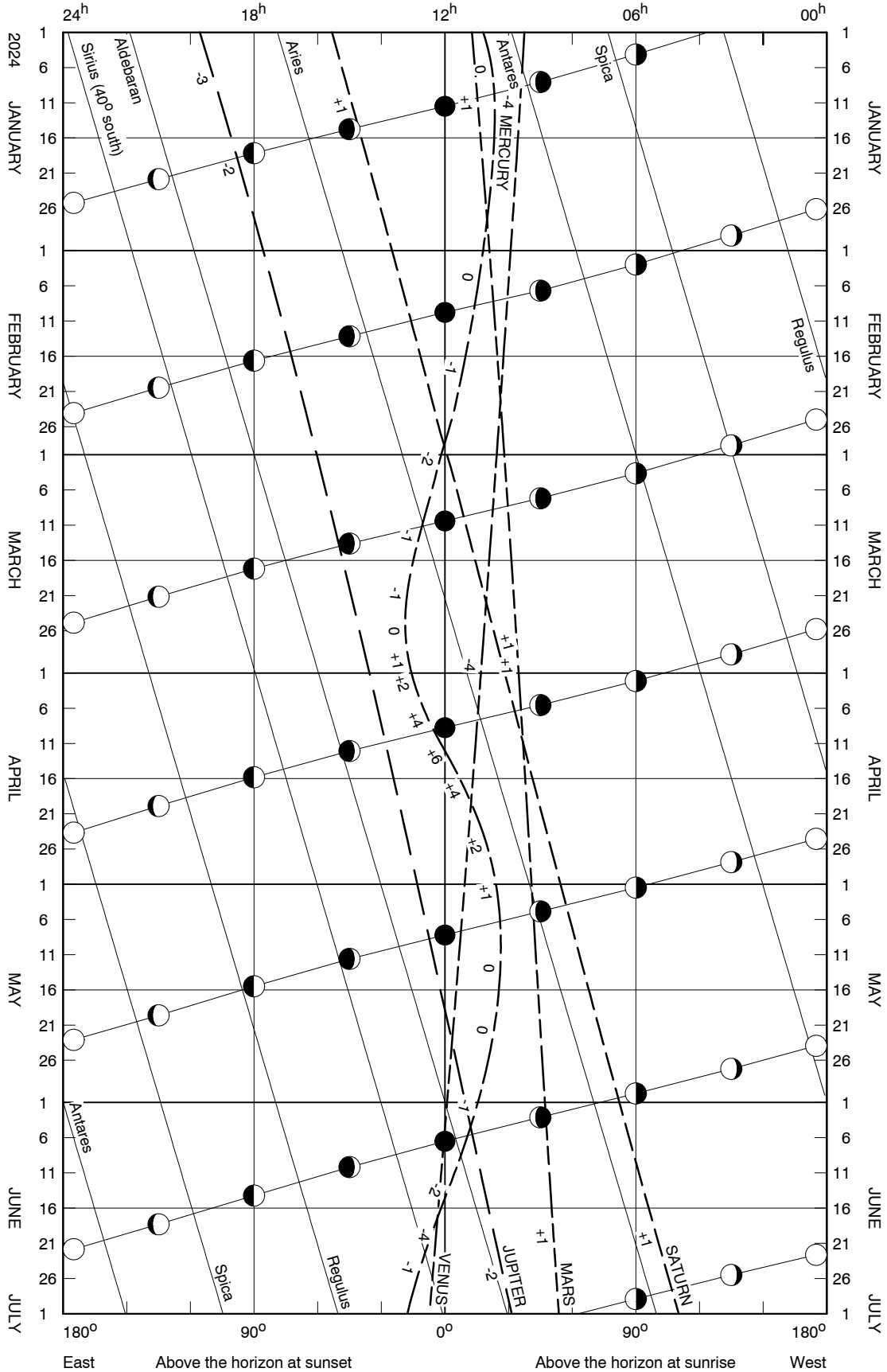
