is useful to consider how a **natal** chart is calculated. To start, you always need to know the **place, date and time of birth**. The usual method of calculation begins by converting the date and time to **Universal Time (UT)**, also known as Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). The Meridian of Greenwich, England, is defined by international agreement as the zero meridian for measuring longitude — that is, all longitudes are stated as either east or west of Greenwich. Also by international agreement, the mean solar time on the Meridian of Greenwich is the basis for defining time zones everywhere in the world.

Universal Time is expressed as so many hours, minutes and seconds after midnight if you are using a midnight ephemeris, or after noon if you have a noon ephemeris. Universal Time is used to calculate the planets' positions, and also in calculating the house cusps. The longitude of the birthplace, together with the UT of birth, is used to calculate the Local Sidereal Time at birth. In a table of houses, the astrologer finds the Midheaven (MC) for that Sidereal Time; and then the corresponding house cusps for the latitude of the birthplace, according to whichever house system is being used.

**When calculating a relocation chart, the astrologer uses the same Universal Time, but the latitude and longitude of a place other than the birthplace.** Thus the planets' positions in the signs are exactly the same as in the natal chart. However, the house cusps will be different.

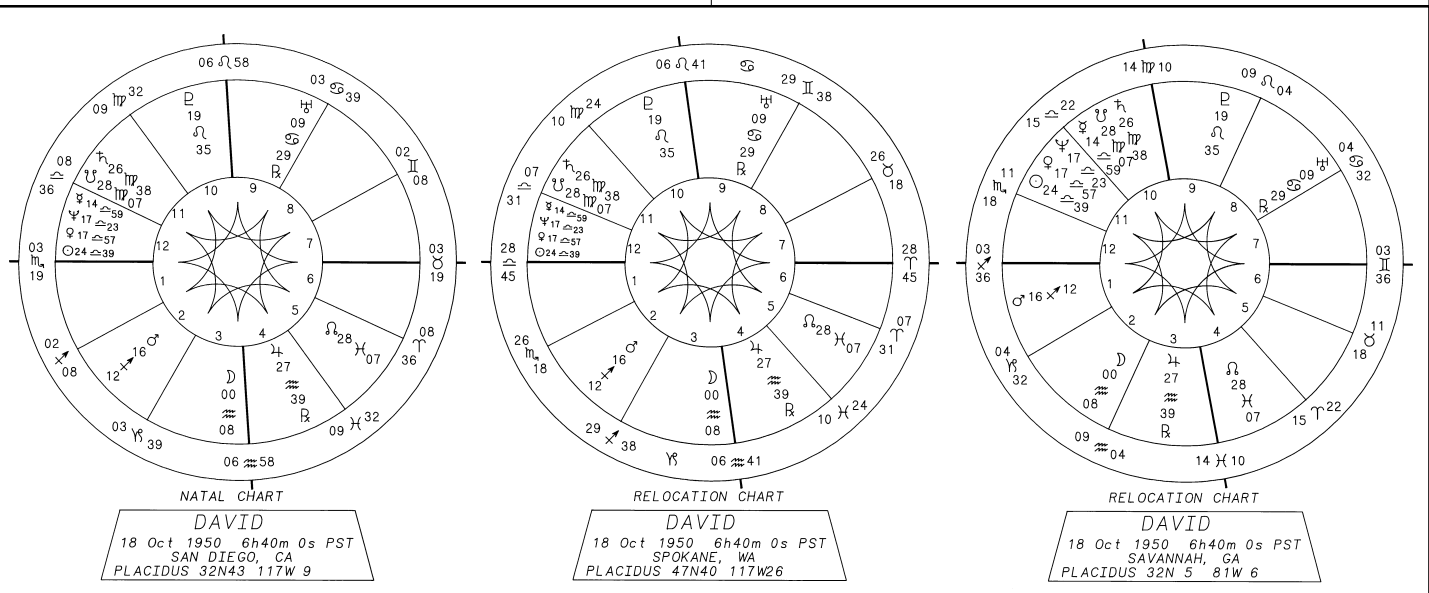
The example charts are the natal (the first chart) and various relocated charts for David, who was born in San Diego, California.

The formulas that are used to calculate house cusps are too mathematical to include here, but we can give some information about how they work. If you erect a relocation chart for a place that is **due north or south** of your birthplace, the MC will not change. Only the other house cusps change. In David's relocation chart to Spokane, Washington, the MC differs by only a few minutes from his natal MC. The longitudes differ by only 15 minutes of arc (1/4 degree). His relocated Ascendant (First House cusp) changes by only about four degrees. None of his natal planets change houses, but his relocated ASC is quincunx to his North Node. He does not have this aspect in his natal chart.

When you select a new locality that is **east or west** of your birthplace, the relocated MC moves **approximately** one degree for each degree of east-west travel on the earth. The third chart is for David's relocation to Savannah, Georgia, which is at very nearly the same latitude (north of the Equator) as San Diego, and about 36 degrees east of San Diego. Note that David's relocated MC, at about 14 Virgo, is about 37 degrees beyond his natal MC of 6 Leo—not exactly the same 36 degrees as on the earth's surface. The formulas are not that straightforward!

From this example you can see a simple rule for estimating where the relocated MC will be. If you go east from your birthplace, your relocated MC moves forward in the zodiac by about one degree for each degree on the earth. If you move west, your relocated MC will move backwards through the zodiac. As you would expect, if you move exactly halfway around the world, then your MC would change places with your Fourth House cusp (IC).

