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This is dedicated to my son Alexander.

*With thanks to Cathy Jonas for her editing skills
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WHAT CAN A PALM READING REVEAL?

To arrange the photos for this book I held an open day, where some of my former palmistry students gave free readings to guests. As the photographer worked steadily through the available hands in the next room I mingled, giving short readings to visitors, most of them complete strangers.

Four people were sitting at a round table on the back porch and I asked a woman in her late sixties if she'd like a reading. I explained to Wendy that she was creative and that her forked Head line suggested she had writing talent. She confirmed that she had kept a diary in her early twenties but gave it up when her children arrived.

I briefly explained the main lines of the hands and produced my magnifying glass to examine her relationship line and lines of children.

"Have you lost a child?" I asked softly. I didn't want to upset my guest but one of the lines of children suggested that the child might predecease the parent.

"Yes. Yes I have. Eight years ago," she replied. The others around the table immediately leaned forward, intrigued by the turn in the conversation.

"I see three children," I said, angling her hands for the best viewpoint.

"No, I have two; two daughters."

"I can see the two girls but there is a boy appearing after them. It's a strange thing to say but this boy is actually closer to you than the two girls. You seem to have a very strong connection to him."

Wendy looked at me in shock as the truth of what I was describing dawned on her.

"My daughter's son lives with me now. My husband has gone and we live together. He looks after me. He is my deceased daughter's boy. Can you see all of this in my hands?" Her hand was trembling slightly in mine so I ended the reading on a positive note.

"It's good that you have your grandson. Family; looking after each other," I said, squeezing her hand softly. As I stood up to go she reached for her handkerchief to

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dry her eyes.

Most major events are visible in our hands long before they actually occur and forewarned is forearmed. If you know something is going to eventuate before it happens, you can prepare for it or change your course. At birth we are each given a map, stamped into our skins so that we don't lose it. It is astounding to observe the clear lines, signs and markings on the hands of children only hours or days old and to realise that there is a destiny to match the map they carry. These hand-maps detail people they will meet, who they will marry and even the children they will have. This record on our hands means that, most times, a solution to a problem is within our grasp. The use of free will determines whether we follow this plan or change it.

I remember reading the hands of a nine-year-old girl and I mentioned the three children she will probably give birth to in the future. The girl's eyes widened and I could see that she had never thought she would be a mother herself one day. Even her grandchildren showed on her hand. It felt strange to give predictions of events that are likely to occur long after I have passed away.

It is important to be thorough when reading hands, as hasty judgements made after a quick glance at someone's hands can lead to errors. There are often contradictory signs in the hands. The person might be arrogant yet sensitive, forgetful while very good at remembering numbers or quick-minded but also dreamy. Examine the hands carefully before saying anything.

This book is laid out in the order I give palm readings. This method has the least number of contradictions when reading hands. There are usually inconsistencies in people's hands, for many of us are naturally contradictory.

WHY DOES PALMISTRY WORK?

The hands and the brain are closely connected by nerves. The brain instructs the hands to perform intricate tasks, such as writing, grasping objects or playing musical instruments. In turn, the hands relay to the brain important information such as temperature, texture etc.

This two-way communication is constant and is often automatic or subconscious. Once we have learned to eat with a knife and fork, it is no longer necessary to think consciously about how we are going to cut up a piece of food and place it into our mouths. We do it automatically, often as we talk, listen or think about something else. Our hands, however, are still busy informing our brains that we are holding a knife and fork while our brains continue transmitting messages to our hands.

This intricate flow of nerve impulses between the brain and the hands has side effects. The exchange of energy gradually alters the lines and mounts (the fleshy pads on the palm) on the hands. ‘As a man thinks; so he becomes,’ is an old saying that truly captures the essence of palmistry.

As major decisions and important life events determine personal directions, corresponding lines correlate on the hands. The shape of an individual’s hands and the lines on the palms indicate important future events coupled with natural reactions and decisions when facing such challenges. Most people’s responses to future problems and challenges are based on past experiences and decisions. By carefully examining earlier and present circumstances, it is easy to predict an individual’s likely responses to future events.

Although our hands foretell the future, that future is not fixed. It holds many different possibilities from which we are free to select. By exercising free will when making decisions, we are able to change the course of our lives from those moments forward, despite what the line in our hands predict. The hands reveal a most likely direction based on where we currently stand in life. Some individuals are fatalistic,

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accepting that life is mapped out for them, whereas others seize opportunities to change the directions of their lives.

By carefully examining the lines of the palms it's possible to predict when prospects for love, marriage, career advancement and travel will arrive. Being prepared for opportunities helps people make the most of them.

When Isabella came for a palm reading she was exhausted from trying to make an unhappy love relationship with her partner Doug, more rewarding. Her hands revealed that another chance for a more fulfilling partnership was likely to arrive two to three years ahead, so Isabella decided not to keep working on her current situation. Instead she ended her association with Doug and moved on with her life.

