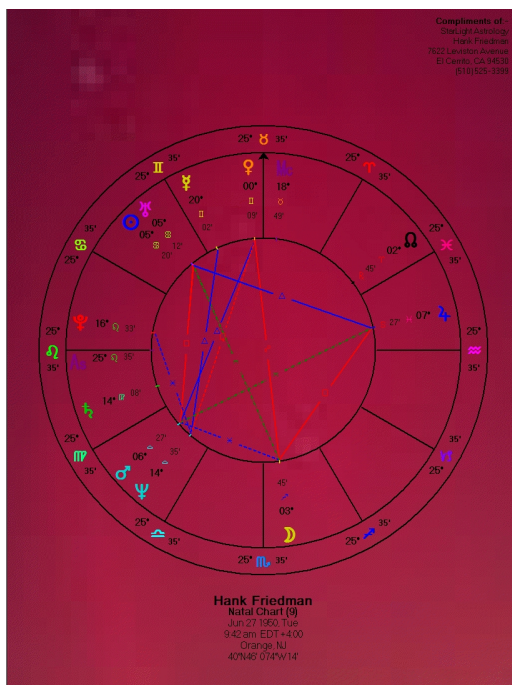# How to Create New Chart Art Pages in Solar Fire Gold
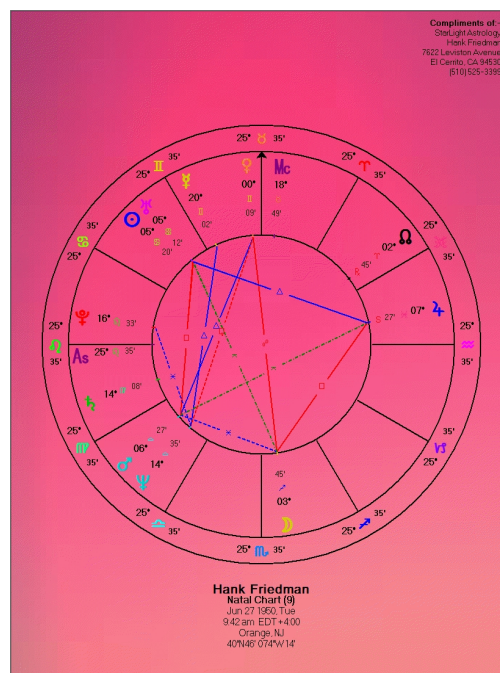by Hank Friedman

The first step in designing new Chart Art pages is to select an image to use as the background of a chart page. The image formats JPG, BMP, WMF, GIF, ICO or EMF can be used.

A. Choosing the Right Image.

1. **Don't use intense pictures**. Images that are too dark, too complex, or too vivid are unsuitable for Chart Art because they will overshadow the charts and boxes on a page. If you have an image like this, use a photo editor or paint program (I use Paint Shop Pro) to brighten and smooth the image.
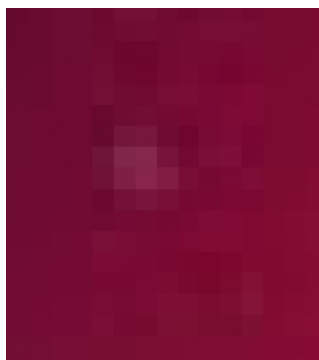

Too Intense   Better

2. **Soften the image**. If the image is too small, softening the image will help make it look better.
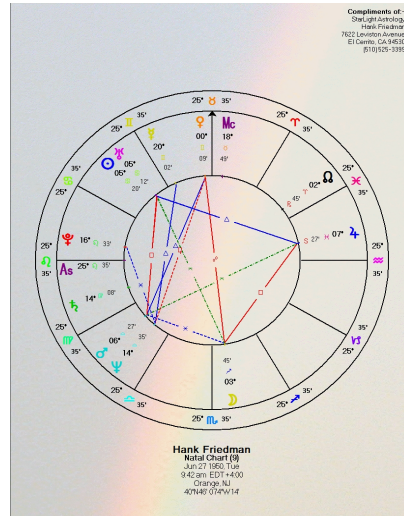

Too Small and blocky   Smoothed, looks better

3. **Use large images when possible**. As mentioned above in #2, images that are too small will not look good when stretched behind a chart.

