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A Guide to the ECOFS Luopan

An Explanation Booklet for the San Yuan/Bazhai Luopan Compass

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1. Foreword and Acknowledgement

With the growth and popularity of Feng Shui throughout the Western world, particularly in Europe, America and Australia in recent years, there is a clear need to produce a traditional Luopan or Feng Shui compass for the more serious practitioners of Feng Shui who do not count Chinese as their native language.

In the last few years, we have taken a number of Western students from all over the world to study Feng Shui in mainland China. Apart from visiting sites with Feng Shui significance, we have also concentrated on studying the Luopan compass. The design and production of this compass is a direct result of those years of study.

The author wishes to thank his teacher, Master Ren Zhi-Lin and Professor Wang Yu-de for passing on their knowledge and also Mr. Ricky Than for his expertise and guidance in designing this quality instrument and to Mr. Juergen Mueller of Formosa Art in making this instrument [available to the public](#).

For further inquiries please contact Mr. Mueller at:

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3. The Basic Components of a Luopan Compass

The Luopan Compass has 3 basic parts – the Nei Pan (inner plate), the Wei Pan (outer Plate) and the Tian Qi (Heaven's Pool) which contains the magnetic needle. It also has the “Tian Xin Shi Dao” or the “Cross-Reference of the Heaven’s Heart”, which consists of 2 red strings fixed to the Luopan tray and at 90 degrees to each other, crossing the centre of the Heaven’s Pool. The cross-reference lines are used to read the directions and meanings of each ring.

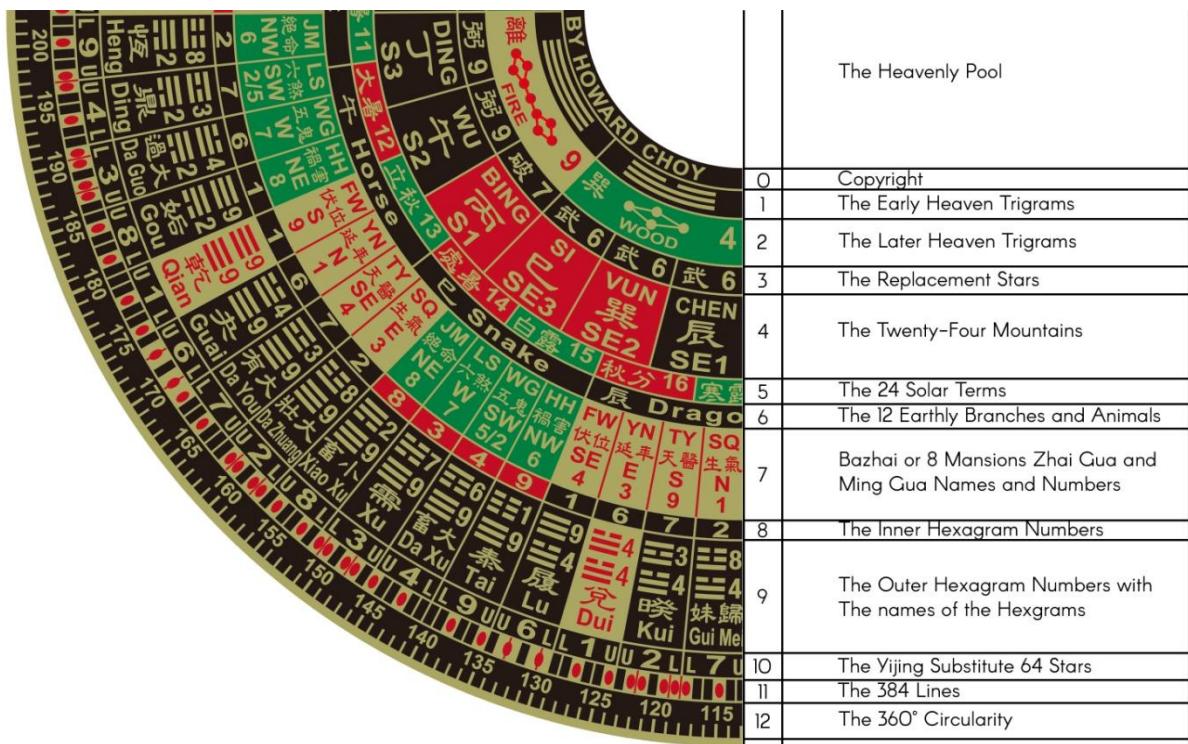
The inner plate is round and has many rings with different meanings. It sits within a square outer plate and moves around so the compass needle can be aligned to do the readings. The outer plate has 4 equal and parallel sides so that it can be placed directly against a wall or corner. Some Luopan have leveler on the outer plate to ensure an exact horizontal reading.

