Electric Ephemeris PCA Argus v 3.1 for Windows

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Introduction

'Argus' is the nickname for PCA for Windows.

PCA is an abbreviation for 'Personal Computer Astrology'. Hence the name 'Argus'.

The first version of PCA appeared in 1986 and ran under the CP/M operating system. This was the PCA v1.x series, famous at the time for producing the first true graphic chart-wheel to both screen and printer.

In January 1987 the first MS-DOS version appeared. This was the PCA v2.x series. During this phase Electric Ephemeris were first to produce their own colour drivers, unique graphic transit/progression charts, XLI programming language, etc.

The PCA v3.x series is written for the Windows operating system. This represents a new generation of astrological programming which will continue to see Electric Ephemeris' innovative style combined with ease of use.

What's New in PCA v3.1

Argus has multiple features too numerous to mention which were not incorporated in previous PCA incarnations.

However, if you are familiar with the MS-DOS versions you may find the following selection of new features of interest:

- **Multiple Windows (see page 7)**
- **Quintiles & Septiles**
- **Multiple orb definitions**
- **Gazetteer - 125,000 place names, nearly every city worldwide inclusive of time zones**
- **Namefile - 16,000 entries per file plus Add Notes option**
- **Proportional fonts and colour options for interpretation texts**
- **Aspect Grid**

Program structure - overview

Argus offers a variety of inbuilt functions. The following diagram illustrates the program structure. A section describing each program function appears in this manual.

Where can I find Help_?

Most program instructions are placed within Argus as Help files. This manual is limited as a Getting Started document.

To view the documentation for most program functions, press F1 which offers context sensitive Help.

Alternatively, there is a general Help available from the top pull-down main menu bar. This Help pull-down menu offers Contents, Search, Index, etc, features consistent with most Windows programs.

Important_! - essential keystrokes in Argus

ENTER - cascades between text and graphics open Windows

SPACE - toggles the Input Menu between ON/OFF

Windows - Closing

To close an Open Window, select Window | Clear (DEL) from the top pull-down main menu.

Windows - Full size

To enlarge a Window to full size, select Window | Full size from the top pull-down main menu.

See Multiple Windows page 13

License and copyright

Copies of Argus are only permitted to the licensee for his/her individual use and program security.

Giving away, lending or selling copies of Argus is illegal.

Hardware specification

Argus requires the following minimum hardware specification:

- **Windows 3.x or Windows `95**
- **8 Megabytes of RAM**
- **10 Mbytes of free Hard disk space**
- **VGA graphic card & monitor**

What you should have

You should have the following items:

1) CD
2) This manual

or, in case you got a download version, just the file(s), you downloaded.

Installation procedure

CD version - Place CD in drive and select `Install PCA'

3) Diskette installation (if you have bought this version)

Windows 9x ME or other 32 bit versions

a) Insert distribution disk 1 in drive A:
b) Select Start and then Run

Windows 3.x

a) Insert distribution disk 1 in drive A:
b) From Program Manager, select File and then Run.

Type: A:\SETUP

…….in the RUN window and press ENTER.

When the installation starts, just follow the instructions on the screen.

***ARGUS creates a directory called ARGUS on the hard disk. If you have an earlier version of PCA v2.x installed, the Windows installation will leave the original Dos installation intact*. See Namefile page 13**

Installation - Setting up

When you have installed Argus please note the following:

Windows Colour Schemes

Part of an appeal of any astrological software is its aesthetic layout. Therefore the way in which Windows uses colours may require some thought and redesign.

Argus has its own Colour Setup Menu which is appropriate to Chart colours, foreground, text etc. (See Preferences page 17). However, the actual Windows colour environment is setup in Windows itself.

Depending on how your Windows colour *Display* is setup it will have a considerable effect on any Windows application you use, including Argus.

Therefore, we recommend that you experiment with the *Windows Colour Display* option which you can change under the *Windows Control Panel.*

Windows Colour Recommendation

Under Control Panel | Display | Appearance we recommend:

High Contrast White.

This particular Windows colour scheme allows the Argus colour scheme to stand out.

Selecting Fonts

Argus installs it's own font PCA.TTF to the appropriate system folders. This allows the user to have astrological glyphs, etc.

You can change the screen and printer font setup under Preferences | Font | Screen font or Preferences | Font | Printer font.

There are two factors to consider regarding the use of fonts which are configurable when Argus is installed. They are font appearance and font size. We recommend the following.