Isabella changed jobs and began studying accountancy at university, where she met Michael. Five years after her palmistry reading she brought Michael for a reading, as they were planning to be married and she wanted to know that they were a suitable long term couple. While Isabella sat in the waiting room I recorded Michael's reading onto a CD as usual, knowing that Isabella would probably be listening to it more than Michael. Conscious that she'd eventually meet Michael helped Isabella find the courage to leave an unrewarding relationship and build more self-esteem plus a better life for herself with a new job and career training.

Palmistry offers insights into what major life events have shaped a person and the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. It can also highlight what habits or negative behaviours hinder a person in his or her path in life. Knowing what to change can sometimes improve life experiences.

There are many chances for observing fingers and thumbs for budding palmists: from focussing on a person reading a newspaper on the train to noticing someone giving you change at the local sandwich shop or watching a news reader's hands on television. All of these momentary glimpses provide interesting information for vigilant palmists.

When reading hands, it is important to examine the fingers and thumbs first, before the client even opens his or her hands to you for a reading. My palm readings often begin at the front door as I welcome my client. When shaking hands, I notice the hand temperature, moisture and the shape of the fingernails. The fingers represent the personality, so it is logical to begin with the outer self then work inwards. The fingers on the hand are numbered from one to four and each is named after a planet. (In this

book, they are referred to by their planetary name.) Each finger represents a certain aspect of personality, as follows:

- **First finger (index) – Jupiter**

The first finger represents ambition, independent ideas and beliefs, religious or philosophic needs and self-worth. It reveals how much self-reliance and inner strength a person has. If this finger is curved it indicates a lack of self-confidence.

The index finger usually reaches to half way up the first phalange of the Saturn (second) finger. When the Jupiter finger is short, the person generally lacks ambition. If it is long, the individual has dynamic leadership and teaching abilities.

- **Second finger (middle) – Saturn**

This finger is the measuring reference for all of the fingers. The first and third fingers are usually the same length, ending at half way up the top phalange of the second finger. The Saturn finger represents balance (between introversion and extroversion, work and play, responsibility and freedom). It also includes a sense of duty, reputation and aspirations. This finger reveals how effectively a person organises goals and manages finances.

When the Saturn finger is long, the person is usually hard-working, introverted and a serious student. If it's short, it indicates a lack of planning for the future with less awareness of the possible consequences of actions.

- **Third finger (ring) – Apollo**

The third finger represents creative abilities, self-expression (e.g. acting, writing, public speaking, sports, dancing), gambling tendencies plus an appreciation for beautiful objects and surroundings. This finger reveals if the person is cautious (if short) or prefers to take risks to gain rewards if longer than usual.

The Apollo finger normally reaches to the same length as the Jupiter finger; half way up the first phalange of the Saturn finger. If this finger is longer than usual, the person prefers well-lit environments, appreciates classical beauty and can be impulsive with spending or investing generally. If shorter than usual, this indicates disinterest in art and creativity plus a general lack of awareness of beauty, aesthetics or personal surroundings. These people can live or work in plain, unkempt environments. They are also more cautious when spending money.

When this finger leans towards Saturn, the individual usually prefers melancholy forms of art such as gloomy paintings and songs in minor keys or sad poetry..

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- **Fourth finger (little) – Mercury**

The fourth finger represents communication, business acumen, the ability to remember numbers, to study mathematics, medicine and to mimic others. It also represents quick, witty thoughts and ideas. This finger reveals how well the person communicates and negotiates with others. Good talking and debating skills often improve career and business success. A well-developed Mercury finger highlights natural networking skills.

The usual length of the Mercury finger is to the line between the first and second phalanges on the Apollo finger. If this finger is long the individual tends to notice opportunities for advancement before others. When the Mercury finger is short, it indicates less business acumen. However it is usually short on Conic hands because these hands have a lower set Mercury finger. This explains why fewer conic handed people succeed in business long-term.

If the Mercury finger curves towards the Apollo finger the person is likely to be cautious about revealing personal information to others. If it is crooked (and not resulting from an injury) the person is likely to be dishonest when communicating with others.

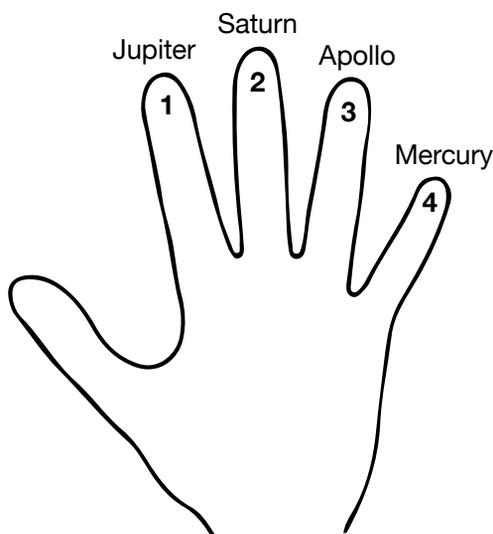


Figure 1. *The Fingers*

FINGERS –

Are You a Big Picture Person or Do You Prefer Details?

