

6 STOCK MARKET

You have inherited some shares in Australia's largest mining company BHP Billiton. BHP was listed as Broken Hill Proprietary Co Ltd on 13th August 1885 in Melbourne.

Since mid December 2007 the BHP share price has dropped along with the overall share market fall. With reference to the graph of the BHP share price for the last 6 months available from www.asx.com.au match the highs and lows of the price to planetary cycles. Knowing this is a mining company and steel producer, what planets would you begin to research? Do the highs and lows correlate with any other phenomena such as planetary ingresses, transits to the BHP 1885 chart, new and full Moons etc?

Based on your cycles research, and transits to the company's chart, what do you expect to happen to BHP's price for the rest of 2008 and will you sell your shares, buy more, or hold what you have?

Introduction

Share market pundits often talk about cycles in the market that we as astrologers know correspond to planetary cycles. Major aspects between the outer planets usually coincide with the start of major cycles within the market. Transits of Mars add higher volume to trade, Uranus Transits add volatility, Pluto transits usually represent takeovers and mergers, Saturn connections often bring lower prices and Jupiter brings inflated prices. Neptune can sap energy bringing things down, or heighten fantasy letting prices float high.

To predict share prices you need to look at the daily dance between the planets in the sky which makes up about 70% of the share price movement. Watch the planets that are relevant to the industry represented by the company under investigation. The graphic ephemeris can be helpful in showing clusters of aspects which correspond to critical reversal dates in the market. Next check transits to the first trade chart which makes up the remaining 30% of price movement, according to financial astrologer Bill Meridian¹. It is also useful to analyse the progressions and solar returns of the company chart, just as you would a natal chart. Most importantly, technical and fundamental analysis should always be used as well, as Astrology cannot be used in isolation to predict the market.

Overview of BHP first trade chart.

Before looking at the natal chart, we need to know what BHP does. The Comsec website says that "BHP is the largest diversified resources company in the world operating in over 50 countries. Core activities comprise the production and distribution of minerals, mineral products and petroleum." The ASX website ads that they particularly mine coal, iron ore,

¹ Bill Meridian: Planetary Stock Trading III

copper and manganese ore. Next we need to decide what rules mining, iron ore, copper and petroleum.

Lee Lehman's² rulership book says that miners are ruled by Saturn, iron is ruled by Mars, and coal mines, miners and pits are all ruled by Saturn. Copper is ruled by Venus. Most astrologers would agree that rulership of petroleum belongs to Neptune.

As BHP's mines iron ore and coal, we would expect that Saturn and Mars would be prominent in the first trade chart of BHP. As it happens they are conjunct, and probably close to the M.C. The two other relevant planets are Venus and Neptune. Venus is the mid-point of a stellium of planets in Virgo and Neptune is semi-square Mars. As we don't have an accurate time for the BHP first trade, angles and houses cannot be taken into account. I have used 10.00 am which is the current opening time of the stock market.

The market- Bull or Bear? What happened in the last 6 months?

The recent spectacular drop in the share market and continued decline until the end of March would definitely be classified as a "Bear Market". The astrology behind the massive shift from over-confidence to mass panic and hysteria would be a combination of some important planetary cycles occurring during December 2007 and January 2008.

The first stock market reversal signal was the conjunction of Jupiter and Pluto on the 12th December at 28° ✕ 24'. Financial astrologer Ray Merriman³ has calculated that there is an 88% chance of a major cycle crest occurring within ten days of the conjunction, and it "can represent a threat of bankruptcy or insolvency to major corporations or banks." The 12th December was the exact peak of the BHP's trading chart.

The second astrological event was Jupiter moving from its dignity in Sagittarius into its fall in Capricorn. Ingresses of planets often mark a turning point in the market, so the market managed to turn around for about a week and recover slightly.

A third marker on 3rd January was retrograde Mars in Gemini opposing Pluto in Sagittarius. This often difficult combination signalled the drop into the abyss.

The final and perhaps most important astrological event was Pluto's ingress into Capricorn, after thirteen years in Sagittarius. Pluto ingresses always represent a major cultural shift for mankind, as well as marking a major long term cycle in the stock market. Pluto's job of transformation and bringing secrets and underhand dealings to the surface is now focussed on the corporate and government sector. Companies are going belly up at a rapid rate, and shady business deals are being exposed. Takeovers and mergers are everywhere. When Pluto enters Capricorn again on 28th November, I would expect another trough in the stock market.

