

# Dr. Pillai's Message

“Using Astrology is really practical, not a superstition. I have observed it and I'm glad that the Supreme Court of India, University Grants Commission and the Parliament of India have now all passed laws and appropriateness to uphold Vedic Astrology as a science. Yet we have to do a lot of work to bring Vedic Astrology to the knowledge community of the West, which will happen. That is going to be one of my tasks in this lifetime.” ~ *Dr. Pillai, Founder of AstroVed*

# Background From Valli

- Several years ago, Dr. Pillai gave a beginning presentation on Vedic Astrology to several of us in Meena's home (then in New Jersey), using blank flip chart paper and black marker.
- He taught us to draw the layout for the South Indian Chart (Dr. Pillai is from Tamil Nadu, a state in southern India), step by step.
- This was like watching a Nobel Prize winner teach ABC's to beginners! He was so patient with us.
- Please be patient with yourself in learning this if it is new material for you. I did not learn it myself overnight!

# South Indian Chart: Some Basics

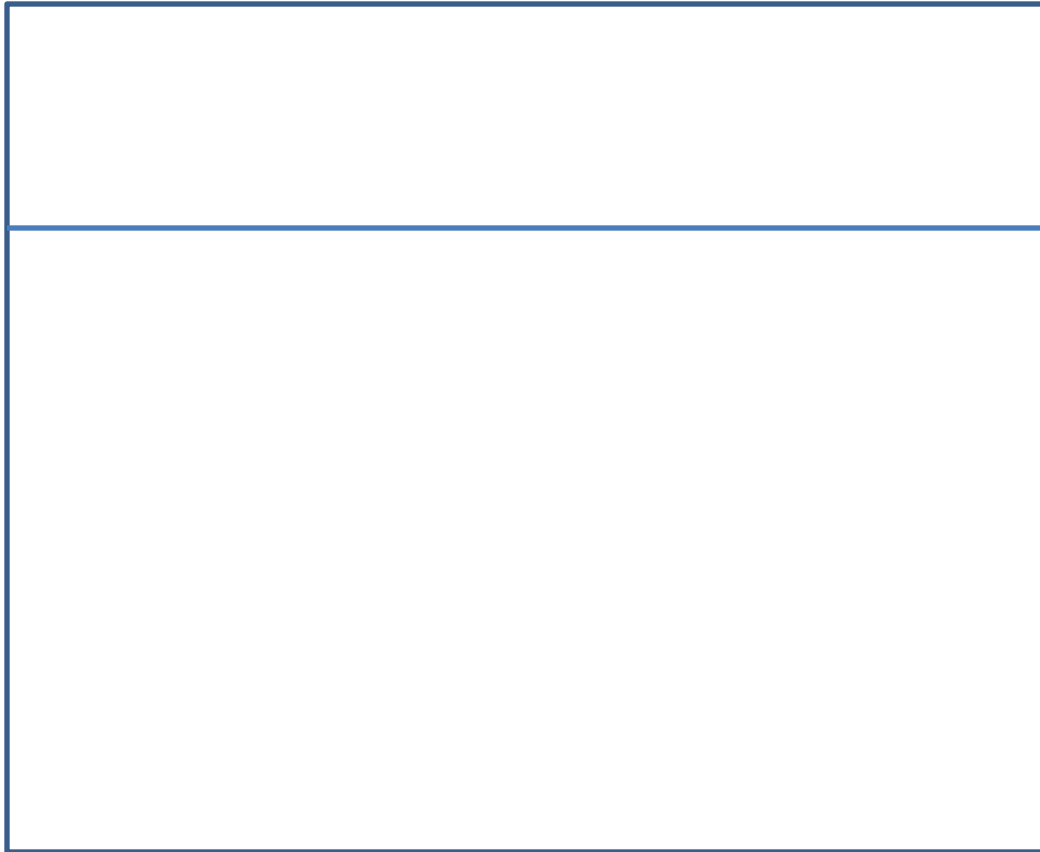
- Both the North Indian and South Indian Vedic Astrology Charts present the same information, and each uses in a different layout or map.
- We are using the South Indian Chart layout in the Vedic Astrology Club (VAC).
- It will help you immensely to memorize the layout for the South Indian Chart. Most people can memorize this material in a week's time if they put their mind to it.
- Make the commitment to yourself to learn this!

Hint: Follow along with drawing the chart yourself on a separate paper.

- This is how Dr. Pillai showed us to draw a South Indian style chart.
- The South Indian style chart is our basic "roadmap" for looking at a chart.
- Just as we once learned compass directions on a map, we need to learn some basic elements of "layout." These are easiest to learn by drawing them.



