

Esoteric Technologies Pty Ltd

Presents

Solar Fire v5

Chart File Issues

Note that this version of Solar Fire has a new chart file format. However, it can also transparently read *all* older Solar Fire chart formats (and Nova files) from any location on your computer, and can save charts to SFv3/4 chart files and Nova files as well as to the new SFv5 chart files.

By default, when you select an old version Solar Fire chart file to view, you will be prompted whether or not to convert it to the SFv5 format. If you do so, then a complete backup copy of the old chart file is automatically stored in the OLDCHART folder of your Solar Fire installation, so that you can retrieve it later if necessary. If you choose NOT to convert the old chart file, then you can still use it as normal in Solar Fire, with the exception that you will not be allowed to store any subsidiary type charts into it.

You can change the default chart file behaviour of Solar Fire by using the Preferences/Edit Settings/Charts options.

Note that other Esoteric Technologies Programs will soon all be updated to either read or import SFv5 chart file. However, for the moment, existing versions will not be able to read SFv5 format chart files.

Solar Maps

This version of Solar Fire includes Solar Maps v2, which is a 32bit update of the Solar Maps program. Normally, this program will operate in "Lite" mode, which has a reduced feature set, allowing only simple astro-locality mapping to be used, and it will run only when invoked from Solar Fire's own menu.

However, if you already have a copy of Solar Maps v1 installed in the directory to which you install Solar Fire v5, then you will get access to the full set of features (as were available in v1), including the ability to run it independently of Solar Fire.

Note: Solar Fire v5 will not work with the 16bit Solar Maps v1, as Solar Maps v1 cannot read Solar Fire v5 format chart files.

Summary of Some Major Changes and Enhancements

- **32 Bit** - Solar Fire v5 is now a fully compiled 32bit Windows program, running on Windows 32 bit platforms such as Windows 95, 98, NT4 and later releases. It is now able to access the full power of the 32 bit computer chips (such as Pentium processors), and take advantage of powerful operating system features, such as long file names.
- **State of the Art Calculation Accuracy** - Planetary calculations now use the "Swiss Ephemeris", based on JPL (Jet Propulsion Laboratory) data, providing state of the art accuracy across more than 10,000 years. The full set of "Swiss Ephemeris" asteroid files may now also be used with Solar Fire (available for free via web download or at low cost on CD).

- **Astro-Locality Mapping** - A new mapping module is included to allow planetary, eclipse path and local space lines to be viewed on a selection of world maps. This module is compatible with (and may be upgraded to) Solar Maps as a fully comprehensive mapping package.
- **Astrologer's Assistant** - A new and very powerful task automation feature which allows you to record various tasks and then save them for replay at any time. For example, you could record a task to print a chart, calculate a progressed chart and transits chart for the current date, display them together in a triwheel and print them, run a dynamic report with a years transits and progressions and then print that out. This set of tasks can then be replayed for any other starting chart at the click of a button.
- **Animated Charts and Pages** - Any chart or viewable page can now be run as a real-time Astroclock, or animated backwards or forwards in time using customisable time steps.
- **New Chart File Structure** - A new chart file storage structure allows users to save almost all kind of charts generated within Solar Fire, including progressed, directed and composite charts, for example. Solar Fire v5 is backwards compatible with all earlier version chart files, and can optionally save to earlier chart file formats if required. Comments may now also be saved with subsidiary charts, and enhanced chart comment editing features make it possible to access and edit chart comments whilst casting a chart, as well as at any stage prior to saving it. Chart file may now be accessed from (or saved to) any location on your computer or network.
- **Toolbar Buttons** - A fully customisable toolbar contains graphical buttons for all frequently used option in Solar Fire, allowing quicker access to commonly used features.
- **Screen Customisation** - The user may now easily select background colors and graphics for the main screen and all data viewing screens (such as chart viewing pages), and save these preferences along with other color selections in named Color Schemes. These allow different colors to be selected for use with a printer, thus obviating the need to change color selections when printing.
- **Synastry Reports** - Full text for synastry reports has been included as part of the standard interpretations text base, and is easily accessible via a new menu item.
- **Eclipse Data** - 5000 years of accurate solar and lunar eclipse data has been included, plus a module to allow flexible searching based on chart contacts, eclipse types, Saros numbers etc...
- **Page topic index** - Displayed chart pages may now be selected via a customisable topic index, where pages can be grouped into categories such as Beginner, Classical, Cosmobiology, Esoteric, Vedic etc. Many new page object have been added such as square (traditional and vedic) charts, flexible listings of asteroids, arabic parts, fixed stars and other bodies.
- **Internet/Email Support** - a new Web Update feature is included to allow users to automatically check for and download program updates via the internet. Chart data and graphical data (such as chart page displays) may now be saved into JPG file format for easy attachment to emails, and (for MAPI compliant email programs like MS Outlook and Eudora) the email program is automatically launched with the data file/s already attached or listed in the body of the message.
- **ASCII Data Export** - a powerful and highly flexible method of exporting chart details and or positions of planets, midpoints, asteroids, stars, Arabic parts etc, which can be read in by other programs such as spreadsheets or other astrology programs.