

# Charting the Future and Past

## HOW TO DECORATE AND USE YOUR OWN PERPETUAL CALENDAR

Do you ever wonder what day your birthday or some other special day like Christmas will fall on this year? It is easy, of

### How to Use Your Perpetual Calendar:

1. Select a month, day, and year. We'll use July 4, 1992 as an example.
2. First find the top middle section marked "Century." Now locate the 1900 block underneath the century heading.
3. Go next to the sections marked "Odd Years." Find "92."
4. Follow the vertical line down from "1900" until it intersects with the horizontal line from "92." You should come to the letter "D."
5. Now find the column marked "July" in the bottom half. Under that column locate the number "4."
6. You're almost there! To find what day of the week July 4, 1992, will fall on follow the vertical line down from "D" until it intersects with the horizontal line from "4." You should end up on the block marked "Sat" which is short for Saturday.

Now see if you can find out what day of the week you were born on. Do the same for your parents, grandparents, or best friend. After doing a few, you'll discover how handy your perpetual calendar is.

*Perpetual* **CENTURY** *Almanack*

**Explanation**  
Look at the top for the Century then to the Right or to the Left for the Odd Years in a line with that Odd Year directly under it. Next to it is the Dominical Letter for that year.

Odd Years		1900	2100	2200	2300	Odd Years															
6	17	23	28	31	45	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	51	56	62	73	79	84	90		
1	7	12	18	29	35	40	46	G	A	B	C	D	E	F	57	63	68	74	85	91	96
2	13	19	24	30	41	47	F	G	A	B	C	D	E	52	58	69	75	80	86	97	
3	8	14	25	31	30	42	E	F	G	A	B	C	D	53	59	64	70	81	87	92	98
4	9	15	20	26	37	43	48	D	E	F	G	A	B	C	54	65	71	76	82	93	99
5	10	21	27	32	38	49	C	D	E	F	G	A	B	55	66	77	83	88	94		
5	11	16	22	33	39	44	50	B	C	D	E	F	G	A	61	67	72	78	89	95	

**Explanation**  
Under the given Dominical Letter find the Day of the Week and in a line with it in the Calendar you have the Date of the Month.

**Dominical Letters**

Jan XXXI	Feb XXVIII	March XXXI	Apr XXX	May XXXI	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	June XXX	July XXXI	Aug XXXI	Sep XXX
1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	31	
2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	Mon	Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	
3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	2 9 16 23 30	Tue	Mon	Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	
4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	3 10 17 24 31	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sat	Fri	Thu	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	
5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	4 11 18 25	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sat	Fri	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	
6 13 20 27	3 10 17 24 31	7 14 21 28	5 12 19 26	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	Sat	2 9 16 23 30	7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	
7 14 21 28	4 11 18 25	1 8 15 22 29	6 13 20 27	Sat	Fri	Thu	Wed	Tue	Mon	3 10 17 24	1 8 15 22 29	5 12 19 26	2 9 16 23 30	6 13 20 27	

*Reduced from* **DAYS of the WEEK** *G. Gould's Almanack* **Dec XXXI**



course, to find that out just by looking at the calendar. But what if someone asked you what day of the week your fiftieth birthday would fall on or whether July 4, 1995, would be a Tuesday or a Wednesday? Now that's a bit harder to answer! But it is not impossible if you happen to have a perpetual calendar at your fingertips.

The calendar pictured here was printed in 1805. It is a clever table of numbers with which you can figure out any date between 1600 and 2399. Calendars like this were particularly useful in the days before people had yearly calendars.

Today, historians use perpetual calendars to figure out on what day of the week certain historical events happened. Maybe an old letter or diary has only a weekday, and month written on it but no year. With a perpetual calendar you could figure out the year.

You can make your own perpetual calendar simply by using this one as a model. Maybe you'd rather color the one here or add your own designs to it. Use your imagination! You can frame it with a fancy border, accent areas with colored pencils or markers, or tuck a favorite drawing into a corner. You'll end up with a unique and useful chart that you can use for years and years. Maybe your great-great-grandchildren will enjoy using what will then be a family heirloom. You may want to make duplicates on a copy machine to give to family and friends.

If you decide to make your own, you will need a large sheet of heavyweight drawing paper, a pencil, markers and crayons, a ruler, and jar lids or other shapes to trace around. Making a perpetual calendar requires a great deal of patience because you must measure and draw many lines and then write the right numbers, letters, and words in the proper boxes. Be sure to make your calendar at least 8" by 12" so that you can easily fit all of the information in it. You may also want to sketch out the whole thing first in pencil so that if you make a mistake you can fix it.

