




◆ ASTROLOGICAL RESEARCH ◆

The Crosses of the Natal Chart

Balance, Imbalance and the Dynamics of the Modalities

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 CARDINAL	 FIXED	 MUTABLE
Aries · Cancer · Libra · Capricorn	Taurus · Leo · Scorpio · Aquarius	Gemini · Virgo · Sagittarius · Pisces

Analysis with Contemporary Public Figures

1. Introduction: The Hidden Geometry of the Chart

The natal chart is far more than the sum of its planets and signs. There exists a deep geometry that organises human energy and behaviour: the Astrological Crosses, also known as Modalities or Quadruplicities. These crosses — Cardinal, Fixed and Mutable — divide the twelve signs of the zodiac into three groups of four, forming a cross when viewed on the zodiacal circle.

Unlike the sun sign, which reveals only one facet of personality, the crosses reflect the fundamental operating pattern of the individual: how they act, how they persevere, how they adapt. When a chart has a balanced distribution across the three types of cross, the native tends to manifest versatility and resilience. When there is a pronounced dominance, or a marked absence, behavioural patterns emerge that may represent both the person's greatest talents and their greatest obstacles.

This article explores in depth the three crosses, their manifestation in balance and imbalance, and compares these patterns with real charts of contemporary public figures, demonstrating how astrological theory translates into observable behaviour. This analysis refers to the natal chart; in another article I will examine how these crosses are modified by predictive techniques, and the years in which one modality predominates over the others.

The modalities do not tell us what someone thinks, but how they act. They are the inner rhythm of being.

— Liz Greene, Jungian Astrologer

2. What Are the Astrological Crosses?

The astrological crosses are one of the oldest classification tools in astrology. Each of the twelve signs belongs to one of the three modalities, forming groups of four signs separated by 90 degrees (square) and one quadrant from each other. This configuration literally creates a cross in the chart when the four signs are connected by lines.

2.1 The Structure of the Three Crosses

Cross / Modality	Signs	Predominant Element	Keyword
Cardinal	Aries, Cancer, Libra, Capricorn	Fire, Water, Air, Earth	INITIATE
Fixed	Taurus, Leo, Scorpio, Aquarius	Earth, Fire, Water, Air	PERSIST
Mutable	Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces	Air, Earth, Fire, Water	ADAPT

Each cross contains one sign from each element (fire, earth, air and water), which means that the modality transcends elemental divisions — it is something more fundamental than the element, closer to the "how" than the "what".

2.2 How to Calculate the Weight of the Crosses

To assess the crosses in a natal chart, astrologers distribute the planets across the three groups. The most commonly used are the ten traditional planets: Sun, Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. The Ascendant and Midheaven are also frequently included by some astrologers due to their significant angular weight.

A cross is considered dominant when it contains five or more planets, and deficient when it has zero, one or two planets. The ideal distribution would be approximately three to four planets per cross, though this rarely occurs with perfection.

3. The Cardinal Cross: The Energy of Action

3.1 Definition and Characterisation

The Cardinal Cross is the cross of initiative, spontaneous action and leadership. The cardinal signs — Aries, Cancer, Libra and Capricorn — mark the beginning of the four seasons of the year, and this "opening" nature manifests in behaviours oriented towards the new, towards impulse and towards change.

The native with a strong Cardinal Cross is someone who "makes things happen." They have a natural capacity to initiate projects, to mobilise energy and to respond to challenges with direct action. Their energy is centrifugal — it moves outward, towards the world.

3.2 In Balance

When cardinal energy is balanced in the chart (not excessively dominant, but well represented), the native manifests:

- Natural leadership without the need to dominate
- Ability to take initiative at the right moment
- Creative response to new situations
- Renewed energy when facing new challenges
- Strategic vision combined with the capacity for execution

3.3 In Imbalance

3.3.1 Cardinal Excess

An excess of cardinal energy (six or more planets in the cross) manifests as chronic impulsivity, inability to finish what is started, scattered energy, a compulsive need for change and difficulty appreciating what has already been achieved. The native initiates dozens of projects but rarely completes them. They may be perceived by others as unstable or irresponsible.