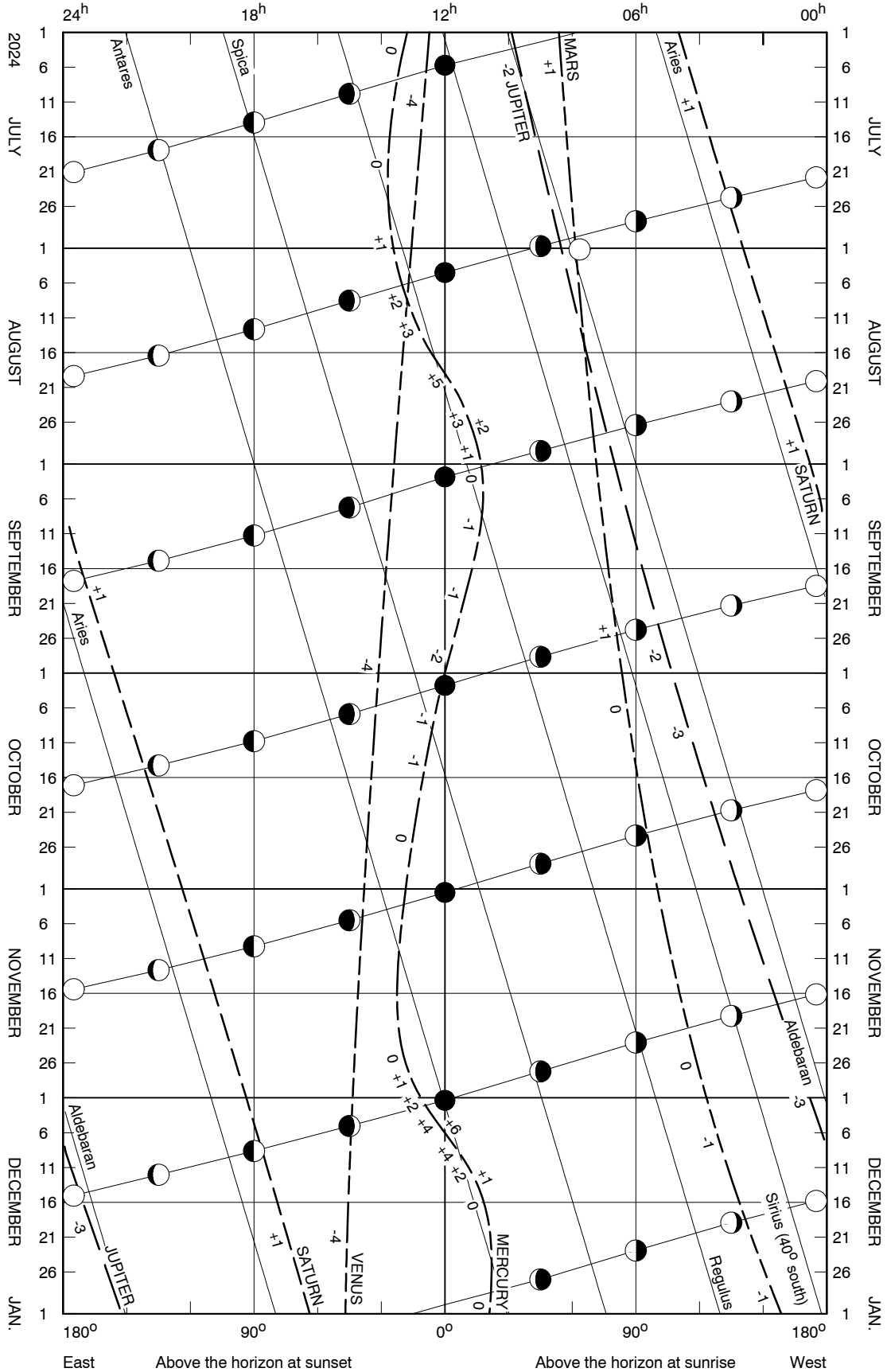


