

How to Read Your Human Design Chart

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Human Design

WELCOME

Your First Human Design Chart

Have you generated your Human Design chart but aren't quite sure how to read it? Those shapes, colors, numbers, lines and symbols each have a purpose.

This beginner's guide will help you understand what you're looking at, how the different parts of your chart work and where to begin. Whether your chart was calculated using the Tropical or True Sidereal system, you can use this guide to explore the mechanics of Human Design.

Start by understanding your Aura Type and its Strategy, explore your Inner Authority and Profile and gradually discover the nine Centers, 64 Gates, Channels and the wider architecture of your design. My personal approach uses True Sidereal calculations, but the Human Design knowledge and teachings throughout this library are open to everyone, whatever chart calculation they choose.

You don't need to understand everything at once. It's baby steps, so let's start with the foundations.

— Jillian

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CHAPTER 1

Where Do You Begin?

You open your Human Design chart for the first time. There are geometric shapes running down the center. Some are colored, others are white. Numbers sit inside the shapes. Lines connect one area to another, some fully colored, some only partly. Above the chart are four arrows, and on either side are columns filled with planetary symbols and numbers. You look at it and wonder: *What the heck am I looking at? What do all these shapes, numbers, colors and lines mean? Where am I supposed to begin?*

Perhaps your mind is already telling you that this is too complicated, too strange, or simply not worth the effort. I understand. That was me in October 2012. I'd encountered Human Design and joined Facebook groups, but when I looked at the chart, I couldn't make sense of what I was seeing. The Monkey Warden in my mind had plenty to say: *This is new-age nonsense. I can't be bothered.* I was ready to walk away.

Then, on my birthday, 6 January 2013, someone responded to a question I'd asked back in October. Her answer helped me understand a little more. That small opening was enough to spark my curiosity again. I decided to dive in and see what I could discover. I'm glad I did.



THE MONKEY WARDEN

In my framework, the Monkey Warden represents the mind's distracting Not-Self chatter.

Over the years, my research developed into my own Human Design framework, using Greek mythology to describe the living parts of the design expressing themselves within you. The Greek Gods and Goddesses give these mechanics a face and a character, helping us explore how the different parts function and interact.

This guide is where you begin. You don't need to understand every number, gate, or planetary activation today. First, let's learn to recognize the parts of your chart and understand what you're looking at.

You don't have to master the whole map to take your first step.

CHAPTER 2

So, What Exactly Is Human Design?

Human Design is a system for exploring how you are individually designed to experience and interact with life. Using your birth date, exact time and location, it produces a personal chart known as a Body Graph.

The system brings together several knowledge traditions, including astrology, the I Ching, the chakra system and the Kabbalah Tree of Life. Your Body Graph maps the mechanics of your design through your Aura Type, Inner Authority, Profile, Nine Centers, 64 Gates and Channels etc.

These elements work together to describe how your energy operates, how you process experiences and how you make decisions.

Human Design isn't about collecting labels or trying to fit yourself into a category. It's an invitation to investigate your own design through observation and lived experience.

CHAPTER 3

What Are You Looking At?

The Anatomy of Your Human Design Chart

When you first look at a Human Design chart, it can seem like a jumble of shapes, numbers, colors, lines and symbols. But each part has a place within the overall architecture. Let's identify the main features so you know what you're looking at when you open your own chart.

1 **The Nine Centers**

The geometric shapes running down the middle of the chart are the nine centers. In my framework, I call these the Nine Officers, using Greek mythology to describe the living mechanics expressing themselves through each center. Each center has its own role within the interconnected architecture.

2 **Colored and White Centers**

Some centers are colored, while others remain white. Colored centers are defined in the chart. White centers are open or undefined, depending on the mechanics shown. These differences are important when learning how your chart is constructed.

3

The Numbers — Gates

The numbers appearing inside the centers represent the 64 gates of the I Ching. Each gate has its own place within the chart's architecture and its own meaning. You don't need to memorize all 64 gates to begin. Start by recognizing the numbers, then explore their meanings when you're ready.