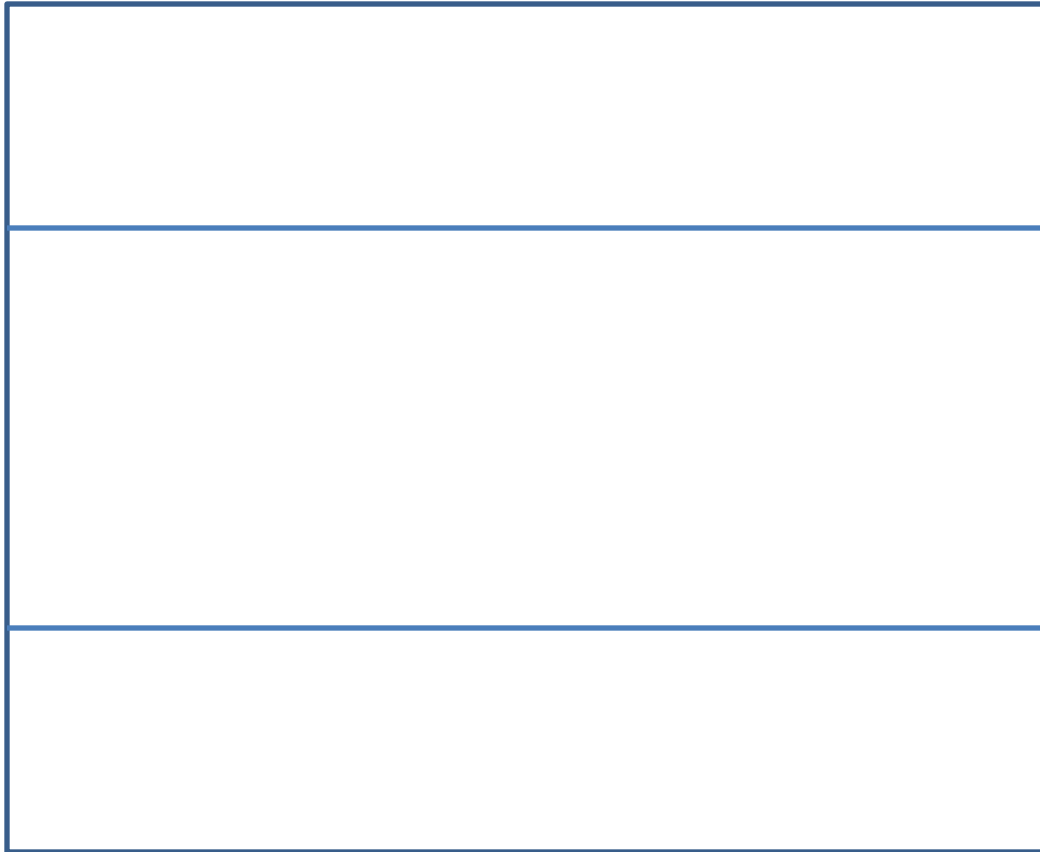
Step 1: Draw a Large Square (either on paper or chalkboard).  
(Traditionally this is done by drawing the line across the top,  
then the line across the bottom, then the line on the left side,  
then the line on the right side of the square.)



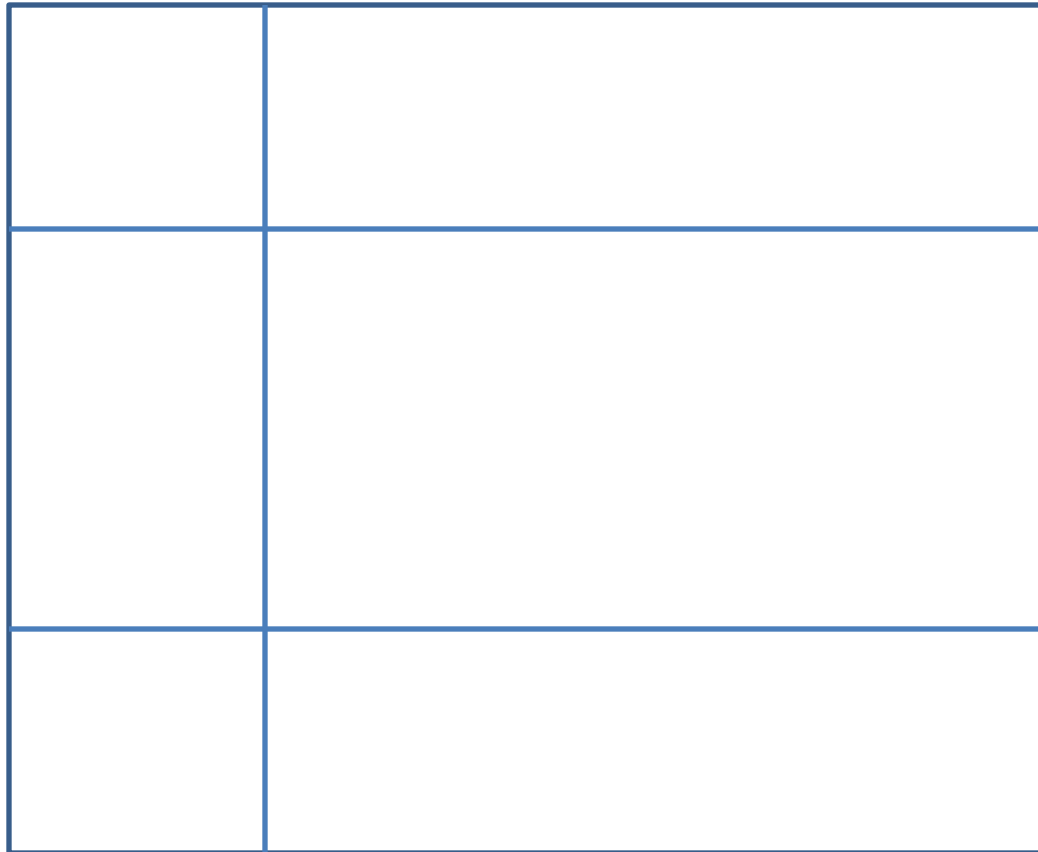
In the next 4 steps (2a - 2d), you will draw 4 straight long lines to create sections within the square.