PLANET LOCATION DIAGRAM, January – June



# PLANET LOCATION DIAGRAM, July – December

A123



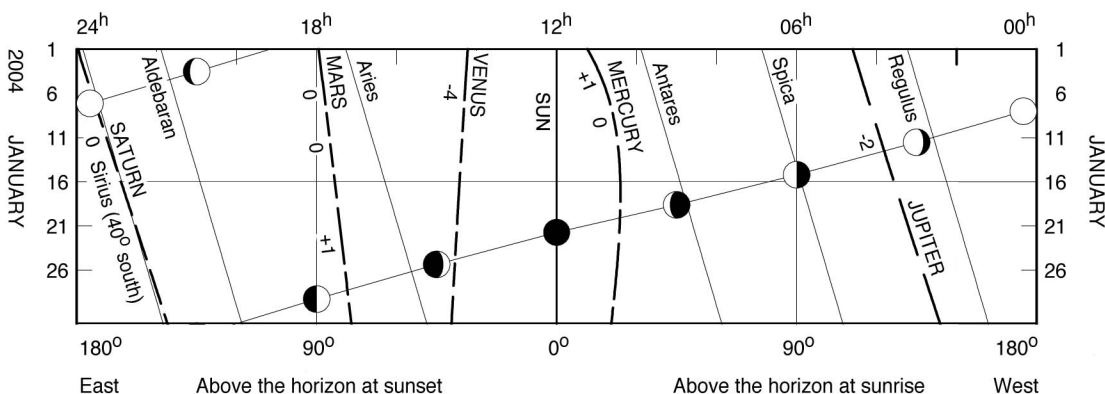
## EXPLANATION

The diagrams on pages A122 and A123 represent the region of the sky along the ecliptic within which the Sun, Moon and planets always move; they show, for each date, the Sun in the centre and the relative positions of the Moon, the five planets Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and the four first magnitude stars *Aldebaran*, *Antares*, *Spica* and *Regulus*, and also the position on the ecliptic which is north of *Sirius* (i.e., *Sirius* is  $40^\circ$  south of this point). The first point of Aries is also shown for reference. The magnitudes of the planets are given at suitable intervals along the curves. The Moon symbol shows the correct phase. A straight line joining the date on the left-hand side of the appropriate diagram with the same date on the right-hand side represents a complete circle around the sky, the two ends of the line representing the point  $180^\circ$  from the Sun; the intersections with the curves show the spacing of the bodies along the ecliptic on that date. The time scale indicates very approximately the local mean time at which an object will be on the observer's meridian.

At any time only about half the region on the appropriate diagram is above the horizon. At sunrise the Sun (and hence the region near the middle of the diagram) is rising in the east and the region at the end marked "West" is setting in the west; the region half-way between these extremes is on the meridian, as will be indicated by the local time (about  $6^{\text{h}}$ ). At the time of sunset (local time about  $18^{\text{h}}$ ) the Sun is setting in the west, and the region at the end marked "East" is rising in the east.

The diagrams should be used in conjunction with the *Sky Diagrams* on pages A26–A121; these are described on pages A24 and A25.

*Example.* At sunrise on 2004 January 1 the diagram below indicates that Mercury and *Antares* are visible in the east, *Spica* is well placed for observation east of the meridian, while *Regulus* and Jupiter are visible in the west. At sunset *Aldebaran* is visible in the east, Venus is in the west and Mars is at the meridian. The Moon, just past first quarter, is visible just to the east of the meridian. Saturn is rising in the east and may be visible at northern latitudes.



## SUN-MOON FIXES

Times when the Sun and Moon are available for a two-body fix may be found as follows:

- (1) Inspect the Planet Location Diagram to determine the days on which the Sun and Moon appear to have a suitable separation; these will usually occur a few days on either side of first quarter, and a few days on either side of last quarter.
- (2) Inspect the Sky Diagrams for the appropriate latitude to determine the local times at which the two bodies have suitable altitudes and relative azimuth.
- (3) If either the Sun or the Moon is close to the horizon or appears to be below the horizon, consult the rising and setting tables, or the Semiduration Graphs for high latitudes, for more precise times of availability.