The Lines Connecting the Centers

4

The lines connecting the centers are called channels. A fully activated channel connects two centers; a partially activated connection is commonly called a hanging gate. Look for which lines are fully colored and which are only partly colored. These details help you read the connections within your chart.

The Red and Black Sides

5

Your chart has two columns of planetary activations, one on each side of the Body Graph. Design — red, on the left: represents the body's side of the chart. Personality — black, on the right: represents the mind's side of the chart. The numbers and line values beside the planetary symbols connect to the gates and their deeper layers.

6

The Four Variable Arrows

Above the Body Graph, you'll see four arrows: two on the left and two on the right. These are the Variable arrows. They point to additional layers of information within the chart, including aspects of how the body and mind process information. You don't need to decode all four arrows yet. For now, simply recognize where they are and know that they form another part of the chart's architecture.

7

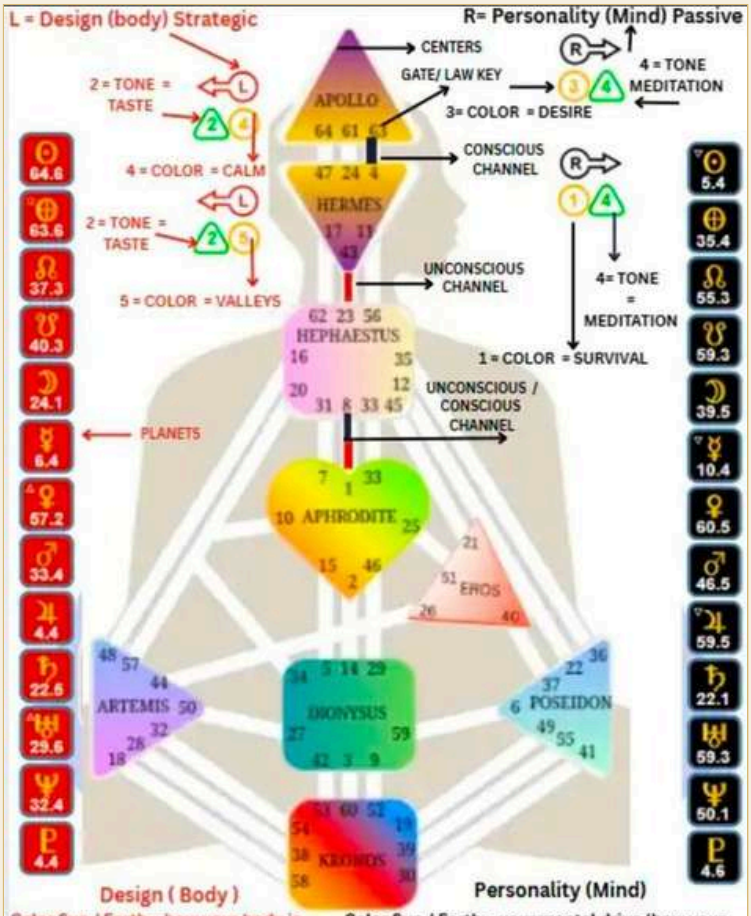
The Planetary Columns

The planetary symbols and numbers beside the Body Graph show which gates are activated on the Design and Personality sides. Each planetary activation has a gate and line value. These details connect the central chart to the two columns and provide further layers to explore as your understanding grows.

That's your first look at the chart's anatomy. You now have a starting point for recognizing the centers, gates, channels, colors, arrows and planetary columns without trying to interpret everything at once.

AT A GLANCE

Your Chart, Labelled





YOUR TURN

Ready to Explore Your Own Human Design Chart?

Now that you understand the basic structure of a Bodygraph, you can create your own chart and begin exploring its individual components.

MyBodyGraph provides an online chart creation platform, with Tropical calculations available without membership and True Sidereal calculations available through membership.

Create your chart at MyBodyGraph →

Affiliate link: I earn a small commission if you create your chart through this link, at no extra cost to you.

Once you have your chart, return here and begin exploring the three foundations: your Aura Type, Inner Authority and Profile.

CHAPTER 4

Start Here: Three Foundations

Now that you can recognize the different parts of your chart, where do you begin? You don't need to study all 64 gates, every planetary activation, or every layer of the Bodygraph before you can start exploring your own design.

