

Great at Every Price  
Professional Software for Western Astrology  
by Hank Friedman

Nowadays, you can get great professional-level astrology programs for a wide range of prices. No matter what the pricing, programs often have comparable capabilities. There are three price tiers of powerful astrology programs:

\$150 - \$190 tier: Janus 4.1 and ZET Geo

\$300 - \$400 tier: Solar Fire Gold, Kepler, Win\*Star Pro and Millennium

\$650 tier: Sirius 1.1

All of the programs mentioned herein have excellent accuracy\*, a full time-change atlas for the World, and all of the basic calculations: birth charts, progressed charts, directed charts, composite charts, harmonic charts, biwheels, triwheels, dials, asteroids, Uranian points, Solar Returns, Lunar Returns, and midpoint listings and trees. They also all have research capabilities, can create ephemeride (both tables and graphic ephemeride) and local space charts, animate chart wheels, and display tables of dignities, aspects, inter-aspects, planetary hours, fixed stars, and Arabic Parts.

A Few of the Unique Strengths of each of the Programs

Note: All of the programs in this article have many unique features. It is not within the scope of this article, however, to do more than just touch upon a few of them. Please read my full reviews, provided as links at the end of each section, to learn more about each program.

Solar Fire Gold (\$325) offers unparalleled ease-of-use, great interactivity (e.g. while viewing charts, it's simple to change which planets are displayed, create new aspect sets, etc.), superlative hit lists and Time Maps (both can include eclipses, ingresses, void-of-course, stations, and much more), a stunning Page Designer to easily create pages of charts, tables, etc., and the powerful capacity to search both chart files and time for astrological configurations (e.g. Saturn peregrine AND Saturn NOT Conjunct the Moon). Read my published review of Solar Fire Gold by [clicking here](#).

Kepler 7 (\$300) has exceptional astromapping features (including the first theme maps, map lines for minor bodies and minor aspects, and orbs around lines), diverse Vedic capabilities, many interpretive reports built-in, the best selection of add-on astrology reports, 47 lessons in astrology, unique theme-based transit graphs (e.g. the varying likelihood of good luck, accidents, romance, etc.), and a set of extensive natal, predictive, and synastry modeling tools, with the capability (albeit labor-intensive) to create new models. Read my published review of Kepler 7.0 by [clicking here](#).

Sirius (\$650) has all of Kepler's features plus a top notch Rectification module using life events to graph likely birth times, a wide array of Hellenistic capabilities (including Time Lords), excellent Huber astrological features e.g. an analysis of Huber patterns, a powerful Business Manager module for keeping track of client & session information (including duration of appointments, notes, contact numbers, etc.), and "Integrated Listings" e.g. showing a table of planetary positions and aspects for a lifetime of Solar Returns. Read my review of Sirius by [clicking here](#).

Janus (\$149) is a "best buy" with great Horary, Electional and Traditional astrology modules (with chart rotation, detailed results, etc.), delineations for very many kinds of astro-map lines, the easiest chart designer, an extensive bibliography for each technique, unique dynamic searches (e.g. for out-of-bounds planets, the Super Moon, and many types of declinational searches), primary directions, alternate coordinate system charts, the best eclipse maps, and fine Cosmobiology tools (e.g. a natal, transit, & Solar Arc tridial). Read my published review of Janus by [clicking here](#).

Millennium (\$299) introduces pioneering predictive methods including a unique cumulative graph of predictive cycles (i.e. shows the sum of positive cycles above the sum of negative cycles for any of a huge set of predictive techniques), the Time Tunnel circular graphic ephemeris, impeccable time graphs of astronomical factors (e.g. speed, distance, etc. for any planet), lightning fast searches for stellia or other major planetary patterns (e.g. Grand Trines), and very powerful & easy-to-use modeling tools. Read my published review of Millennium by [clicking here](#).

Win\*Star Pro (\$399.95) offers advanced astromapping features, e.g. its Theme Editor enables the creation of new map theme lines according to your own criteria, the best astrological calendar, a "Live Local Space chart" showing cities around a local space wheel; a dedicated Search module (with synodic & cycle searches, beautifully formatted progressed and transit search pages), a sophisticated ephemeris generation module (e.g. can include planetary pictures, midpoints, etc.), and an "Around the Wheel" tool for quickly finding transit, progressed, etc. cycles of any planet.\*

ZET Geo (\$189) requires a lot of effort to learn and to use, and I recommend trying the free [ZET lite](#) first to get used to its interface. ZET has superb astromapping and rectification capabilities, up to 7 concentric rings that you can animate simultaneously, the ability to add a huge number of extra points in charts and predictive tools, lovely astronomical functions, a powerful programming language that enables one to do complex time and chart searches, new predictive techniques, and many wonderful tables and graphs including a house system table depicting the placement of chart points in each house & conjunct each house cusp for up to 28 house systems. Read my Mountain Astrologer review of ZET Geo by [clicking here](#).

\*Kepler and Sirius 1.0 have less precision in calculating progressed hits in their tables and reports than other programs.

\*\* Note: Win\*Star Pro has just been released and is still being "polished". I will be reviewing it once its feature set and design become fully solid.

Note: In the following table, I have only included features that are present in *at least two different company's* programs.

Programs whose names are shown in [blue](#) in a specific row have the best implementation of the feature indicated.

