

Hand in

Tired of predicting the future based on your horoscope? Read your hands instead! They can reveal a lot about you, your fiancé and your life together.

By Virginia Sole-Smith



Holly and Edward

Ever wonder what makes you and your guy so compatible? The answer may lie in your hands, according to Mark Seltman, a hand analyst with 20 years' experience who has read the hands of stars including Katie



Couric and Star Jones Reynolds. "Your hands are a map to your character and understanding them can help guide your future," he says. We asked three couples to get Seltman's take on their relationships. Read on for his analyses and these couples' surprising reactions—plus, how to read your own hands.



Photographs by Lenora Gim

Hand



Austin and Windsor



Dina and Christian

Holly Watson, 31, photo editor, and Edward Buerger, 32, photography agent
Together for four years; getting married in October 2006

SELTMAN'S READING: Holly and Edward have very similar hands, which is a sign of compatibility, but also that they struggle with the same weaknesses. They each have crooks in their pinky fingers, which means they learned early in life to be nice, even when they don't feel like it. They also have fairly inflexible hands with stiff thumbs, which means they don't like change. Finally, they have dominant middle fingers, a sign that they really value personal space. When they get frustrated, they'll take a walk or shut the door instead of talking about it. With these qualities, I worry that their tendency to avoid confrontation means they'll settle for less. But because she also has a prominent ring finger, I think Holly has high expectations of Edward and will help bring out the best in him. She's pragmatic

and generous. And while Holly has a square palm and long fingers, meaning she's a thinker and has a harder time expressing her emotions, Edward is a feeler, with a long palm and long fingers, so he's very romantic and sensitive. He can help bring that out in her. These differences are the real strengths of their relationship.

Holly says: Mark was definitely right when he said that I tend to avoid confrontation. I'm not so sure about Edward, though—he likes to confront customer-service people! On the other hand, although he likes to complain about certain things, at the end of the day he'll be a good sport. But I don't know if I understand what he meant by Edward being the romantic one in the relationship—he's not exactly a wine-and-roses type of guy.

Edward says: Excuse me, I sweep you off your feet every day! But I don't think of myself as a "feeler." Maybe we put off confrontation, and try to deal with problems in more diplomatic ways first. But if it comes down to it, we will react and confront the issue rather than settle.

Windsor McKenna, 32, art director, and Austin McKenna, 33, advertising executive and filmmaker
Together for five years; married July 2005

SELTMAN'S READING: Windsor's index finger is really long, which means she's an ambitious, hard-working person. She's very powerful and she knows it; she likes to be the boss. Austin has very flexible hands, a sign that he's adaptable, so he's happy to let her be in charge. They both have square fingertips, which show a practical side, and whorl-type fingerprints, which show originality and an unconventional streak. This combination means that their biggest challenge is balancing being creative and being responsible. His dominant ring finger shows that he's creative, even rebellious, and fun-loving, and struggles with saying no. He works very hard, and it's difficult for him to hit the off button, because he's so multitasking. They both have separated head and life lines, indicating



Left: Seltman begins by noting the texture, flexibility and shape of Dina's hands. Right: "I get an idea of their basic character," says Seltman "before I start getting into the details," which he does using one of about 100 lighted magnifying glasses he owns.

Dina Zoleo, 28, high school history teacher, and Christian Zoleo, 36, hospital administrator
Together for three years; married July 2005

SELTMAN'S READING: Dina has a long index finger, which means she knows what she wants, and she wants a lot! Her career is important to her, and the more authority she has, the happier she'll be. She's a teacher now, and I think she should have her eye on being principal. She has elastic, smooth skin, which means she has a lot of energy and gets bored quickly. She always says what she thinks, but her square palm and long fingers suggests that she has a harder time saying what she feels. Christian has very strong, hard-working hands. I don't see him being in an office job. His square hands mean he's solid and responsible, so right now he's doing a practical job to pay the bills. But because his hands are small in comparison to his body, I know that he hates the detail required in his current

a strong wanderlust, so it's important that they make time to travel. They both also have many little lines on the ball of the thumb, which means that friendship is very important to them. These common traits are what make them such terrific partners. I also think they're going to be great parents, although they shouldn't rush into that; it's important they have adventures together before giving up any freedom.