The Compass needle is magnetized and is designed so that it points to the South. The North has a ring-shaped design (see figure 6) referred to as the “nose”, a term that is linked to the ring that is placed in the nose of a buffalo in order to lead it around. This is considered a metaphor for the way that the needle can guide us to make sense of the Qi pattern around us.

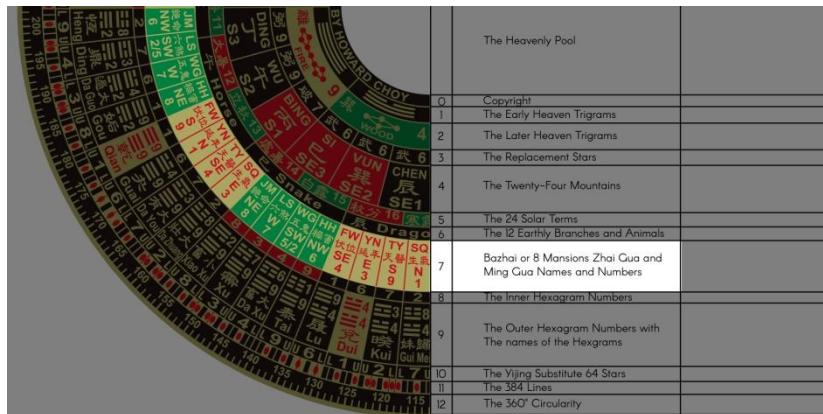


Figure 6

6. The 12 Rings of the Combined San Yuan/Bazhai Luopan Compass (HC-188)



Ring 7 – Bazhai or 8 Mansions Zhai Gua and Ming Gua Names and Numbers



This ring calculates the Zhai Gua and the Ming Gua for Bazhai or Eight Houses

Zhai Gua

The sitting direction of a site will give the Luoshu number and the trigram name for the building or the tomb site. You can obtain these from Ring 2 – The Later Heaven Trigram ring.

For example, a house sits on Ren Mountain (N1), Bing Facing (S1). We can see from the later Heaven Trigram ring that it is a Kan house with the Luoshu number 1. Look at the eight types of Star Qi in that trigram and we see 1 has the symbol of FW for Fu Wei or sitting position. Look to its facing direction Bing in the trigram Li (Luoshu number 9) and we can see in ring 8 the corresponding Zhai Gua number 1 has the symbol YN for Yun Nian or longevity.

A similar way is used to calculate the eight types of Qi of auspiciousness and harmfulness from a person's Ming Gua number.

The abbreviations for the Bazhai Qi are as follows:

FW – Fu Wei (Sitting Position)

SQ – Sheng Qi (Vitality)

YN – Yun Nian (Longevity)

TY – Tian Yi (Heavenly Doctor)