Gaps between the fingers

A noticeable gap between the **Jupiter and Saturn fingers** indicates healthy confidence and self-worth. These people often have religious or spiritual philosophies that are independent of others. They are independent thinkers and not easily swayed by the opinions of others.

An unusually wide gap between the **Saturn and Apollo fingers** indicates someone with little or no concern for what tomorrow holds. It is rare to see this in the hands. I recall two examples in particular: an elderly lady who was dying of cancer and living only for the day and a young girl who had recently recovered from a serious illness. This girl made no plans for tomorrow, she was too focused on the present.

People with gaps between **Apollo and Mercury fingers** strive to keep themselves separate from what they are communicating. For example, a salesperson with this gap may be able to communicate clearly and easily when it comes to a product or concept but often finds it difficult to express personal feelings and emotions.

Individuals with wide gaps between Apollo and Mercury fingers are difficult to get close to emotionally. They are naturally reticent about exposing themselves but prefer to keep how they feel hidden. Some palmists believe that a wide gap here is a sign of an affair or a secret relationship but I have found nothing to substantiate this.

The inclination of fingers

Any finger that is longer or straighter than normal or more independent than the others generally has fewer restrictions. This means the qualities of the mount beneath

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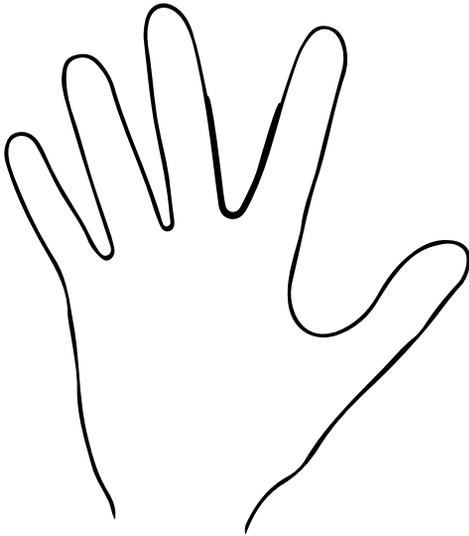


Figure 2. *Gap between the Jupiter and Saturn fingers*

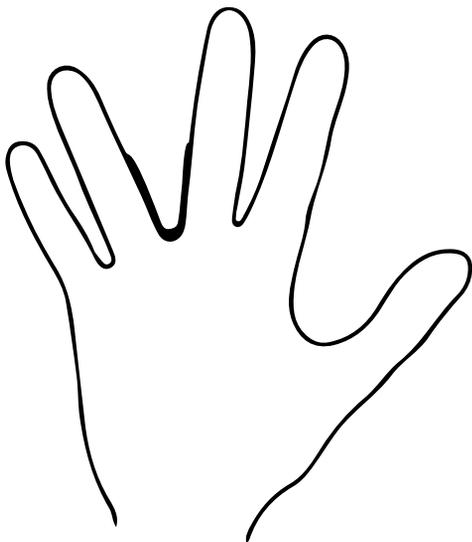


Figure 3. *Gap between the Saturn and Apollo fingers*

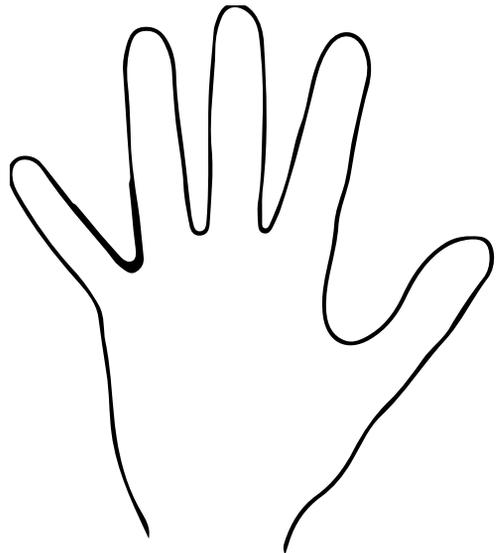


Figure 4. *Gap between the Apollo and Mercury fingers*

Fingers – Are You a Big Picture Person or Do You Prefer Details?

that finger are more noticeable in the person's nature. Fingers curving into one another indicate someone who is cautious and lacks self-confidence.

Fingers that are widely spaced when the hand is at rest on a table suggest a person who is a risk taker or reckless, with no thought for tomorrow. This carelessness can extend to money, secrets and material possessions. **Finger that are very close together** or tend to curve into each other indicate someone who is cautious, hesitant and lacking in self-confidence. These individuals are sometimes fearful and even become frozen when unexpected opportunities arrive.

When the Jupiter finger inclines towards the Saturn finger, it suggests a lack of self-esteem to pursue goals and ambitions. With these individuals, it is as though life has sapped their confidence in their abilities.

