

Adding Dwarf Planets to Astro Gold and Solar Fire

by Sue Kientz

If you're a smart phone user and a serious astrologer, you likely use the Astro Gold app, where you can view and save natal charts, check transits, and even run secondary progression and other interpretive techniques. Did you know you can also add Dwarf Planets to your wheel? It's quite easy:

ADDING ERIS AND SEDNA TO ASTRO GOLD

1. Open Astro Gold and click "Settings" at the screen bottom.
2. Click "Displayed Chart Points."
3. Scroll down to just after Pluto, and click on Eris and Sedna

Sadly those are the only two trans-Neptunian Dwarf Planets available in Astro Gold. Hopefully someday more will be added, like Makemake and Haumea, which are each 50% larger than Sedna.

You can also add Dwarf Planets to Solar Fire, and while it's not as simple as in Astro Gold, it's straightforward if you know what buttons and selections to click. Here's what it takes to add and therefore begin to experiment with vastly underestimated Dwarfs like Makemake and Haumea:

ADDING MAKEMAKE, HAUMEA, OTHERS TO SOLAR FIRE

(These instructions work for both Solar Fire versions 8 and 9)

1. Open Solar Fire, click "Chart Options" in the top navigation bar, then click "Displayed User-Defined Points."
2. Click "Edit" to change the current file you are using for User-Defined Points.
 - If nothing is in User-Defined Points, click "Create," name file "Dwarf Planets" and click OK, then click "Edit."
 - If you want to preserve your current file, click "Copy," type in new name, then "Save." Your new file will be highlighted; click "Edit."
3. Next dialog box, click "Asteroid" radio button at right under Point Type, then click "Select File" button below that.
4. Next dialog box, click "Edit" to modify whatever file you've been using, or click "Create" and type in a name like "Dwarf Planets" and click OK.
5. Next dialog box, at right under Location, make sure radio of "Swiss Ephemeris" is selected and click "Refresh List" button below it.¹ Click OK to warning "This will search for all asteroid files...." Included in the Asteroid list are the Dwarf Planets.
6. Once the Available Asteroids list reloads, scroll down list to get your desired Dwarf Planet(s). Some are at the top in their original alphanumeric names as well as in the alphabetical list. Find and click each one you want, to move it to the left list "Selected Asteroids."² (Both alphanumeric and name files are identical; select the official name if available.)
 - Makemake: scroll for "Makemake" ("2005 FY9" at top is same file).
 - Haumea: scroll for "Haumea" ("2003 EL61" at top is same).
 - Gonggong: "2007 OR10" only at top; Solar Fire has not yet added its name.
 - Quaoar: scroll for "Quaoar" and so on until you get all you want.
7. Once done moving Dwarfs to Selected Asteroids, click "Save."
8. Next box, click "Select."

9. Next box, click “Makemake” under Available Points at right, then click “Add” button below. Your new Dwarf Planet will appear on the left list, “Selected Points.”
10. Below the Selected Points list, you can edit how Makemake is shown on screen. You can change its font color, font name, and type out its name (at “Abbr”; limited to 7 characters that show up in Reports). For a Glyph, use “M” as it’s easy to remember and what I use in *More Plutos*.
11. Repeat steps 9-10 for “Haumea” and any others. Suggested Abbr and Glyphs for a few:
 - Haumea = H
 - Gonggon = GG
 - Quaoar = Q
12. When done editing, click “Save.”
13. Next screen, click “Select.”
14. Now open a chart and see your new Dwarf Planet in Solar Fire. You can run secondary progression or do anything you'd do with other planets.

ADDING ERIS AND SEDNA TO SOLAR FIRE

I did not refer to Eris and Sedna in above instructions because those two have built-in glyphs that are widely accepted, so to get those glyphs, edit your main planetary body file:

1. Click “Chart Options” in the top navigation bar, then click “Displayed Points.”
2. Next box, click “Edit” (to add Eris and/or Sedna to your default file).
3. Next box, click Eris or Sedna in the right-hand list to move them to “Selected Points” at left.
4. Click “Save,” then “Select” at the next box, and you’ve now added Eris and/or Sedna to your charts.

While it’s simpler to put Eris and Sedna in Solar Fire, note you don’t have the ability to customize the color, icon, or name for these two.³ However, simpler is better if you just want to try out some Dwarf Planets and see if their placement in your chart, the charts of your loved ones, or client charts, looks intriguing, helpful, or demystifying. I realize that adding Makemake, Haumea, and the others *is* a lot of work! But after researching them for 12 years now, I assure you, those Dwarf Planets are totally worth the one-time effort.

¹ The value of refreshing the Swiss Ephemeris is that those files get updated periodically as the folks maintaining the orbital files at NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory periodically refine orbits due to more observations, and AstroDienst then updates the Swiss Ephemeris. The changes have not been significant (I’ve recently checked), even over a few thousand years, but you likely want your positions to be as accurate as possible.

² Sometimes a Dwarf Planet (such as 2002 MS4) or Asteroid may not be listed, even after reloading the Swiss Ephemeris. You can still get the object into Solar Fire if the Asteroid/Dwarf Planet has an official number (so this won’t work for brand-new objects). I ran into this problem with 2002 MS4 and have the steps needed on my website; see

<http://moreplutos.com/news.html#new-dwarfs-into-sf>

³ If you’ve read *More Plutos* or seen charts on my website, you likely noticed I developed glyphs for Orcus, Gonggong, Varda, Edison (2002 AW197), 2002 TX300, Sedna, and others. You can get those glyphs by installing the Windows font found here, with instructions: <http://moreplutos.com/news.html#orcus-glyph-improved>

Sue Kientz, author of *More Plutos (2015)*, has studied astrology since 1977 and specializes in the largest Asteroids (Pallas, Vesta) and new Dwarf Planets (Eris, Makemake, Haumea, Sedna, Gonggong, Orcus, and others). Sue is writing a general-audience book on the Dwarfs, casting their addition to Astrology as a transformational breakthrough, comparable to Medicine's discovery of microorganisms. Visit MorePlutos.com to read free book chapters from More Plutos as well as other published articles, Dwarf Planet keywords, and other fun facts. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MorePlutos>; E-mail: Sue@MorePlutos.com