Screen font appearance - recommended

ARIAL - Regular

Screen font size - recommended

Screen font size - recommended

VGA - 640 x 480	**10 point**
Super VGA - 800 x 600	**12 point**
Super VGA - 1024 x 768	**12 point or above**

Note:

To test whether you have the optimum font size and appearance open one text window and one graphic window. Then select Window | Tile to see how it looks. See Multiple Windows, next section.

Multiple Windows

A unique feature of Argus is its capability to display and operate in Multiple Windows.

In simple terms this means you could have ChartWheels etc for Radix-1, Progressed, Transit, Graphic Transits, Radix-2 etc, open on one screen.

In fact, there are two screen modes which Argus operates in: Graphic mode and Text mode.

The appearance of Multiple Windows on your screen depends on your graphic card and monitor. In other words resolution, etc.

Text Mode

- Obvious text output using glyphs or abbreviations etc
- So called Graphic Transits/Progressions
- Move through Text mode by SCROLLING up and down.

Graphic Mode Graphic Mode

- Chart-wheels and also the Aspect Grid
- Up to fifteen graphic Windows open at any one time

Opening extra Graphic Windows

- Calculate required chart, e.g. `R - Radix-1', `T-Radix-2', etc
- Select Window | Add new from the top pull-down menu.
- Select `V - Chart-wheel′, `W - Bi-wheel′, etc

Viewing Multiple Windows

- Select Window | Cascade
- Select Window | Tile
- Use mouse drag & drop etc to resize & relocate

Backup

With any computer program it is recommended to backup your data files on a regular basis.

The program files are rarely a problem, because they can be re-installed or replaced. However, your personal data files may be irreplaceable.

ARGUS offers the option to make backup of the Namefile(s) and the program configuration file (PCA.CFG).

Backup procedure

Insert a blank diskette in drive A and select File | Backup | Save. All Namefiles and the PCA configuration file are saved to the diskette.

Re-instating lost data

Should it transpire that your data is lost, or if you happen to crash the configuration file, you may restore your data:

Insert the backup diskette in drive `A′ and select File | Backup | Restore.

This will offer a list of files on the diskette.....

- PCA.CFG is the configuration file.
- PCA.NFI is the default Namefile.

If you have created more than one Namefile, they should all have an *.NFI extension. Choose the file, you want to restore and select OK.

Input Menu - data entry

Input Menu - On/Off

The Input Menu appears when Argus commences. To toggle the Input Menu `On/Off' select the SPACE bar.

You may also click Data | Input Menu - data entry.

Input Menu - Focus

The Input Menu comprises of three tabbed sheets. They are labeled "Radix", "Current", and "Present" from left to right.

Selecting a Tab Sheet can be done by clicking or by selecting the left and right arrow keys. When a Tab Sheet is highlighted the *Focus* is on that particular Tab Sheet.

Current Tab Sheet

If you feel confused about these tabbed sheets, just concentrate on the middle one, which is default, and forget about the two others, you can do happily without them.

Use this Focus to enter your Radix data, and also to enter Transit, Progressed data, etc.

Radix Tab Sheet

When a Radix chart is calculated, the data entered in the "Current" Tab Sheet automatically is copied to the "Radix" Tab Sheet.

If you are working on a particular chart, and require it's original Radix data, it will remain in the "Radix" Tab Sheet.

Present Tab Sheet

The "Present" data sheet has a `data clock' which displays the computer's date and time. This can be used for horary astrology.

Note that the data in "Present" cannot be changed/edited by the user.
Furthermore, if the Focus is on the Present Tab Sheet, data cannot be Fetched from the Namefile.

Data Entry

Entering data is straightforward. Within reason, the data entry fields are flexible to differing formats.

To select a data field try the following options:

1) Select a numeric key appropriate to the field number (e.g. `3 - Zone')

2) Click in the appropriate data field using the mouse

3) Use the UP or DOWN Arrow-Keys to navigate from one data field to the next/previous

4) Use the TAB and SHIFT/TAB keys to navigate to the next/previous data fields.

0 - Name-

The Name is what is used to identify a chart. It can hold up to 30 characters.

1 - Date

To enter a date, the Day, Month and Year are separated by spaces.

For example: 9 12 1955

You may omit the `19' and enter the above example as: 9 12 55

In which case Argus will add the 1900 automatically.

The `5th April 1904' can be entered as: 5 4 1904 or 5 4 4

Date entry - first century AD.