Cardinal energy without fixed anchorage is like a firework: brilliant for a moment, but fleeting.

— Stephen Arroyo, *Astrology, Karma & Transformation*

3.3.2 Cardinal Deficiency

The absence or scarcity of cardinal energy (zero to one planet) creates difficulty in initiating, fear of change, a tendency towards procrastination and dependence on others to take the lead. The native may have brilliant ideas but become blocked at the point of execution. They frequently wait for "the perfect moment" that never arrives.

4. The Fixed Cross: The Energy of Persistence

4.1 Definition and Characterisation

The Fixed Cross is the cross of determination, endurance and depth. The fixed signs — Taurus, Leo, Scorpio and Aquarius — are found in the middle of the seasons, at a moment of consolidation and stabilisation. Their energy is centripetal: it deepens, concentrates and sustains.

The native with a strong Fixed Cross is someone who "stays the course." They have remarkable endurance, an extraordinary capacity for perseverance and a fierce loyalty to their convictions. Once a direction is established, fixed energy sustains it with tenacity.

4.2 In Balance

- Healthy persistence without pathological stubbornness
- Loyalty and reliability as relational pillars
- Ability to deepen topics and relationships
- Emotional strength and resilience in moments of crisis
- Building of lasting legacies

4.3 In Imbalance

4.3.1 Fixed Excess

An excess of fixed energy manifests as inflexible rigidity, pathological resistance to change, stubbornness that harms relationships and projects, possessiveness and difficulty releasing what no longer serves. The native may become literally "stuck" in situations, relationships or ways of thinking that should have been left behind.

4.3.2 Deficiency Fixed

The absence of fixed energy creates a lack of perseverance, inability to sustain long-term commitments, emotional inconsistency and difficulty deepening anything. The native may have genuine talent but cannot "stay" long enough to cultivate it.

5. The Mutable Cross: The Energy of Adaptation

5.1 Definition and Characterisation

The Mutable Cross is the cross of flexibility, synthesis and transition. The mutable signs — Gemini, Virgo, Sagittarius and Pisces — occupy the end of the seasons, preparing the transition to the next. Their energy is fluid, dissolving and integrating.

The native with a strong Mutable Cross is someone who "transforms." They have remarkable adaptive intelligence, can see multiple perspectives and function well in environments of change and uncertainty. Their strength lies in synthesis and versatility.

5.2 In Balance

- Intelligent flexibility without loss of identity
- Capacity for synthesis and integration of opposites
- Empathy and understanding of multiple perspectives
- Continuous learning and openness to change
- Communicative and mediating ability

5.3 In Imbalance

5.3.1 Excess Mutable

An excess of mutable energy manifests as chronic inconsistency, inability to make definitive decisions, generalised anxiety, a tendency towards mental dispersion and difficulty committing. The native may be perceived as "slippery" or lacking backbone. Over-adaptation to the external environment can lead to a loss of one's own sense of self.

Mutability in excess is the wisdom that has forgotten where it stands, the chameleon that has lost its original colour.

— Isabel Hickey, *Astrology: A Cosmic Science*

5.3.2 Deficiency Mutable

The absence of mutable energy creates rigidity of thought, difficulty adapting to new circumstances, lack of relational flexibility and a tendency to force situations to follow one's own mental structure, even when the context has changed. The native may excel at initiating (cardinal) or maintaining (fixed) but cannot release, revise or transform.

6. The Crosses in Action: Analysis of Public Figures

The following analysis compares the astrological profile of well-known public figures with their documented behavioural patterns. This comparison serves as an exercise in empirical validation of the theoretical concepts presented. Chart data is based on reference astrological sources (Astrodatabank).