Windsor says: I didn't necessarily agree. I don't want to be in a position of power at work. It's more important to me to be a great wife and mom—ultimately I'd like to work from home so I can be with my children. Mark is right about adventure and friends being important to us, but I don't think we'll wait until we've done all that to have kids—maybe we'll travel with babies in tow!

Austin says: It didn't ring true when he said I have no off button. Man, most days, I hit my off button by 10:30 in the morning!

position. He's better at thinking about the big picture. He also has a strong pinky, a sign that he loves children. I think he would be wonderful as a high school sports coach. Because Dina gets so much fulfillment as a teacher, she'll be the perfect partner to help him follow these dreams. He has a long, gently curving heart line, which suggests that he's romantic and cries at sad movies. This is good, because he can help Dina learn to talk about her feelings more. They are a great balance.

Dina says: Mark nailed our personalities—I just started an administration program to become an assistant principal, and Christian does cry at sad movies! And he's been frustrated with his job for a while, so it was spooky how right on the money Mark was about that.

Christian says: I think the reading was 99 percent accurate, especially about my job. I work to pay the bills, and that's it. But my dream has been to work with kids as a coach. I would love to get out of an office and do that.

UNDERSTAND YOUR HANDS

Is it an exact science? No—but it sure is fun to figure out what your hands might reveal.

Determine Your Shape



Square palm, short fingers:
You're practical.



Long palm, short fingers:
You're intuitive.



Square palm, long fingers:
You're a thinker.



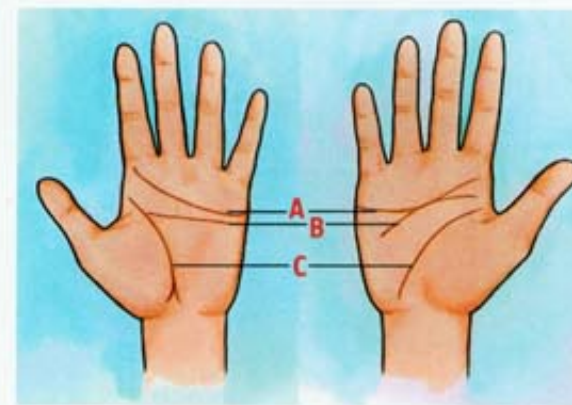
Long palm, long fingers:
You're a feeler.

- **Thumb:** If the ball of your thumb is very large and pink, you're loving and sympathetic, though you may struggle with procrastination. If the top of your thumb is large, you're courageous and assertive, but may act before you think.

Read Between the Lines

A. The heart line crosses the top of your hand, from under your pinky to your index finger. It represents how you communicate your feelings—if it's long and gently curving (see "A" on left hand), you're romantic. If it dips down to touch your headline (see "A" on right hand), you're more practical.

B. The head line runs across your palm in between the heart and life lines and describes how you think. If it's straight (see "B" on left hand), it can be hard for you to be creative, while a head line that curves down into the heel of your hand (see "B" on right hand) indicates an active imagination. If it curls up towards your pinky, you believe money is important.



A: heart line; B: head line; C: life line

Finger Your Personality

Although your middle finger is usually the longest, one of your others may be nearly as long, or otherwise prominent. Here's what that dominant finger means:

- **Index:** You're ambitious and drawn to others who are career-minded because you want to set goals with a partner. But watch your tendency to be critical and controlling.
- **Middle:** You like being on your own and can be self-critical. But you're dependable, organized, patient and faithful, all important skills for a lasting marriage.
- **Ring:** You're adaptable, creative and expressive. You like being in a committed relationship but have high expectations of your mate, and are susceptible to temptation.
- **Pinky:** You're communicative, curious and quick-witted. You love children and are playful and childlike yourself. But you can be superficial, fickle and even deceitful.

C. The life line curves around the ball of your thumb. It's a misconception that it will predict how long you'll live, says hand expert Mark Seltman: "It tells you about the direction and quality of your life." If the life line splits apart at one end (see "C" on left hand), you love to travel and may have multiple homes. If it extends out into your palm (see "C" on right hand), you're loving and value your family life. For more information, visit markseltman.com.

Virginia Sale-Smith is a NYC-based writer who has "ambitious, hard-working" hands, according to Mark Seltman.