Step 2a: Section the Square, First Line:

**Draw 1 line parallel to the top, approximately 1/4 of the way down from the top.**

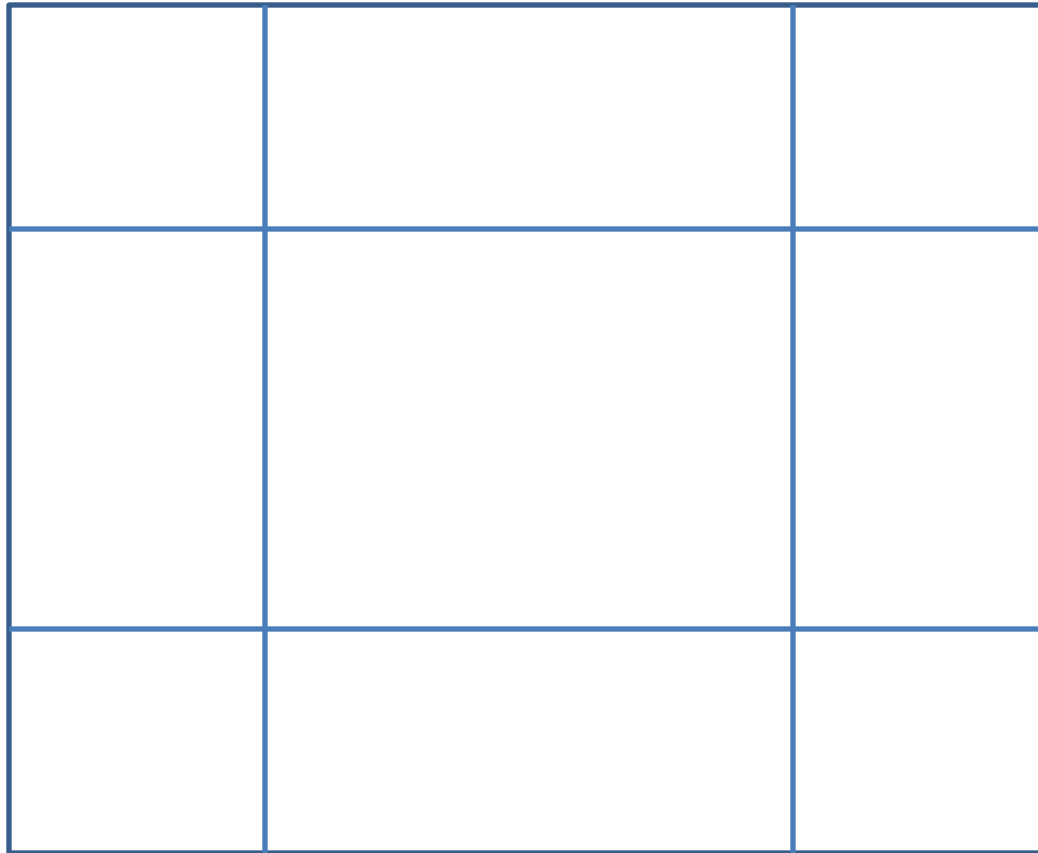


Step 2b: Section the Square, Second Line:  
**Draw 1 line parallel to the bottom,**  
**approximately  $1/4$  of the way up from the**  
**bottom.**