To enter the year for the first century AD. leading zeros should bu used.

For example:

The 9th December in the year 55 AD. is entered as: 9 12 0055.

BC data entry

BC charts are entered by stating BC after the year.

For example, to enter data for on the 8th October in the year 7 BC..... **8 10 7 BC**

2 - Time-

- **Time is entered in 24 hour clock time.**
- Do NOT use AM or PM
- Birth time is entered as hours, minutes and seconds separated by Spaces.
- If Seconds or Minutes are zero, they may be omitted.

3 - Zone

The time-zone indicates the standard time used in a country in question.

If daylight saving time is used, it must be included.

In the United Kingdom, `3 -Zone′ is usually set to `0' in winter and `1 E′ in summer.

In fact, using Argus means that you need not worry about time zones. If the geographic data is fetched from Argus′s internal gazetteer the correct zone and daylight saving will automatically be taken into account and inserted in the zone field..

4 - City / Latitude
5 - City / Longitude

Argus's inbuilt atlas/gazetteer automatically manages latitude, longitude, time zones and daylight saving times.

There are about 120,000 cities covering most places in the world.

To extract a city / place from the gazetteer observe the following:

- **Choose either the field 4 - Latitude / City or 5 - Longitude / City.**
- **Enter the name of the required city for the chart to be calculated and select the ENTER key or click outside the data field.**

If the search for the city / place is successful the 3 - Zone, 4 - Latitude and 5 - Longitude are inserted in the Input Menu.

City 'not found'

If the city is not found, or if there is more that one city having the same name, a list of cities will be displayed for manual selection. You may Page Up and Page Down in order to find the city you are searching for.

If you find the appropriate entry in the listing provided you may either double-click the City entry or select the ENTER key.

If the city / place is not listed and cannot be found, you may of course enter the latitude, longitude and zone manually.

Sex

This data field entry is not mandatory, but it may be practical to provide the appropriate information.

The data is saved in the Namefile. It may be used for sex dependant interpretations, research, etc.

Positions

R - Radix - calculation of the birth chart

The birth chart is calculated by selecting 'R' or by clicking Positions | Radix.

The Radix output indicates Planetary Zodiacal position and House position.

Under Preferences | Astrological options | Abbreviations you may choose whether you require output to display astrological glyphs or use abbreviations.

There is also an option whether Chiron should be included or not.

The Chart-wheel

To display a Chart-wheel, select 'V' or click (Charts | Chart-wheel).

Under (Preferences) there are different options for the following:

- Chart style
- Orientation
- Aspect style
- Glyph size
- Positions size
- Line width
- Positions

These options allow the user to choose how the glyphs and aspects are drawn, how large the glyphs should be, if positions are printed with rounded degrees or with degrees and minutes, etc, etc.

There are also four different chart styles to select from.

Aspect calculation

Under the Methods pull-down menu two aspect tables are available:

- A - Aspects (internal)
- OA - Aspects (cross)

For each aspect displayed, you will notice two sets of figures, the second set prefixed by a '+' (plus) or '-' (minus) symbol:

- The orb value displayed in degrees minutes
- '+' if applying; '-' if separating
- Daily aspect orb change

The Orb speed is especially interesting for Progressed charts, so that you can see if the aspect is slow or acute.

Aspect Grid

Note that an Aspect Grid for I-Aspects is available. Select Charts | Aspect Grid.

Chart calculation ..... continued

Once the Radix is calculated you may want to calculate another chart, e.g... transit, progressed, synastry, etc.

Select SPACE to evoke the Input Menu and enter the appropriate data using the "Current" tab sheet.

Then go to Positions or Methods to run the required non-Radix chart.

Now if you want to know which aspects are formed in/from the other chart, click (Methods | Internal aspects) or (Methods | Cross-aspects). The internal aspects are mutual aspects between positions in one chart only, while the cross aspects connect positions between two charts.

Orb definition

When calculating aspects, you are able to choose which aspects to display and what orbs they use.

Furthermore, you have an option to configure four different sets of aspect definition. This means that you can use different aspect requirements for differing chart types, e.g. Radix, Progressed, Synastry, etc.

For instance, in a Radix chart you may allow up to 8-10 degrees for a Sun opposition Uranus (I-aspect), while in Synastry you may allow three degrees (x-aspect), etc.

To determine the orb limit, select Data | Orb definition. The orb menu has a field called "Master orb", which you may use for this purpose..