When the Saturn finger leans towards the Jupiter finger, the person is usually more extroverted. These people generally love company, thriving on contact with other people. **When the Saturn finger inclines towards the Apollo finger**, the person tends to be an introvert but to be certain, look for other signs in the hand (see the Mounts of the Hand, page 88). Introverted people enjoy their own company and periodically need



A noticeable gap between the Apollo and Mercury fingers

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Fingers widely spaced



Fingers curved into each other



Inclining Jupiter finger



Saturn finger leaning towards the Apollo finger

time to reflect. Strong mounts of Saturn, Luna or Pluto increase introverted tendencies whereas prominent Venus, Jupiter, Mercury or Apollo mounts indicate extroverted dispositions.

When both the Saturn and Apollo fingers incline towards each other, the person usually has a strong sense of responsibility and duty. This frequently occurs when responsibilities early in life demand the person's energies be invested elsewhere; for example, having to take care of younger siblings. These people can find it difficult to take a break and rest during a project, for their minds are usually focused on the work that is yet to be completed. They may find it difficult to delegate tasks to others, either micro-managing or checking the standard of the finished job.

The first or top phalange (segment) of the fingers represents intellectual energy, whereas the second or middle phalange indicates social energy. The base of third phalange signifies the individual's physical reserves of energy. If one of these phalanges or sections is noticeably longer or more full than the others (across all four fingers) it reveals how a person relates to the world.

If the first phalanges are large or well developed, it indicates that the person rapidly grasps ideas and concepts. She can arrive late to a meeting or a discussion and quickly catch up. This individual is comfortable with conceptual thinking and often needs to know what purpose particular actions serve. There is an innate need to know the method and purpose of plans and actions.

If the second or middle phalanges are longer or well developed, this person is likely to be sociable. He or she thrives in the company of others and (opposing factors aside) would not like working or living alone. This is a person who enjoys regular customer contact in a job.

If the lower or third phalanges are full it describes a sensual person. This individual needs plenty of touching in the course of an average week to know that he or she is alive. The preferred choice is for a pet that likes being brushed, held and patted so this person is more likely to choose a dog than a bird or a goldfish.

When depressed or lonely, people with full lower phalanges of the fingers tend to eat more. It's as though the food replaces human contact. Likewise for people with full or fleshy base mounts of the hands (see fig 14. Page 59. Divisions of energy).

When the middle phalange of the Mercury finger is noticeably shorter than the first or third phalanges, this is often a symptom of a childhood issue. The person was

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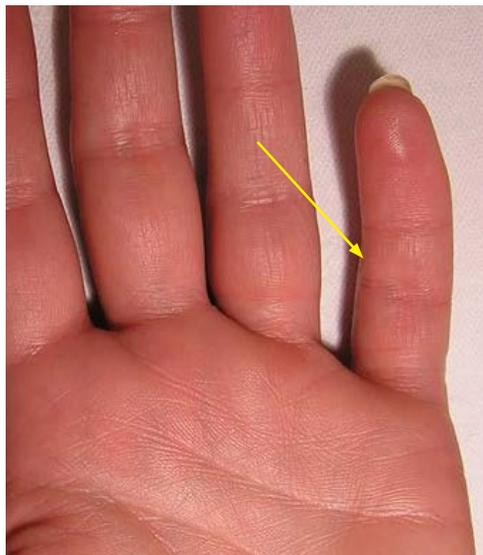
Inclining Mercury finger



Independent Mercury finger



Full first phalanges



Second phalange of Mercury finger is short

Fingers – Are You a Big Picture Person or Do You Prefer Details?

probably raised by a parent or a guardian who was unpredictable, unreliable or prone to bouts of anger and rage. The child discovers that if she tells that parent something about herself on Monday, she might be praised for it. However, if she tells them the same thing on Thursday she might be punished for it.

Consequently, the child learns to say less to avoid conflict. This strategy is often carried through to adulthood. As a consequence, it's possible to be well acquainted with these people for many years and yet actually know very little about them. They are politically careful about what they reveal and to whom; never being sure what reaction might result.

When teaching palmistry I joking tell students that if you want to meet their friends, you often have to wait for their funeral to see all of their social circles in one place at one time. They are capable of revealing only one facet of themselves at a time to different people, so that nobody knows all about them. They value stability and usually choose an emotionally stable and predictable partner, if not at first, then later in life. The stable partner is probably someone with square hands (see page 71).

THUMBS – Do You Welcome Change or Resist It?

Thumbs are an important part of hand reading. The fingers highlight personality, whereas the palms detail events throughout life. Thumbs describe a person's inner nature, willpower and logic or reasoning ability. For example, someone with conic finger nails and a square thumb nail might be attracted to change or novelty; impulsive on the surface yet steady and even conservative at heart due to the square thumb. This person generally mixes well with conic handed people, yet is more at home with square-handed people (see Part 2). The conic fingernails with square thumbnails are typical of people who love to travel to new and undiscovered destinations each year but need order, stability and comfortable routines in everyday life.