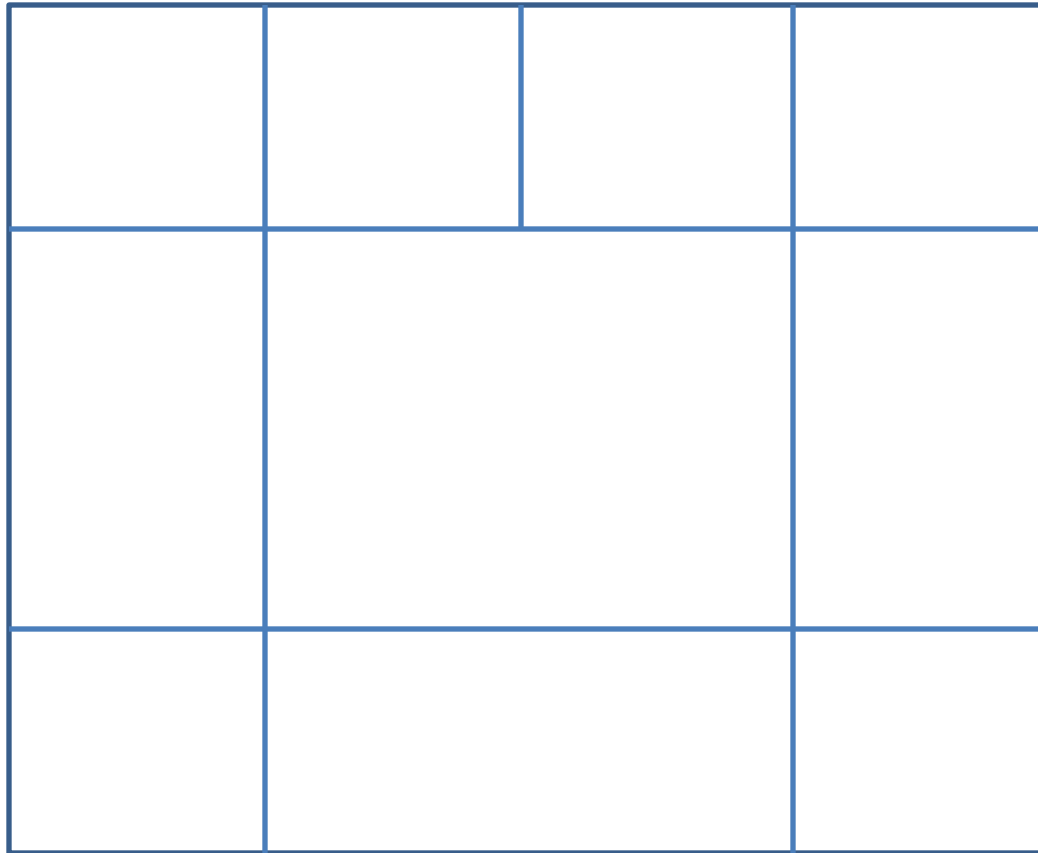


Step 2c: Section the Square, Third Line:  
**Draw 1 line parallel to the left side,  
approximately  $1/4$  of the way in from the left  
side.**  
**Note. The lines will cross over in some places.**





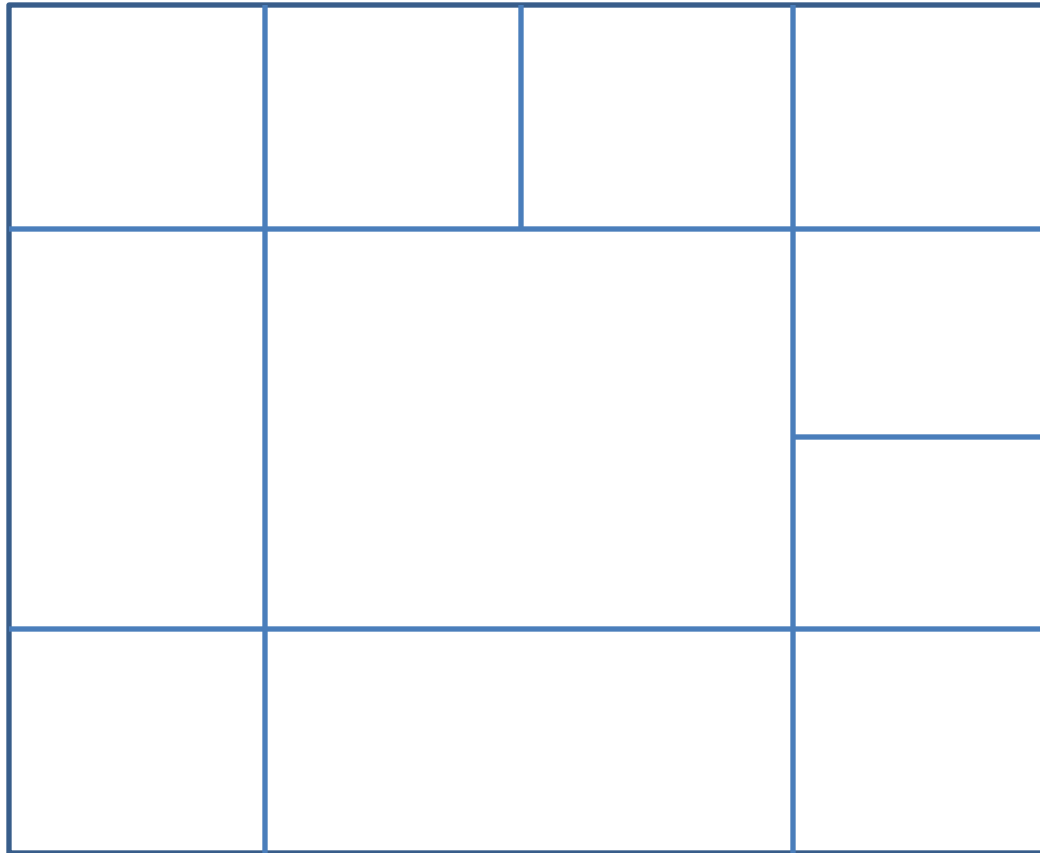
Step 2d: Section the Square, Fourth Line:  
**Draw 1 line parallel to the right side,**  
**approximately 1/4 of the way in from the**  
**right side**  
**Note. The lines will cross over in some places.**