6.1 Cardinal Dominance — Steve Jobs (1955–2011)

★ Steve Jobs	
Sun Sign / Dates	Pisces (Sun) / Aquarius Ascendant 24 February 1955
Dominant Cross	Dominant Cardinal Cross (Sun, Moon, Mercury, Jupiter, Uranus in cardinal signs)
Type of Imbalance	Cardinal Excess with some Fixed tension (Mars in Aries, Saturn in Scorpio)
Expression of Imbalance	Extreme impulsivity in decisions, inability to delegate, sudden abandonment of projects, difficulty maintaining stable relationships, dismissal from Apple in 1985
Public Manifestation	Revolutionary product launches (Mac, iMac, iPod, iPhone), each product as a new creative "big bang"; energy that constantly reset the game

Concrete Examples	The sudden abandonment of products and teams; the creation of NeXT Computer as a new beginning after dismissal; the return to Apple as another "new beginning"
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Jobs exemplifies cardinal excess in its purest form: brilliance in initiation, chronic difficulty with continuity. His legendary obsession with the "next product" at the expense of the current one is a textbook manifestation of cardinal energy in excess. Walter Isaacson's biographical studies document his inability to maintain focus without constantly creating something new.

6.2 Fixed Dominance — Madonna (1958)

★ Madonna Louise Ciccone	
Sun Sign / Dates	Leo (Sun) / Virgo Ascendant 16 August 1958
Dominant Cross	Extremely Dominant Fixed Cross (Sun in Leo, Mars in Taurus, Pluto in Leo, Uranus in Leo)
Type of Imbalance	Fixed Excess, brand rigidity, refusal to reinvent herself ideologically
Expression of Imbalance	Fierce refusal to accept obsolescence, extensive legal battles over creative control; relationships marked by possessiveness and power conflict
Public Manifestation	A 45-year career maintaining relevance, total control over image and production, fierce loyalty to her artistic values even under massive commercial pressure
Concrete Examples	Legal proceedings against ex-husbands and collaborators, maintaining her artistic vision against record labels, refusal to compromise musically

Madonna is a paradigmatic case of fixed energy. Her longevity in the music industry is not accidental — it is structural. The ability to resist changing trends, to maintain a strong identity for decades, and her refusal to relinquish creative control are clinical manifestations of the fixed cross. When fixed energy is in service of something genuine, it creates legacies. When in imbalance, it creates conflict.

6.3 Mutable Dominance — Keanu Reeves (1964)

★ Keanu Reeves	
Sun Sign / Dates	Virgem (Sol) / Caranguejo Ascendente 2 de Setembro de 1964
Dominant Cross	Dominant Mutable Cross (Sun in Virgo, Mercury in Virgo, Venus in Libra/cusp, Saturn in Pisces, Neptune in Scorpio with mutable influence)

Type of Imbalance	Excess Mutable equilibrado por alguma energia cardinal (Ascendente Caranguejo)
Expression of Imbalance	Historical difficulty in defining a clear public persona, career path with large project fluctuations, well-known privacy and refusal to publicly self-define
Public Manifestation	Versatility of roles, from Neo (The Matrix) to John Wick, from Don John (Much Ado About Nothing) to comedic roles; constant adaptation of style, absence of a rigid "brand"
Concrete Examples	Acceptance of salary reductions to include veteran actors, absence of major agency representation, donation of a large portion of Matrix earnings, fluid adaptation to context

Reeves represents mutable energy in a relatively balanced expression. His well-known generosity, his refusal to define himself rigidly, the versatility of his roles and the ability to navigate the industry without the typical power patterns of A-list stars are all mutable traits. The absence of scandals and his reputation as a "good person" in a toxic environment reflects the synthesis and adaptive fluidity of this modality.

6.4 Balanced Chart — Meryl Streep (1949)

★ Meryl Streep	
Sun Sign / Dates	Cancer (Sun) / Leo Ascendant 22 June 1949
Dominant Cross	Balanced distribution (Cardinal: 3, Fixed: 4, Mutable: 3)
Type of Imbalance	Functional balance with slight Fixed dominance
Expression of Imbalance	When in momentary imbalance, tendency towards excessive control of projects and paralysing perfectionism (Saturn in Virgo)
Public Manifestation	Initiative in choosing roles (cardinal), depth and technical mastery (fixed), versatility and adaptation to genres and eras (mutable)
Concrete Examples	21 Oscar nominations, working with directors of completely different styles, maintaining a relevant career for 5 decades, capacity to initiate, sustain and transform roles

Streep is frequently cited as the example of how a balanced chart manifests in mastery — she initiates projects with cardinal discernment, deepens roles with fixed endurance and adapts with mutable fluidity. The result is a career that transcends eras, genres and expectations: the hallmark of someone who uses all three energies in a coordinated way.