In the Orb Definition menu choose one of four orb schemes: R, P, S or C.

These schemes determine: individual orb rules for:

- Individual orbs for each planet
- How to combine two planetary orbs
- Individual orbs for each aspect

To edit these orb definitions choose a scheme by clicking the Configure button.

The orb scheme "None" means, that only the master orb and no scheme is active.

Bi-Wheel

Having calculated both a Radix and one other chart type, selecting 'W' or clicking Charts | Bi-Wheel produces a Chart-wheel with two circles of positions:

- An inner circle holding the Radix positions
- An outer circle holding the other chart.

This chart type has a fixed aspect style, planet size and no degrees and minutes, due to lack of space.

Namefile

When entering new birth data in the Input Menu, it normally would be advisable to save the data to the Namefile. This facilitates later access, thus not having to enter the same data twice.

To call the Namefile Window select Namefile from the Input Menu.

To save your birth data from the Input Menu to the Namefile, move the cursor to where you want the data stored and select Store. Normally you will use the END key to move to the end of the file and then save the data.

However, you may save the data and insert it anywhere in the Namefile. In that case the new data is inserted between existing entries, therefore nothing is overwritten.

Namefile options:

- t Namefile - Search
- t Namefile - Sort (alpha, numeric, anniversary)
- t Namefile - Create new
- t Namefile - Import Dos format
- t Namefile - Add / Edit notes

NAMEFILE - importing from DOS

ARGUS creates a directory called ARGUS on the hard disk. If you have an earlier version of PCA v2.x installed, the Windows installation will leave the original Dos installation intact.

The file which held the collection of charts in your Dos version of PCA is called `NAMEFILE.DAT'.

Normally, this (old format) file was installed to a directory on your hard disk called EEZ.

Before you do anything with this file, it is recommended to back the file up to a diskette etc using the Dos COPY command, or Windows Explorer, Windows File Manager, etc.

Then, make a copy to the Argus directory on the disk drive you have installed it on, e.g. `C', `D', etc.

Then, to transfer the birth data from the old (DOS) format, you will find a function for this under:

- t Data | Input Menu | Namefile | File | Import Dos Namefile.

The default Namefile in Argus is called PCA.NFI

Namefiles - Appending

If you have the default Namefile open `PCA.NFI' and choose to IMPORT a Namefile, the Namefile you import will APPEND to your current open Namefile_!

Importing multiple Namefiles - to new multiple Namefiles

If you have several Namefiles in Dos format which you wish to convert to PCA Windows format do the following:

- t Data | Input Menu | Namefile | File | New
- t Data | Input Menu | Namefile | File | Import Dos Namefile

Printer output

In order to activate the printer you may select either of the following:

- **Click File | Printer | Start printing**
- **Select `99'**

Activating the printer changes the status indicator at the bottom of the screen showing when the printer is active.

Now try to calculate a Radix or select a Chart-wheel as explained previously. In this case the output goes both to the Screen and Printer.

However, at this point the printer may not seem physically activated. This is because the Windows Print Manager buffers (spools) the printer output in order that it does not interfere with print jobs from other programs.

To spool the processed printer output and physically activate the printer choose:

- **Click File | Printer | Terminate printing**
- **Select `9X'**

There are print layout options by selecting Preferences | Print page options.

The Printer Menu has a number of options apart from Commence Printing and Terminate Printing:

Printing ....continued

Print Abort - 9z
Abort print procedure

Print Suspend - 9o
Temporarily suspends output to the printer. This allows you to output to screen only (to experiment) for a moment without having to terminate the print job.

Print Resume - 9i
Resumes the temporarily suspended printing.

Form feed - 9f
Page eject, even if the current page is only partially written.

Line feed - 9l
Insert one blank line.

Keyboard shortcuts

Most Windows users prefer to use the mouse wherever possible. In that case the mouse seems easy to use and the keyboard is relegated as a text input device.

However, if you use the keyboard, you may find that it executes certain functions more speedily. This is true especially if the program offers one-key presses.

Of course, it may take a bit of effort to learn appropriate key selections.
Argus has a number of one-key commands, mainly inherited from the Dos version. The appropriate key stroke is displayed at each menu option.

Numeric key options

The Input Menu offers numeric key selections, numeric keys `0-6'. This allows the user to select and edit a data field.

You may complete the editing of the appropriate field by selecting the ENTER key.