In some parts of India and Asia, palmistry consists of reading the thumbs only. The thumb is a central part of the analysis for that particular system of hand reading. This book deals with the ancient Greek system of palmistry where both sides of both hands are carefully examined during the reading process. When under extreme pressure, regardless of the hand shape, people usually display the qualities of the shape and size of their thumbs.

Thumb size

The thumb represents will (first phalange) and logic (second phalange) and the size and fullness of each section is important. The proportions of the thumb measured from the tip to the rascette (the chained line across the wrist) are usually 20% (first), 30% (second) and 50% (third phalange).

To determine if a thumb is high or low set, measure with a rule the distance between the base of the first (Jupiter) finger and the point where the thumb leaves the

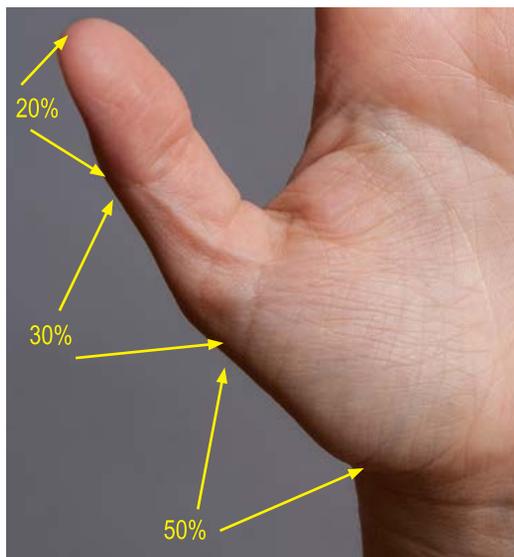
hand. If this measurement is around the same length (+ or - 10%) of the first phalange of the Jupiter finger then the thumb is medium set. If it is significantly longer, the thumb is low set. If it is noticeably shorter, the thumb is high set.

Average thumb phalange proportions:

- **First phalange** 20%
- **Second phalange** 30%
- **Third phalange** 50%

If the first phalange of the thumb is longer than 20% or the fleshy part is full and firm, the person is likely to be wilful and forceful when pursuing personal goals. When this section is short or thin and spongy, the individual is generally weak willed. He or she tends to give in to opposition from others, abandoning personal plans when friends or colleagues object to them.

The second phalange represents logic and reasoning ability. **If the second phalange is longer than 30%** of the entire length of the thumb, it indicates above average ability to see other's points of view and to carefully present a reasonable argument for their needs and goals.



Average thumb proportions

If this section is thin and waist-like, the person has the ability to diplomatically lead and supervise others without anyone feeling coerced. These people are gifted negotiators, capable of perceiving what motivates others to want to help in the achievement of their goals. Combined with a full first phalange of the thumb, these individuals personify the iron hand in the velvet glove.

If the second phalange is broad, it indicates a tendency to push others into helping or completing a task. Less tactful, these individuals are often met with anger and opposition from co-workers or staff when they bully others into assisting them.

The third phalange of the thumb is dealt with in the Mounts as this includes the mounts of Venus and Mars.

Thumb position

The thumb is set high, medium or low on the hand. **A low set thumb** seems to allow more breathing space and indicates that strong reason governs the emotions and the person is adaptable. A low-set thumb usually only reaches to the base of the Jupiter finger. This type of thumb shows ability to change surrounding conditions and the capacity to achieve personal goals. People with low set thumbs are natural leaders. They often radiate personal discipline and speak with an air of gravitas.

An average length medium-set thumb reaches the middle of the third phalange of the Jupiter finger, when held straight alongside the palm. This type of thumb shows balance between adaptability to conditions and strength of will to change circumstances when the need arises. This indicates a normal ability to change circumstances when pursuing personal goals.



A broad second phalange



A slightly narrower second phalange

A **high-set thumb** that is the same length as an average low set thumb may reach almost to the middle of the Jupiter finger. This type of thumb signifies a decreased ability to adapt to changes in surroundings, often resulting in a deeper sense of frustration when circumstances thwart a person's plans.

Opposable thumbs are what make humans unique in the animal kingdom and the lower set the thumb; the better the grasp a person has on life circumstances. As early humans developed, people with lower set thumbs had better physical grasp of tools and weapons giving them a slight advantage over others. In modern times, a lower set thumb, particularly a long thumb, indicates more will power and applied logic towards life goals. As a result longer thumbed people often achieve many more of their life and career plans through force of will and strategic planning.