In the next 4 steps (3a - 3d), you will draw 4 small lines to split each rectangle in half.  
Note: Do NOT cross over any lines in making the small line.

**Step 3a: Split the top "rectangle" section in half with a small line.**

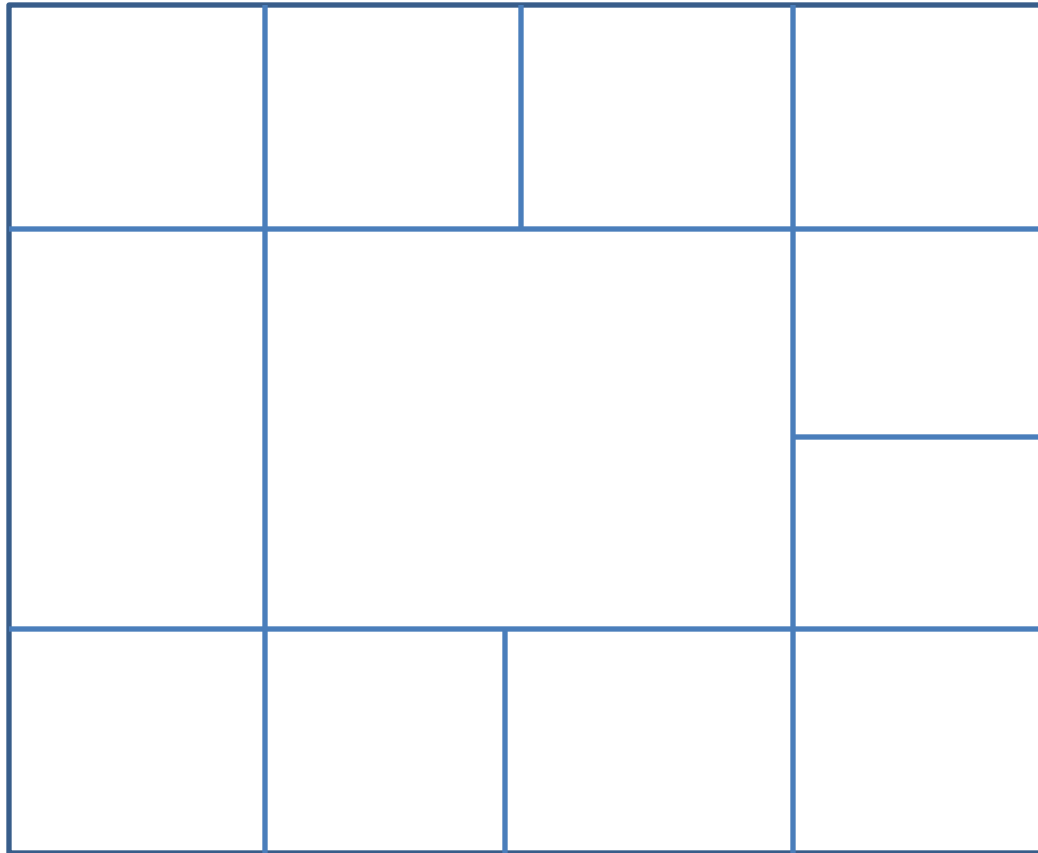
The result of the first small line is four boxes across the top.



Step 3b: **Split the right side "rectangle" section in half with a small line.**

Note: Do NOT cross over any lines in making the small line.