Alternatively, you may navigate the Input Menu using TAB, SHIFT-TAB, Arrow keys and the other navigators on the keyboard.

Macros

Macro - definition

In earlier Dos versions of PCA a Macro was sometimes referred to as a "command line" or "command queue". However, most programs use the word MACRO.

A Macro is a series of program commands, which become assigned to a single key selection and are executed by that single key press.

The need for a Macro arises when the same sequence of commands are required several times.

Macros - example

You may require printed output consisting of Radix positions plus Chart-wheel for a series of charts. These chart entries may be in the Namefile and are each to be printed on one page.

Do the following:

1) Go to the first Namefile entry of the ten charts to be processed making sure that the Namefile pointer highlights that first chart entry.

2) Select Fetch to insert Namefile entry in Input Menu.

3) Select `C - Macro′ or click on the MACRO part of the status line at the bottom of the screen.

(....also see Help | Macro).

4) Now enter this macro: `99RV9X′ followed by ENTER or click OK.

99rv9x Means the following:

99 start print process
r print Radix positions
v print ChartWheel
9x terminate printer

If you then select `C - Macro′ again, the macro dialogue box shows the latest executed macro as default.

If you Fetch the next Namefile entry then select `C - Macro′ and simply press ENTER or click OK to repeat the sequence. An `=′ (equal sign) extracts the Namefile entry into the Input Menu. E.g.., =99rv9x

To repeat (loop) a macro terminate it with `C.′ (The letter `c′ followed by a full-stop). Such a macro will continue infinitely and the Status Bar will indicate the macro engaged. To abort select ESC. E.g. =99rv9xc.

Macros - data input

Some commands require data. In that case you may insert data into a Macro. To do so, you must terminate by using a full-stop.

For example, entering the date 13th Feb, 1922.

The macro would look like this: 1 13 2 1922.

Please note:

1) The `1' means open Input Menu field `1 - Date′.

2) The terminating full stop which means ENTER.

Accessories: Interpretations and modules

Argus has a capability of text interpretation add-ons. These are available as optional extras.

Interpretations

ARGUS is not provided with interpretation texts. Different interpretation texts are available for ARGUS which you can buy as optional extras.
In principle, it is possible to run interpretations written for the DOS version of PCA. Interpretations can be written by anyone as long as the XLI programming language is used.

The XLI programming language can be found on this CD. For customised versions of

texts please call 07000 171666.

XLI - modules XLI - modules

XLI is Argus's dedicated programming language which is used for the writing of astrological interpretations, research, program customisation, etc, etc.

You may already have XLI modules and interpretations on your hard disk, e.g. from the DOS version of PCA.

You may create new pull-down menu for these items. (Up to 15 interpretations and 15 XLI modules.)

XLI - Programming

Argus has a complete inbuilt scripting language - XLI. What this means, is that with XLI programming knowledge, it is possible to write your own interpretations and modules.

XLI is particularly useful for complex interpretation structures and research / search modules.

The functions in the Dos programming manual also apply to a large extent to ARGUS.
A number of free sample XLI modules are also available n this CD:

Editing

ARGUS has an inbuilt text-editor for editing (small) XLI-files.
It is called by clicking File | Edit.

Finally, you may enter XLI-commands in the macro-input line, if you start it with a $-sign. Try for instance to enter this macro:

$GRON 0 64 FOR 153 1 CNT 1024 MUL 2000 0 0 DRSYM NEXT

Preferences

ARGUS offers a variety of user definable options. Clicking Preferences will display the options available. Most of them are self-explanatory.

Under Astrological Options you'll find a number of astrological techniques, that may not be familiar to you. Unless you know what you are doing, you should leave these options on their defaults.

The menu option Save to Disk means, that the current settings will be saved, so that they are the defaults next time you use the program.

If you just are experimenting with different settings, or if you realize, that you may have made a mistake which you don't know how to restore, then don't select Save to Disk, but quit the program and restart. Then the original settings will reappear.

Save to disk also saves the orb definitions, which you can define in Data | Orb limit | Configure.

This concludes the getting-started manual. For more in-depth explanations, use the Help pull down on the programs main menu.

BST
The date changes to and from

BST and GMT since

1998 29 March - 25 October
1999 28 March - 31 October
2000 26 March - 29 October
2001 25 March - 28 October
2002 31 March - 27 October
2003 30 March - 26 October
2004 28 March - 31 October
2005 27 March - 30 October
2006 26 March - 29 October
2007 28 March - 28 October