² Dr. J. Lee Lehman. The book of rulerships from classical astrology. P 148

³ Ray Merriman- Stock market timing, vol 3 p334

Recent important Transits to BHP's first trade chart

Transits during October and December when BHP reached all time peaks were a Mars return on 19th October, the same day that transiting Jupiter squared natal Mars, and another Mars return on 11th December. On 4th January transiting Neptune opposed natal Sun and transiting Uranus squared natal Chiron, sending BHP down. On the day BHP bottomed out transiting Jupiter opposed natal Mars, shooting the price back up afterwards. Lastly transiting Uranus opposed natal Venus, adding volatility and the customary Uranian rapid down then up movement. On February 4th transiting Jupiter trined natal Jupiter, marking a high for BHP. March saw the price move down again when transiting Neptune sesqui-squared natal Mars and transiting Saturn squared natal Pluto. The final Mars return sent the price up again. The peak happened as Mars made a conjunction with the probable M.C.

Long range BHP Forecast.

The Jupiter/Saturn cycle which spans about twenty years is used in mundane and financial prediction. The conjunction often brings a trough in trading and usually coincides with a major cycle beginning. The opposition often coincides with major cycle trading highs. The next opposition occurs in 2010, so as Saturn rules mining, it would make sense that BHP and the mining boom in general may have peaked at that time. A two year cycle relevant for BHP would be the Mars/Jupiter cycle. I have found that the conjunction usually is a cycle trough and the opposition and waning trine are usually a cycle high. The last conjunction was December 2006 and the next one is in February 2009. The opposition of Mars/Jupiter has just finished, and the next waning trine is in July 2008, perhaps giving an indication that BHP will peak by July. Another cycle relevant to BHP is the Mars/Saturn cycle. Over the last eight years (four cycles) BHP has gone down in price from the waning semi-square towards the conjunction, except the last time when it had a small rise in between.

Shorter term movers of the BHP share price

I have looked for various correlations of BHP's share price and astrological events. Transits of Mars to BHP's natal Mars and Sun seem to mark peaks in the share price. Mars stationing retrograde sends the price down and direct stations send the price up. New moon is often a peak in the price. Tops occur when Jupiter aspects natal Sun, Venus, Mars or Saturn. The recent solar eclipse at 17° Aquarius quincunx natal Venus sent the price down. Mars returns are always positive. The top price in the last 12 months was at the exact date of BHP's Mars return. Transiting Mars aspecting natal Uranus always brings volatility, usually down and then quickly up. Direct stations of Saturn usually signal a short downturn for BHP, then a strong rise, and retrograde Pluto usually sends the price up.

Upcoming transits to first trade chart

In June transiting Saturn squares BHP's natal Pluto. That has happened twice already. The first time BHP was near its peak, but went up afterwards. The second time marked a big low. This indicates BHP will rise after this particular aspect. June 15th should see a high as transiting Mars is conjunct natal Sun. On July 19th transiting Mars is conjunct natal Jupiter indicating a high. Transiting Mars also makes a conjunction with Natal Venus and Mercury at the end of the month signalling upward momentum.

Difficult transits in August include transiting Mars making a conjunction with natal Uranus and trining natal Pluto, and transiting Saturn making a conjunction with natal Jupiter. The waxing square from transiting Mars to natal Mars in September might be a peak after the downtrend of August.

Upcoming Transit to transit events

There are a few planetary stations happening during May and June which should mark changes in direction for BHP. Difficult times might be June 12th when transiting Mars squares Pluto, June 22nd when it squares Neptune, and July 22nd as it conjuncts Saturn. The solar eclipse on August 1st could send the price down, as could the Saturn opposition with Uranus in November, and the ingress of Pluto into Capricorn. Peaks in the share price might be July 27th, as Mars trines Jupiter, September 8th when Mars squares Jupiter and September 9th as Jupiter trines Saturn. October may be positive as Mars moves into its dignity in the sign of Scorpio.

Conclusion.

The cycles and transits I have examined lead me to believe that BHP share price will form a low on July 11th at the Mars/Saturn conjunction then peak on 19th July when transiting Mars makes a Conjunction with BHP's natal Jupiter, and the 27th when transiting Mars trines transiting Jupiter. This may be a "double top" which is a technical analysis indication for traders to exit quickly! A decline towards a low in August and a big low in November is indicated as discussed. I would therefore sell the shares before the end of July.

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