Thumb measurement Measure the distance between the base of the first finger and the thumb

Low set Distance exceeds the length of the first phalange of the Jupiter finger

Medium set Distance is close to the length of the first phalange of the Jupiter finger

High set Distance is less than length of the first phalange of the Jupiter finger

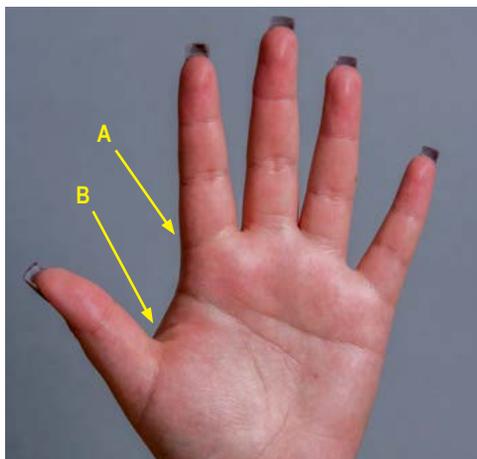


Figure 4b. *Determining if the thumb is low or high set. Measure between points A and B. This thumb is medium set.*

The Thumb in Fig 4b is medium set because its tip is positioned not significantly longer or shorter than the length of the first phalange of the Jupiter finger.

During a battle or a competitive situation, people sometimes fold their thumbs inside their closed palms or clenched fists. This indicates surrendering personal will to the situation or the other person.

An example of this occurred when I was driving past the scene of a car accident one day. As the drivers engaged in a lengthy argument over who was to blame for

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the accident, I noticed the younger man fold his thumbs inside his closed palms. It indicated to me that he had mentally surrendered to the other person. I watched closely for a few minutes, long enough to see him put forward his final argument and then reluctantly accept the blame.

It is significant how close the thumb sits to the hand when the hands are resting on the table. After briefly shaking both hands, the client places her hands palm downwards on the table. Observe the gap between the thumb and the Jupiter finger. Then turn both hands over and notice whether the thumb curls in on the hand. If it does, the person is less likely to assert her will. If the non-writing hand's thumb curls inwards, it shows someone who tends to surrender her will as an adult.

The more space there is between the thumb and the hand, the more independent the person is likely to be. A hand with a thumb at a wide angle (60 degrees or more) indicates someone who is generous, independent, sympathetic, enjoys independence and extends freedom of thought and action to others.

The nearer the thumb is to the hand when relaxed, the more tightly the person keeps personal motives and thoughts vigilantly guarded. When the thumb is positioned

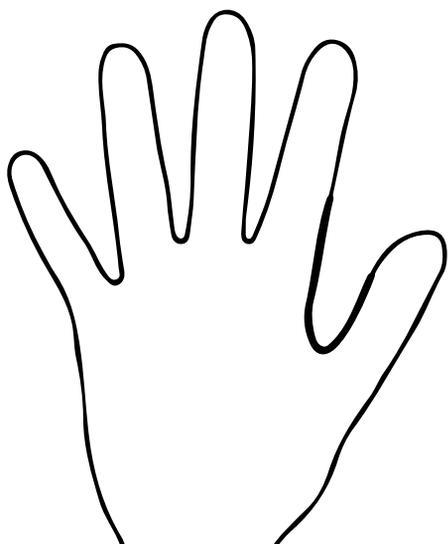


Figure 5. *A closely held thumb*

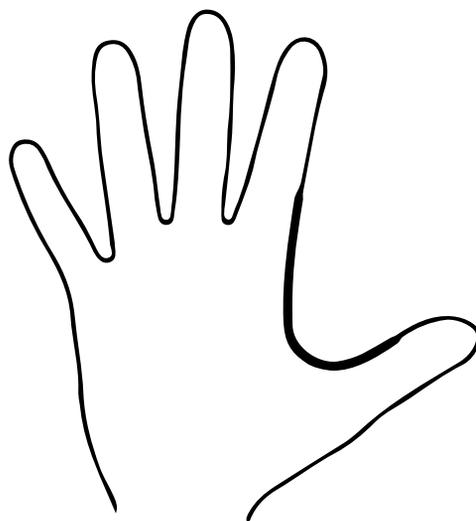


Figure 6. *A widely held thumb*

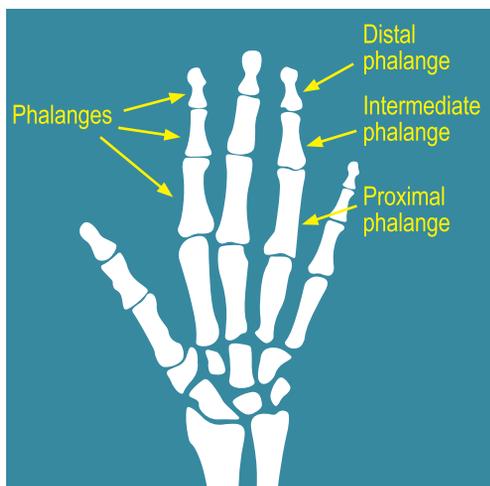
quite close to the hand, it indicates someone who tends to be secretive, cautious and less sympathetic to the joys and sorrows of others.

The medium-set thumb, which is not too close to the hand and not too far away from it, indicates a well-balanced person. Reasonable and tolerant, these people are ruled by their hearts and their minds.

The phalanges

A phalange describes each bone in the fingers and toes. There are 14 phalanges in each hand. Each finger has three phalanges or sections and the thumb has two. The fingers contain horizontal lines between each of the phalanges and these sections represent physical energy in the lower phalange (closest to the palm), emotional and social energy in the middle phalanges and intellectual energy in the upper sections (the finger tips).