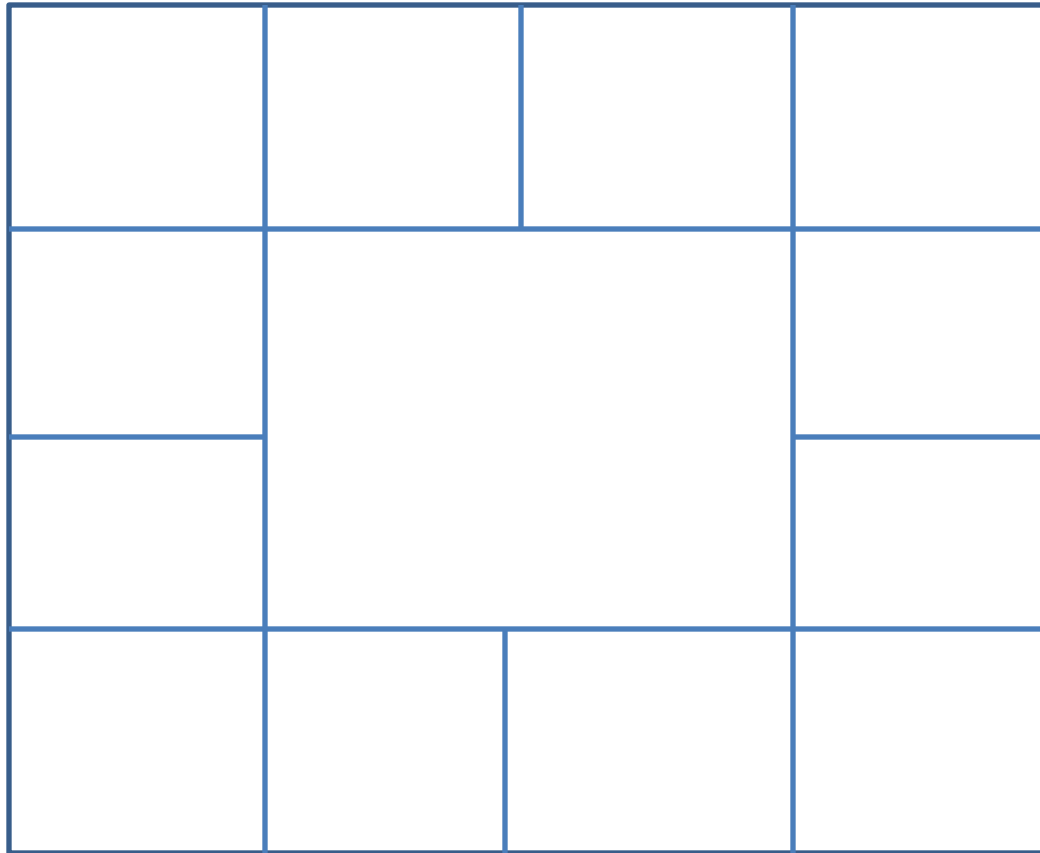
The result of the second small line is four boxes along the right side.



Step 3c: **Split the bottom "rectangle" section in half with a small line.**

Note: Do NOT cross over any lines in making the small line.

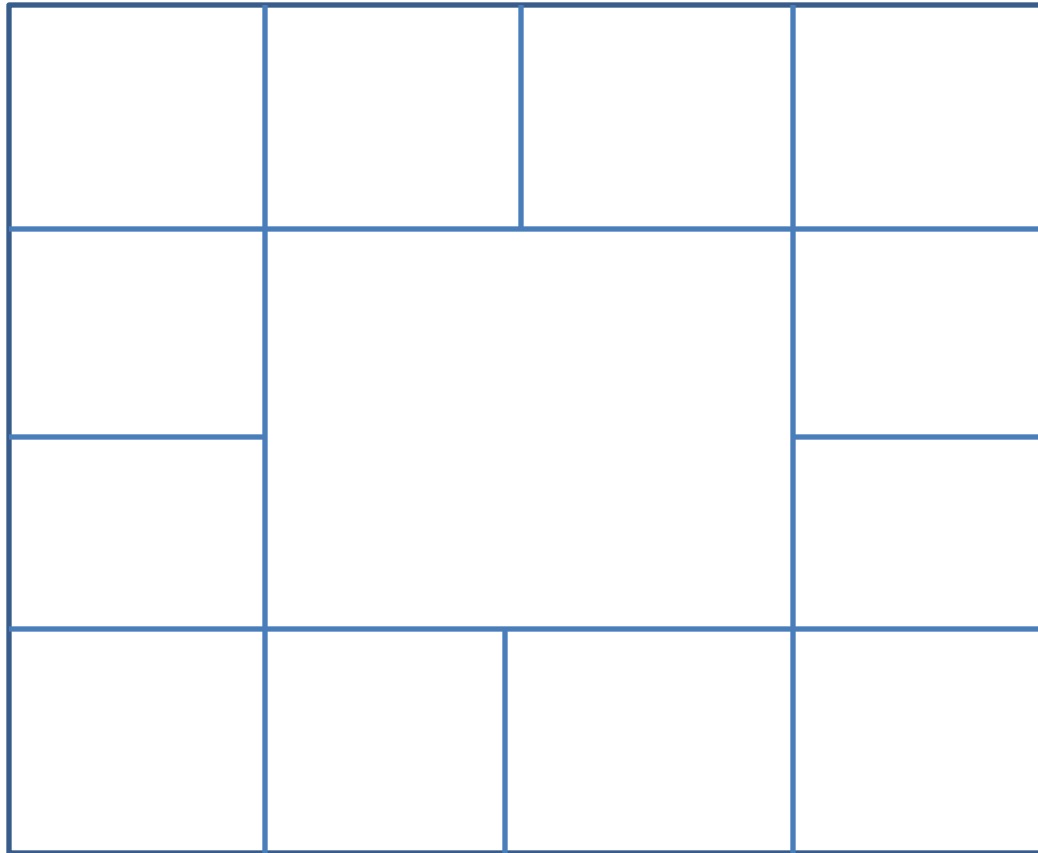
The result of the third small line is four boxes along the bottom.