Features Shared by the Professional-Level Programs			
Feature	Yes	Partially	No
Page Designer	<a href="#">Solar Fire Gold</a> , <a href="#">Janus</a> , <a href="#">Sirius</a> , Kepler, Millennium		Win*Star Pro, ZET Geo
Wheel Designer	<a href="#">Janus</a> , Solar Fire Gold	Kepler, Sirius, ZET Geo (not a discrete module)	Win*Star Pro, Millennium
Astro Mapping Features			
Basic Astromapping	<a href="#">Janus</a> , <a href="#">Sirius</a> , <a href="#">Kepler</a> , <a href="#">Win*Star Pro</a> , <a href="#">ZET Geo</a> , Solar Fire Gold		Millennium <sup>2</sup>
Astromapping interpretations	<a href="#">Janus</a> , <a href="#">Sirius</a> , <a href="#">Kepler</a> , <a href="#">Win*Star Pro</a> , <a href="#">ZET Geo</a>		Solar Fire Gold <sup>1</sup> Millennium <sup>2</sup>

Astromap lines for midpoints/aspects	Janus, Sirius, Kepler, Win*Star Pro, ZET Geo		Solar Fire Gold <sup>1</sup> Millennium
Eclipse Mapping	Janus	Millennium, ZET Geo, Sirius, Win*Star Pro, Kepler (see note below)	Solar Fire Gold <sup>1</sup>
Theme Maps	Win*Star Pro <sup>3</sup> , Kepler, Sirius		Solar Fire Gold, Janus, Millennium <sup>2</sup> , ZET Geo
Predictive Features			
Astro-Calendar	Win*Star Pro, Solar Fire Gold, Sirius, Millennium		Kepler, Janus, ZET Geo
Predictive Hit Lists	Solar Fire Gold, Janus, Win*Star Pro	Sirius & Kepler <sup>4</sup> ZET Geo <sup>4</sup> , Millennium <sup>5</sup>	
Predictive Time Graph (one event per line)	Solar Fire Gold, Win*Star Pro	Janus <sup>6</sup> , Sirius/Kepler <sup>7</sup> ZET Geo <sup>8</sup> , Millennium <sup>9</sup>	
Predictive Modeling	Millennium, Sirius, Kepler		Solar Fire, Janus, Win*Star Pro
Additional Features			
Rectify using life events	ZET Geo, Sirius, Millennium, Kepler		Solar Fire Gold <sup>10</sup> , Janus, Win*Star Pro
Auto-run sets of jobs	Solar Fire Gold <sup>11</sup> , Kepler, Sirius		Win*Star Pro, Janus, Millennium, ZET Geo
Hellenistic techniques	Sirius, Janus, Solar Fire Gold, ZET Geo, Kepler		Millennium, Win*Star Pro
Art Wheels	Kepler, Sirius, Solar Fire Gold, Win*Star Pro		Janus, Millennium, ZET Geo
Vedic Astrology	Sirius, Kepler, Solar Fire Gold		Win*Star Pro, Janus, Millennium, ZET Geo
Astrological glossary	Win*Star Pro, Sirius, Kepler, Janus, Solar Fire Gold, ZET Geo		Millennium
Boolean (AND/OR) Chart Searches	Solar Fire Gold, Win*Star Pro, Janus, ZET Geo <sup>12</sup>		Sirius, Kepler, Millennium <sup>13</sup>

Boolean (AND/OR) Time Searches	Solar Fire Gold, ZET Geo <sup>12</sup>		Sirius/Kepler, Win*Star Pro, Janus, Millennium <sub>3</sub>
Multiple charts per page	Solar Fire Gold 12+ Janus 10 Millennium - can design pages w many charts Kepler & Sirius 4	Win*Star Pro 2	ZET Geo <sup>14</sup>

Footnotes:

1. Interpretations, eclipse maps, and aspect or midpoint lines only with [Solar Maps](#) (\$225)

2. Astro-mapping only with add-on [Locality Maps](#) (\$249); does not offer midpoint or aspect lines.

Eclipse map note: [click here](#) to read my article on eclipse mapping in astrology software.

3. Win\*Star Pro is the only program that allows you to edit Theme Maps, and create new Theme Maps.

4. Kepler & Sirius can only create hit lists for transits or progressions (one technique per screen), the listings cannot be sorted, and in Kepler, there are no astrological glyphs, only text abbreviations. ZET Geo can create hit lists for (one technique per screen), the listings cannot be sorted, and there are no astrological glyphs, only text abbreviations. The progressed hit lists are imprecise (at times a few weeks off).

5. Millennium's hit list does not collate hits in entering, exact, and leaving format, and doesn't have glyphs in the hit list itself, but it can graphically display and list entering, exact, and leaving times for individual events.

6. Janus' Time Graph does not show dates for each event.

7. Kepler and Sirius have Time Graphs that only show exact dates.

8. ZET's predictive Time Graph does shows dates for each event one at a time in a separate window by clicking on that event's line onscreen.

9. Millennium does not offer a Time Graph showing single events, one per line, but it has an excellent graph showing the cumulative effects of positive and negative events separately, and also has a Semenکو diagram that depicts a graphic for individual transit/progressed/directed/profected events on a timeline (without dates and times).

10. Life Event Rectification only with [JigSaw](#) add-on (\$350)

11. Solar Fire Gold's Astrologer's Assistant allows recording and detailed editing of any number of auto-jobs.

12. ZET's Chart Search and Event Search require learning the program's Astrological formula description language.

13. Millennium's add-on Super Search (\$299) offers Boolean Chart and Event Searches.

14. ZET Geo version 9, which is currently available in Russian and will be available in the autumn of 2009 in

English will display up to 7 wheels onscreen at the same time.