Phalanges of the thumb



The phalanges of the hand

Notice the length of each phalange of the thumb. The first (or nail) phalange is usually a little shorter than the second, while the third phalange is almost half the entire length of the thumb, from its tip to the chain of lines across the base of the hand at the wrist (the Rascette).

Observe the firmness and fullness of each phalange. Willpower, decisiveness and the ability to command others are qualities of the first phalange. **One or two vertical lines on the first phalange** indicate that other people are usually willing to assist this person in fulfilling

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his or her will. **One or two horizontal lines** suggest opposition from others. This might be a parent who refuses to allow a child to pursue creative hobbies or study a particular subject at school or a negative experience that steers the individual away from a direction she once loved. The horizontal line indicates that the will has been thwarted. **Several horizontal lines** can indicate repetitive attempts to pursue goals have been obstructed throughout life, perhaps from parents while still a child and later from friends or a partner as an adult.

When seeing this in a hand, look for strong Pluto or Luna mounts. When the person also has a prominent Pluto mount, he might display passive aggressive behaviour. Luke has three clear horizontal lines on the first phalange of the thumb. He arrived very late for his appointment and then wanted a full hour, despite my explanation that I had already booked several clients afterwards. He intimated that he would leave very disappointed if I didn't give him the full hour. I had already sensed this when he sat down. I suggested that he'd leave disappointed no matter what I told him in a 30-minute reading. He had learned from his parents how to frustrate the plans of everyone around him and still appear innocent. This is the shadow side of the Pluto mount.

The second (or middle) phalange represents perception, reasoning ability, judgement and logical analysis. **A single vertical line** on this phalange usually indicates assistance or encouragement in objective or logical analysis. For example, as a child, the person may have been encouraged to reason or debate aloud issues that were personally important. This focus encouraged more reliance on logical rationale to overcome setbacks.

A single horizontal line on the second phalange indicates obstacles to the person's reasoning abilities. This might be impatience for action or a passionate nature, making it difficult for the rational mind to sort through alternatives. It sometimes indicates a parent or teacher who was obstinate and unreasonable with the person as a child. If logic and reason are discouraged in a person's early childhood, it sometimes requires considerable effort to develop these skills later in life.

A friend of mine has a thick horizontal line across this second phalange and he laughingly tells a story about his childhood that is a typical example of the cause of this type of line. When he was eight years old, his father sat him down and told him that he must continue to study hard and attend university after completing school

because ‘after you leave school, your brain goes to sleep’. He said that he sat there in shock, wondering what he had done to deserve a complete fool for a father. There was no encouragement for my friend to polish his logic or reasoning skills as a child.

The third phalange is the Mount of Venus (see page 176) which highlights the capacity for love, sympathy and compassion. The combination of these three phalanges describes moral force – the proportion of willpower, reasoning ability, tact in dealing with others and stubbornness or flexibility of mind.

If the thumbs show too much will (a very full first phalange) the person is likely to face conflict repeatedly throughout life due to a forceful singlemindedness. If the first phalange is too weak this individual surrenders to others too easily. **If the second phalange is too broad** it highlights being tactless in pursuit of the goals, justifying personal actions without a backward glance. Throughout history leaders with very prominent first and second phalanges with broad second phalanges have oppressed citizens while ‘liberating’ cities and countries. What they easily justify as a ‘fight for freedom’ others describe as oppression.

With a full first phalange and a waisted but long second phalange, the person tactfully manoeuvres his or her way to the top in business, politics or the church. This is the manager that can cut jobs, increase workloads and push through unpalatable changes and yet still be liked by colleagues and subordinates.

A person with a weak first phalange and a broad second one can be pushy and tactless but usually backs down when confronted by others. People with stiff thumbs and firm full first phalanges are often stubborn and obstinate when change is required.

Thumb size

Note the overall length of the thumb in relation to the hand. **Large thumbs** indicate force of character; small thumbs suggest a lack of strength or a more yielding personality. **The shorter the thumb**, the more easy-going the person tends to be, partly due to their smaller will (first) phalanges. Large-thumbed people are those who naturally rule, as their will and reasoning abilities are well developed. They are usually practical; valuing what is useful and necessary in pursuit of their goals. Longer thumbed people generally

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display more determination than individuals with shorter thumbs due to increased areas of will and logic found in longer thumbs.

The exception is for people with clubbed thumbs. These thumbs are short but the will (first) phalange is swollen or very full and protruding, increasing determination and persistence. People with clubbed thumbs usually have a very long fuse. They rarely lose their tempers but when they do, anger quickly turns to rage and fury. They can clear a room instantly as people around them rush to safety.