Step 3d: **Split the left side "rectangle" section in half with a small line.**

Note: Do NOT cross over any lines in making the small line.

The result of the fourth small line is four boxes along the left side.



Congratulations! You've now drawn the basic outline for South Indian Chart.

The final result of the 4 small lines is:

- 4 boxes along the top
- 4 boxes along the right side
- 4 boxes along the bottom
- 4 boxes along the left side

# 12 Zodiac Signs (called Rasis in Sanskrit)

- Each of the 12 small boxes represents one Rasi or Zodiac Sign.
- Each Rasi is a "heap" of 30 degrees of the 360 degree Zodiac.
- We are going to label the boxes with their Zodiac Sign.
- In South Indian Chart, the boxes ALWAYS have the same Zodiac Sign label.

# Some Zodiac Facts

- The entire Zodiac is ALWAYS listed in this order:
- ARIES comes first in the procession of the Zodiac as Sun is exalted in Aries. When Sun goes into Aries (in the middle of April), this is the Tamil New Year. So ARIES has a role as a "beginning point" in terms of learning how to label these boxes (Signs/Rasis) in South Indian Chart.



# Step 4: Labeling the Signs (Rasis)

Always Start with Aries and go in clockwise direction in labeling the Signs

- ARIES (top row, 2nd from left)
- TAURUS (top row, 2nd from right)
- GEMINI (top row, right corner)
- CANCER (right side row, 2nd down from top)
- LEO (right side row, 3rd down)
- VIRGO (bottom row, right corner from top)

# Continue in clockwise direction to complete the Zodiac

- LIBRA (bottom row, 2nd from right)
- SCORPIO (bottom row, 2nd from left)
- SAGITTARIUS (bottom row, left corner)
- CAPRICORN (left side row, 2nd up from bottom)
- AQUARIUS (left side row, 3rd up from bottom)
- PISCES (top row, left corner)

PISCES	ARIES	TAURUS	GEMINI
AQUARIUS			CANCER
CAPRICORN			LEO
SAGITTARIUS	SCORPIO	LIBRA	VIRGO

### Step 5: **Result of Labelling Signs (Rasis) into the Boxes**

In the South Indian style chart, these boxes will ALWAYS have these meanings.

Dr. Pillai has said we must learn the order of the Zodiac signs, so try 4 a night and you're done in under a week. Always start with Aries and end with Pisces.

# Zodiac Name Abbreviations

- Often, the Sign (Rasi) names are abbreviated.
- Usually just the first 2 initial letters are used.
- Abbreviating the Sign (Rasi) name leaves more room for the Planet (Graha) names when we are doing a birthchart for someone.
- If someone has several planets in one Sign (Rasi), that "box" can get crowded!
- For now, it's ok to write the Sign (Rasi) name out in full to help you learn them.

# List of Zodiac Abbreviations

- ARIES            AR
- TAURUS        TA
- GEMINI        GE
- CANCER        CA
- LEO            LE
- VIRGO         VI

# List of Zodiac Abbreviations Cont'd.

- LIBRA LI
- SCORPIO SC
- SAGITTARIUS SA
- CAPRICORN CA
- AQUARIUS AQ
- PISCES PI

	JUPITER	MARS	VENUS	MERCURY	
	PISCES	ARIES	TAURUS	GEMINI	
SATURN	AQUARIUS			CANCER	MOON
SATURN	CAPRICORN			LEO	SUN
	SAGITTARIUS	SCORPIO	LIBRA	VIRGO	
	JUPITER	MARS	VENUS	MERCURY	

**Step 6: Learn the rulers of the Signs (the planetary ruler or "lord").**

Each Rasi is "ruled" by an a Graha. = Each Sign is "ruled" by a Planet.

Above, the planetary ruler has been shown for each sign outside the sign's "box".