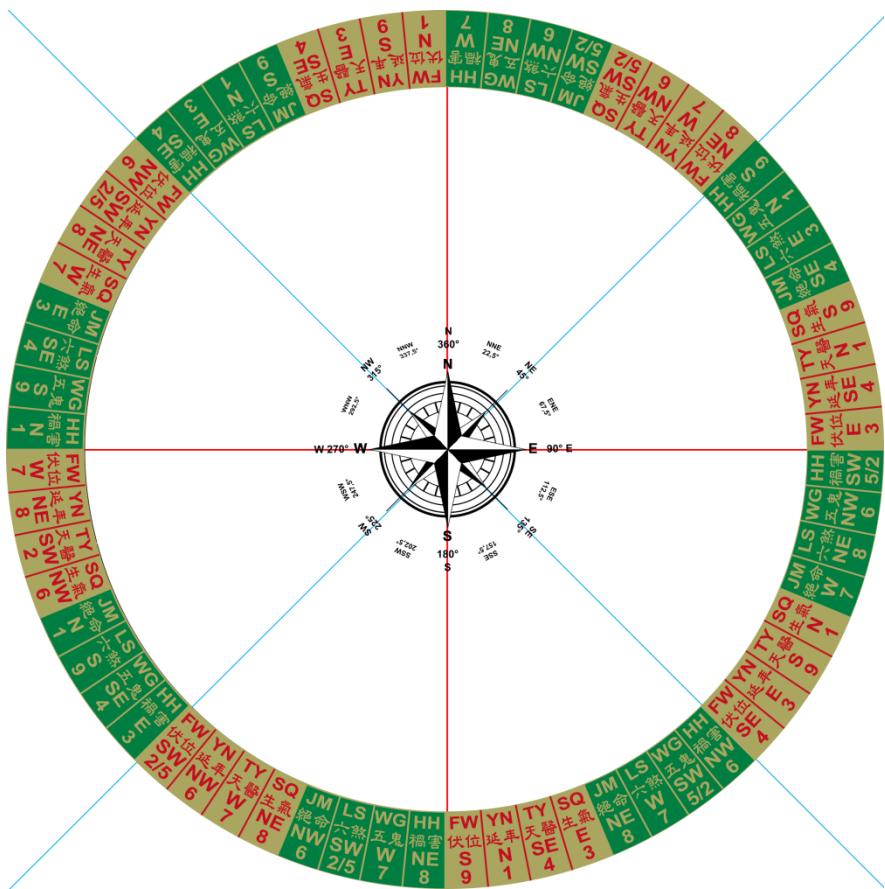
HH – Hao Hai (Disaster)

WG – Wuo Gui (Five Ghosts)

LS – Lui Sha (The Six Sha)

JM – Jue Ming (Death)

The directions in the ring indicate the directions when the eight types of Qi are located for a particular Zhai Gua or Ming Gua number



11. About Howard Choy



Howard Choy – Principal of ECOFS, Feng Shui Master and architect

Howard Choy was born in Shiu Hing Guangdong China in 1949. With his family he emigrated from there during childhood, first to Hong Kong then Sydney, Australia. He now lives in Berlin, Germany with his architect wife Gyda Anders. Through his involvement with Feng Shui, Taijiquan and Qigong, which provide the perfect vehicle to combine his professional practice with his passion, he has succeeded in keeping his birth inheritance intact.

For more than 30 years, Howard has been at the leading edge of Feng Shui architecture, consulting and teaching classical Feng Shui all over the world. He has given significant presentations at Feng Shui conferences in London, Turin, Moscow and Singapore and the Hong Kong International Conference on Scientific Feng Shui & the Built Environment. Almost annually he takes students to China to experience Feng Shui and Chinese culture in place and visit many ancient sites.

He was the President of the Feng Shui Society of Australia, and currently a life-member of the Association of Feng Shui Consultants, Australia, Principal of the European College of Feng Shui and a director of the architectural office, aq-qi-tektur in Berlin. Formerly, in Australia he was Principal of the Feng Shui College of Sydney and director of Feng Shui Architects Pty. Ltd. Recently Howard was elected as an executive committee of the Feng Shui Society, UK and Europe.

Working as a Feng Shui consultant and architect, Howard has participated in several major projects of note, including the urban upgrading of Sydney's Chinatown for the 2000 Olympic Games, which won the Australian Institute of Landscape Architects National Project Award in 2000, and the restoration of the Chinese Garden of Friendship in Sydney's Darling Harbour. He

has also consulted on some major companies and trading banks as well as a couple of large casinos in Asia and Australia.

Gyda Anders is Howard's wife and his partner in their Berlin practice ar-qi-tektur, where they work together as feng shui architects. She also reads Chinese and that unique combination enables her to teach with Howard some of the theoretical and practical applications of classical feng shui in a realistic, down-to-earth manner.

Howard has written several books on Feng Shui and Qigong and co-authored two with Belinda Henwood: "Feng Shui: Creating Health, Wealth and Harmony", Pan Macmillan, Sydney 1998, "Qigong: Feng Shui for the Body", Pan Macmillan, Sydney 1998. "Feng Shui - How to Create Harmony and Balance in Your Living and Working Environment", Lansdowne Press, 1997. He is also a specialist subject contributor to the Sydney North Shore Times newspaper and to Better Homes and Gardens magazine.



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