When pushed beyond endurance they become fearless, lashing out with scant regard for the consequences. Most people with these thumbs tend to know when they are about to snap and they'll leave the room, removing themselves from the environment. At this point they are usually shaking, while adrenaline surges through the bloodstream. They instinctively know what they are capable of and walk away before they lash out. Traditional palmists called this type of thumb 'the murderer's thumb'. It was named because crimes of passion were sometimes committed by people with these thumbs.

Small thumbs are often found in the hands of individuals who are romantic and sentimental. These people enjoy beauty and creativity. They tend to be less ambitious (less of a will phalange) and determined than individuals with longer thumbs. The exception is those individuals with short thumbs and very long Head lines. The longer Head line increases intellect and reasoning abilities.

Thumb shape

People with bulging first phalanges are generally stubborn and determined, becoming enraged when opposed. Will overrides their logic, making them unreasonable when out of temper. These people often fail to learn from previous mistakes. They can be extremely stubborn, sticking to their guns even when shown a better way of doing something.

Louise showed me Martin's hands soon after their relationship began. My first observation was the bulging first phalanges of his thumbs. I made a mental note to observe the effect of these thumbs in action. Over the course of their two-year relationship, I witnessed Louise repeatedly sacrifice herself and her interests in favour of Martin's hobbies. When they finally separated, Martin divided their possessions,

selecting for himself all the things he wanted and then drove away. He didn't even need to fight for what he desired because Louise was sufficiently worn down by his stubborn determination and was unable to resist.

A clubbed thumb (a thumb with a club-like first phalange) indicates a person with an extremely strong will. The nail is short and wide and the bulbous first phalange reveals an intractable nature. It was traditionally called 'the murderer's thumb' because ancient palmists believed that when out of temper, these individuals were capable of crimes of passion. However, I have found that an individual with a clubbed thumb can usually count on one hand the number of times he has actually lost his temper. When angry, a clubbed thumbed person sometimes becomes very pale and begins to shake.

At this point they often walk away from the person or the circumstances causing the tension. They seem to know instinctively that if they stay in the situation, they might do something they will later regret. This is due to their tendency to suppress their feelings until their emotions erupt spontaneously, where they act without reason.

While people with this type of thumb are not necessarily murderers, on occasion they require great self-discipline to overcome their tempers. They usually don't express anger



A clubbed thumb

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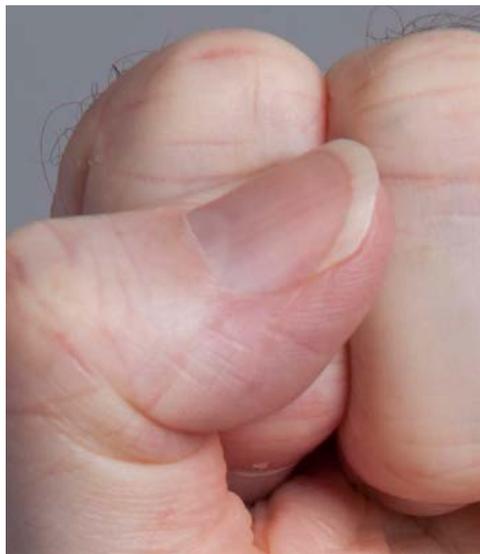
The clubbed thumb in profile



A conic thumbnail



A square thumbnail



over smaller incidents, allowing tension to build up to unbearable levels immediately prior to eruptions.

When the second phalange is significantly longer than the first (50% or more) it indicates people with excess energy in their logic and reasoning, giving them great ability to think rationally. However they generally have limited force of will to act upon their plans. These people can clearly see how to improve a system or situation but may lack the drive or determination to make the necessary changes. They sometimes prefer talk to action.

If the thumb is wide with the first and second phalanges of equal width, it indicates someone who doesn't sufficiently consider how personal actions affect others. People with this thumb formation are sometimes ignorant and unreasonable, doing as they please, to the point of trampling over others. They pay scant attention to refinement in dress, choice of words, actions or even eating. This disregard for the opinions of others sometimes makes them more successful in business as they bulldoze their way to the top, asserting themselves vehemently when they feel that force is required, regardless of the needs of the group.

Many years ago I spent a frustrating three-week period working for a man with this type of thumb. He wouldn't allow me to complete a sale in his small accessories shop without interrupting my conversation with the customer and taking over. He was in a constant state of terror that one of his employees might lose a sale. He often phoned me late at night barking a question down the line without even introducing himself.

"Where did you put the stock report, Paul?" or "How many sales did you make today?" I tired of this very quickly and soon took to answering the phone at night with a heavy foreign accent, explaining that Paul was asleep or out for the evening. Yes, it was prior to cell phones.

When the thumb is narrow but the first and second phalanges are the same width, it describes a person with strong determination and good physical strength. These people are usually more sensitive to the needs of others, more refined but can also be forthright or even aggressive.

When the second phalange is narrower than the first, with a waist-like appearance, the person is usually tactful and diplomatic. These people rarely rub others the wrong way and achieve their plans with minimal opposition. They understand the value of co-operating. Friends and colleagues often enjoy helping them to succeed because they are so tactful.