	JUPITER	MARS	VENUS	MERCURY	
	PISCES	ARIES	TAURUS	GEMINI	
SATURN	AQUARIUS			CANCER	MOON
SATURN	CAPRICORN			LEO	SUN
	SAGITTARIUS	SCORPIO	LIBRA	VIRGO	
	JUPITER	MARS	VENUS	MERCURY	

Memorize the planetary ruler for each sign. The ruler is ALWAYS the same, regardless of where the planet falls in the person's chart. For example, Venus ALWAYS rules Libra even if Venus is sitting in Pisces in someone's chart.



# Planetary Rulers of Signs

- Normally, charts do not show the ruler outside the box.
- Until you have them memorized, you may wish to write them in pencil outside the box or to refer back to this presentation.
- It will REALLY help you to memorize what Planet (Graha) rules what Zodiac Sign (Rasi).
- Only the visible Planets (Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus and Saturn) rule signs. (The “shadow grahas” Rahu and Ketu do not rule any signs).

# List of Planetary Rulers for Signs

Sign (Rasi)	Planetary Ruler (aka Graha Lord)
Aries	Mars
Taurus	Venus
Gemini	Mercury
Cancer	Moon
Leo	Sun
Virgo	Mercury
Libra	Venus
Scorpio	Mars
Sagittarius	Jupiter
Capricorn	Saturn
Aquarius	Saturn
Pisces	Jupiter

	<b>JUPITER</b>	<b>MARS</b>	<b>VENUS</b>	<b>MERCURY</b>	
	<b>PISCES</b>	<b>ARIES</b>	<b>TAURUS</b>	<b>GEMINI</b>	
<b>SATURN</b>	<b>AQUARIUS</b>			<b>CANCER</b>	<b>MOON</b>
<b>SATURN</b>	<b>CAPRICORN</b>			<b>LEO</b>	<b>SUN</b>
	<b>SAGITTARIUS</b>	<b>SCORPIO</b>	<b>LIBRA</b>	<b>VIRGO</b>	
	<b>JUPITER</b>	<b>MARS</b>	<b>VENUS</b>	<b>MERCURY</b>	

Step 7: A “story” to help memorize the layout of which sign is ruled by what planet. This works best if you have already memorized the order the signs come in on the South Indian Chart.

# Study Aid “Story”

- Picture a person laying on their side, sort of overlaying the boxes, like a reclining Vishnu statue.
- Picture the head of the person to the right and the feet of the person to the left.
- The Sun and Moon each rule only one Rasi (Sign). Their Rasis are by the "head" or "brain" area in our story.

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# Study Aid “Story” 1

- The Sun rules Leo (lion/king) and the Moon rules Cancer (crab/ocean tides).
- Mercury rules two Signs which come in pairs corresponding to the throat area of our story person.
- Mercury rules Gemini and Virgo. Mercury has influence over communication.

# Study Aid “Story” 2

- Venus rules two Signs which come in pairs corresponding to the heart area of our story person.
- Venus rules Taurus and Libra. Venus has influence over devotion.
- Mars rules two Signs which come in pairs corresponding to the navel area of our story person.
- Mars rules Aries and Scorpio. Mars has influence over will power.

# Study Aid “Story” 3

- Jupiter rules two Signs which in pairs corresponding to the root area of our story person.
- Jupiter rules Pisces and Sagittarius. Jupiter has influence over spiritual teachings.
- Last, Saturn rules two Signs which come at the end of the story person's body, like 2 feet.
- Saturn rules Aquarius and Capricorn. Saturn is the "servant" among the planets.



# Study Aid “Story” Caveat

- This is just a study aid “story.”
- This story has nothing to do with the parts of the body associated with the planets or signs. It is just a story to help you remember the rulers of the signs.
- If you have another way to help you memorize what planet rules what sign, please feel free to use that.

# Beginner Mind: Have Fun!

- We are using the South Indian style chart in the Vedic Astrology Club (VAC).
- VAC calls will be more enjoyable for you if you take the time to learn the layout of the South Indian style chart:
  - How to draw it
  - What Zodiac Sign (Rasi) belongs to what box
  - What Planet (Graha) rules what Sign (Rasi)
  - Enjoy being a beginner. It's a happy stage in learning something new!

# Personal Note From Valli

- I salute you as a “pioneer” in helping to bring this ancient divine science into our everyday modern world.
- Every one of you who learns this now is making it easier for others down the road as a larger cultural psychic space is being “opened up” as you make friends with the knowledge.
- There was a time in the West when the words *dharma*, *karma* and *yoga* were new. Now they are more commonly understood by the general population.
- You are helping new words like *graha* (planet), *rasi* (sign) and *bhava* (house, which we will cover later) come into the consciousness of the West.
- I appreciate your time and effort in learning something new.
- The light in me salutes the light in you. Namaste.

~ Mother’s Day/Akshaya Tritikya, 2013