6.5 Special Case: Elon Musk (1971)

★ Elon Musk	
Sun Sign / Dates	Cancer (Sun) / Leo (possible Ascendant) 28 June 1971
Dominant Cross	Cardinal and Fixed Cross in tension (Sun in Cancer/Cardinal, Mars in Aquarius/Fixed, multiple planets in tension between the two crosses)
Type of Imbalance	Tension between Cardinal Excess and Fixed Excess, the classic "initiator-keeper" in conflict
Expression of Imbalance	Extreme oscillation between impulsivity and stubbornness, impulsive tweeting vs. fierce maintenance of positions, sudden dismissal of executives vs. refusal to abandon long-term visions
Public Manifestation	Tesla, SpaceX, Starlink, X (Twitter) — a pattern of radical initiatives (cardinal) maintained with obsession (fixed) and resistance to all external criticism (fixed in imbalance)
Concrete Examples	Impulsive acquisition of Twitter (cardinal) followed by rigid implementation of his vision without adaptation (fixed), dismissal of experienced engineers and immediate stubbornness regarding new policies

Musk is a fascinating case of inter-cross tension. His cardinal energy generates the creative impulse and the revolutionary initiatives, while fixed energy sustains them with a resistance that borders on dogmatism. The near-absence of mutable energy in his public profile — the inability to adapt to feedback, to revise positions or to integrate external perspectives — is consistent with the widely documented behavioural patterns.

7. General Comparative Framework

Aspect	Cardinal	Fixed	Mutable	Balanced
Verb	Initiate	Sustain	Adapt	Integrate
Strength	Leadership, impulse	Endurance, loyalty	Flexibility, synthesis	Complete versatility
Excess	Impulsivity, dispersion	Rigidity, possessiveness	Inconsistency, anxiety	—
Deficiency	Procrastination	Lack of commitment	Rigidity of thought	—
Exemplo Balanced	Indira Gandhi	Nelson Mandela	Albert Einstein	Meryl Streep
Imbalance Example	Steve Jobs (excess)	Madonna (excess)	Keanu (mild excess)	Elon Musk (tension)

8. Practical Application and Therapeutic Considerations

Recognising the cross pattern in a natal chart has significant practical application in the context of astrological counselling and personal development. Identifying the dominant or deficient modality allows the native to understand repetitive behavioural patterns that they often recognise in themselves but cannot explain.

8.1 Para Excess Cardinal

- Developing completion practices — celebrating endings as much as beginnings
- Working with accountability structures (mentors, reliable partners)
- Learning to anchor energy through body routines (yoga, meditation)

8.2 Para Excess Fixo

- Deliberately practising change of environment and perspective
- Developing genuine active listening of contrary perspectives
- Working therapeutically on identifying when persistence becomes pathological resistance

8.3 Para Excess Mutable

- Creating external accountability and commitment structures
- Practising conscious decision-making and remaining with choices for defined periods
- Developing an immovable core of values to serve as an identity anchor

9. Conclusion

The astrological crosses constitute one of the most subtle and operationally valid tools in astrology. Their conceptual simplicity — initiate, sustain, adapt — conceals considerable psychological depth when applied to the analysis of real charts.

As demonstrated through the public figures analysed, documented and observable behavioural patterns correspond with remarkable consistency to modality distributions in natal charts. Steve Jobs initiated but did not complete; Madonna sustained but resisted change; Keanu adapted but avoided self-definition; Meryl Streep integrated all three energies into artistic mastery.

This correspondence does not imply determinism — the chart does not define destiny, but describes the nature of available energy and habitual response patterns. The work of personal development consists precisely in cultivating awareness of these patterns, and in choosing, deliberately, how to use them.

Astrology, through the use of this technique, thus offers not only a tool for understanding others, but for recognising oneself — a mirror that reflects not what we are, but how we are.

The map is not the territory, but it is the most faithful map we have of the inner territory.
— Richard Idemon, *The Magic Thread*

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