In the fourth example chart, we selected a city in Afghanistan that is almost exactly 180 degrees around the world from



San Diego. It is also, within a few minutes, the same distance north of the Equator as San Diego. Note, however, that the angle between David's relocated MC and ASC is quite different from the square aspect that they form in his natal chart. All of the planets except Mars and Uranus are shifted into the houses naturally opposite their natal houses.

The fifth example is David's relocation chart to Sudbury, Ontario, Canada. We picked this city because it is just as far north as Spokane and just as far east as Savannah. Note that the MC is almost the same as it is in Savannah, but the relocated ASC is not, nor is it even close to his ASC in Spokane. You can see that it is not a simple task to estimate the position of the relocated ASC.

A relocation chart done for a city in the southern hemisphere that is due south of the birthplace would have the same MC as the natal chart, but the relocated ASC could change considerably. For example, if you had your natal MC trine to your natal ASC, you could find a place in the southern hemisphere where you'd have the same MC but the relocated ASC would be sextile to it. (Note: if you are hand-calculating a relocation chart for a place in the southern hemisphere, and using a table of houses set up for the northern hemisphere, the math gets slightly strange, but the cusps don't pull any funny tricks.)

How are relocation charts interpreted? The first point to remember is that **you always keep your natal chart**. A relocation chart adds nuances or colorations to the basic natal chart. Like the natal, a relocation chart is good for all time, too.

Suppose you had difficulty expressing some planet, such as Mars. Then you'd want to select a relocation place where Mars would make favorable aspects (trines/sextiles) to your relocated MC and/or ASC. **House placement is also of overwhelming importance.** In this case, it would be nice to have Mars move to a house where the issues it represents posed as little difficulty as possible. Then, if you could find such a place, you'd need to determine what **other** aspects occur, as well as what the job market is like! Thus you can see that you are likely to have to make some compromises. Very rarely is it possible to find one place that is ideal in all respects!

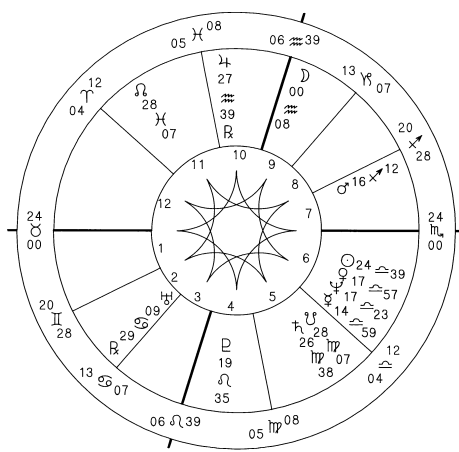
Planets which come to be conjunct one of the relocated

angles, such as the MC or ASC, will likely be expressed very strongly. If, for example, a person has difficulty dealing with authority, and s/he moves to a place that puts Pluto conjunct the relocated MC, s/he may have difficulty taking orders. Pluto involves control and dominance issues. The person may behave in such a way that others who have problems with these issues would be attracted to them. On the other hand, if someone wanted to be self-employed, moving to a place with Pluto (or Mars) conjunct the relocated MC might well give them an extra ounce of motivation.

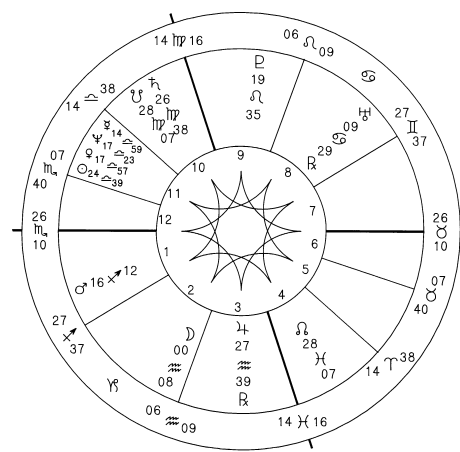
Many people move with health issues in mind. Relocation in general will not solve difficult health problems, but it **can exacerbate** existing ones. For example, it would be unwise to move to a place that would put an afflicted Neptune in the Sixth House—the house of health issues (among other things). Neptune in the Sixth can manifest as symptoms that are difficult to diagnose. It is a good idea, in general, to keep planets with major stressful aspects out of the Sixth, particularly the so-called "Malefics" (Mars, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto) and any planets making hard aspects to the "Malefics". The same principle applies to any area of life, that is, any house of the relocated chart. Obviously, the difficult stuff has to go somewhere in the chart, so you should try to put it in houses where it will be most easily handled in an appropriate manner.

When you study the effects of relocation, it is vital that you examine an individual's life over at least a six-month period. You may move to a place that gives you a good relocation chart, but still have difficult transits or a very stressful solar or lunar return. If you had a problem that seemed to last only about a month, look at the appropriate lunar return — and remember that since you have thirteen lunar returns every year, at least one of them is likely to be difficult no matter where you are. The same thing applies to solar returns, but for a longer period, obviously. In essence, give the place time to shine through on its own merits, and don't make the mistake of judging a place by a temporary period of stress caused by something other than the relocation chart.

**Geodetic Charts** can be used as an adjunct to relocation charts. Astro also offers an **Information Special** by Jim Shawvan on geodetics (code: **IGEODX**).



RELOCATION CHART  
**DAVID**  
 18 Oct 1950 6h40m 0s PST  
 KAL QAL 'EH, AFG  
 PLACIDUS 32N38 62E32



RELOCATION CHART  
**DAVID**  
 18 Oct 1950 6h40m 0s PST  
 SUDBURY, ON  
 PLACIDUS 46N30 81W 0