I recommend beginning with three foundations: your Aura Type and Strategy, your Inner Authority, and your Profile. Each gives you a different starting point for understanding yourself and exploring how your design operates in everyday life.

I

Understand Your Aura Type

Your Aura Type is your first starting point. It introduces how your aura operates and how your Strategy guides your interaction with life.

Begin by learning your type, understanding how its aura works, and observing how Strategy applies to your own experiences.

Go deeper: find the eBook for your Aura Type in the Jillian Evelyn HD Ko-fi shop.

II

Explore Your Inner Authority

Your Inner Authority takes you deeper into the body's decision-making mechanics.

Rather than trying to think your way through every choice, begin by understanding the particular Authority described by your chart. My teachings explore the underlying mechanics and the binaries associated with them.

Go deeper: discover the Inner Authority teachings and binary pages on the Jillian Evelyn HD website.

III

Discover Your Profile

Your Profile introduces another important layer of your design. Its two numbers describe a particular profile architecture that you can explore through your experiences and interactions with life.

Start with your own Profile. Learn its lines, understand the relationship between them, and observe how the teaching connects with your lived experience.

Go deeper: explore the Profile teachings and Profile eBooks from Jillian Evelyn HD.

CHAPTER 5

Your First Experiment

You don't have to master these three foundations in one sitting. Begin with your Aura Type and Strategy, explore your Inner Authority, and then move into your Profile. Give yourself time to observe, question, and investigate what you learn. You can return to the chart whenever you're ready to explore another layer.

1	2	3
Aura Type & Strategy	Inner Authority	Profile

MY OBSERVATIONS

CHAPTER 6

When You're Ready

Explore the Wider Architecture

Your Aura Type, Inner Authority, and Profile give you a place to begin. But your chart contains much more to explore. As your understanding grows, you can investigate the gates, the Nine Officers, your Incarnation Cross, Definition, and the deeper layers of your design.

Follow your curiosity, explore the parts that interest you, and return to the chart as you discover more about how its different components connect.

> ### The Ancient I Ching
> Explore the 64 gates through my Ancient I Ching library. Each gate opens another area of the chart to investigate, with its own meaning and place within the wider architecture.

Your Incarnation Cross

Your Incarnation Cross brings together four gates associated with the architecture of your life purpose. Explore the four-quarter structure and discover how the Cross fits into the wider chart.

Definition: How Your Chart Connects

Definition offers another way to explore the connections within your Body Graph. As you become more familiar with the centers and channels, you can investigate how the defined parts of your chart are connected.

Meet the Nine Officers

In my Human Design framework, I use Greek mythology to describe the living mechanics of the nine centers. The Gods and Goddesses give each Officer a name and character, helping make the different parts of the design easier to recognize and explore.



Apollo · The Head Center



Hermes · The Ajna Center



Hephaestus · The Throat Center



Aphrodite · The G Center

The Nine Officers eBooks, Volumes 1–4, available in the Ko-fi shop.

CHAPTER 7

True Sidereal vs. Tropical

Two ways of calculating a chart

Human Design charts can be calculated using different zodiac systems.

Tropical and True Sidereal calculations can produce different planetary placements, which means the Gates, Lines and other activations shown in your chart may differ.

If you've ever wondered why two charts calculated from the same birth details can look different, this is where to start. Explore the differences between the two approaches, understand how they affect your chart, and discover why I choose to work with the visible sky.

CHAPTER 8

Your Journey Continues

You now have a starting point, a way to recognize the parts of your chart, and a path into the deeper teachings.

Explore one area at a time. Ask questions. Observe your own experiences. Let your understanding grow as you become more familiar with the architecture.

Understanding your chart is a journey of discovery. Continue exploring the teachings, investigate the mechanics and use your own experiences to deepen your understanding.

The chart is the map.

Your body is the laboratory.

Your life is the experiment.

STAY CONNECTED

The conversation doesn't end here

Follow Jillian Evelyn HD across social media for new content, ideas, insights and a little inspiration along the way.



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