4. **Carefully crop images**. Most good photo editing programs will allow you to crop a photo, i.e. to select a section of the photo to use, removing extraneous parts of the photo. By cropping a photo, you can create an image that really works.

Whole Image with cropping rectangle   Cropped section used as background
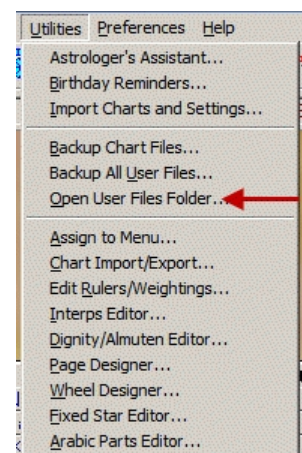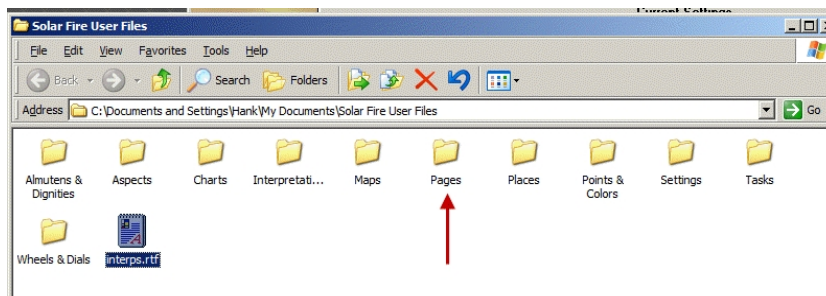
B. Copying Your Image to the Right Folder.

For Solar Fire Gold to use your image, a copy of it has to be placed in the **Solar Fire User Files/Pages folder.**

The easiest way to do this is to use Windows Explorer to open the folder where the image already is placed, highlight the name of the image file, and hold down the **Ctrl** key and press the letter **C** key. (That copies the file for pasting in the correct folder.)

Then run Solar Fire Gold, and click on Utilities at the top of the screen, and then on Open User Files Folder. See image at right -->

This will open a new window. In this new window, double-click on the Pages folder (see image below) to open it, and after it opens, hold down the **Ctrl** key and press the letter **V** key to place the image in that folder.

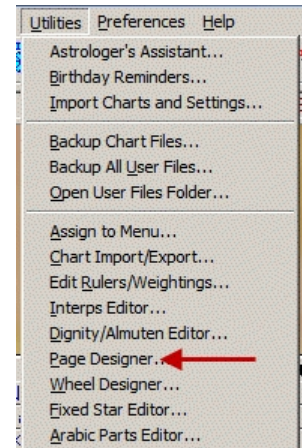# C. Designing a New Page with Your Image as the Background.

An easy way to create a new page -- with your image as the background --is to use the Page Designer to edit an existing page, replacing the background image being used with your image.

Here are the steps:
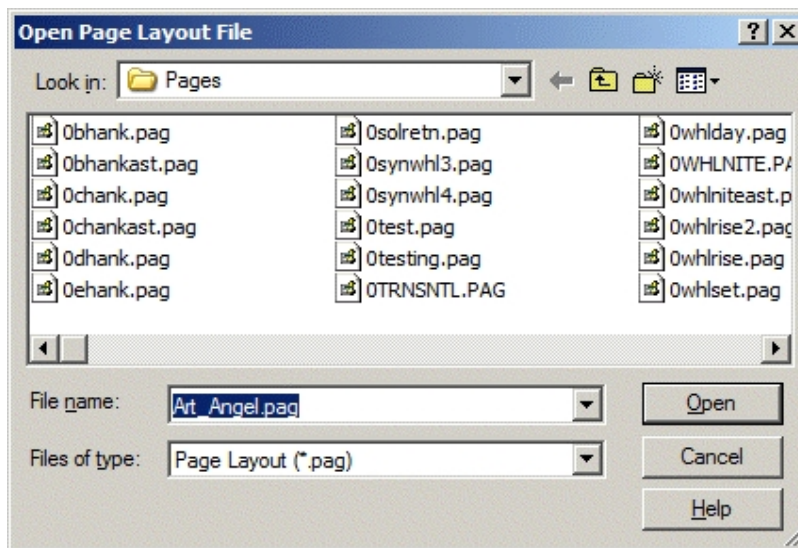
1. Run Solar Fire

2. Run the Page Designer

You can run the Page Designer by clicking on Utilities (at the top of the Solar Fire Gold screen), and then click on Page Designer. See image -->
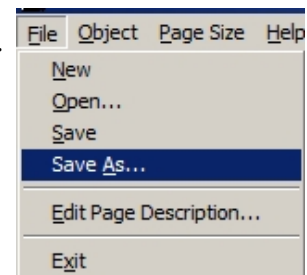
3. Open an existing Chart Art Page.

In the Page Designer, click on File at the top left, and then on Open. Type in the word: Art_Angel.pag (that's Art underscore Angel.pag with no spaces) to open the Chart Art Angel page.

4. Rename the Chart Art Page File Name.

Please do this step immediately, to avoid over-writing the Angel page file.

Click on File at the top left, and then on Save As... (Not just Save) and type in a new file name that you will remember, and hit the Enter key. Hint: use a short name (without spaces) that describes the image you are using as a background. E.g. if I were designing a new Rainbow page, I might call it **rainbow4**
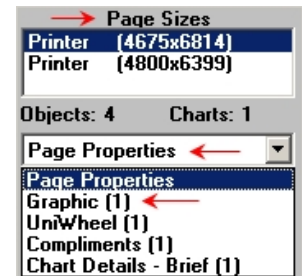
5. Rename the Art Page itself.

At the top left of the page underneath the menu, you will see the words "Single Wheel with Art".

Click on those words to replace them with a name you want to see your Chart Art listed as in the Page Topic Index. E.g. if I created a soft rainbow background, I might call it **Soft Rainbow**.

6. Select the Graphic for both printed page formats.

Solar Fire Gold comes with two page sizes, shown at the top right in the page designer, both labeled Printer. In order for a page to have your new image as its background, you need to change the graphic used for each page size, one at a time.
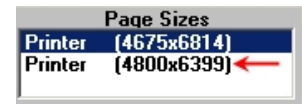
Click where it says **Page Properties** and then click on **Graphic (1)**

In the menu that appears below the words Graphic (1) click on Graphic File

Locate the the **>** symbol (just below the words Graphic (1), and then type in the file name of the image you want to use in the white space to the right of the > symbol, and hit the Enter key.
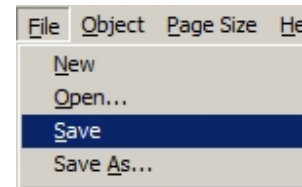
At the top right, find the other page size -- labeled Printer (4800x6399) -- and click on it to select it, and repeat the same process (starting with clicking on Page Properties and click on Graphic (1)).
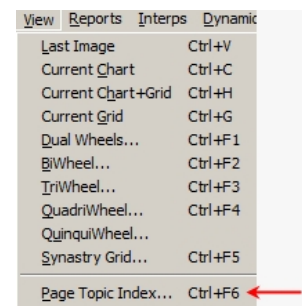
7. Save your new Chart Art Page.

Click on File at the top left of the Page Designer window, and then on Save. And your new page is complete.

You can find your new page from the main screen of Solar Fire Gold by clicking on View at the top left of the screen, and then on Page Topic Index, and then in the window that appears, in the Added Recently or Chart Art folder.

While this procedure may sound lengthy, once you have done it a couple of times, you'll find it very simple to do.

Happy creating!

Hank Friedman