

Gongs Unlimited      Synodic versus Sidereal Moon Gongs

“Hey Malleheads!” we’ve heard screamed from the folks interested in Paiste Gongs, “What’s the difference between Synodic and Sidereal Moons?”

And so we stop peddling our unicycle and reply thusly:

The **sidereal month** is the time it takes for our sweet darlin’ little Moon to complete one full orbit of the Earth - BUT THIS IS measured in regards to the distant stars.

For the most part, in relation to us, the distant stars are stationary, not moving, so they are fixed in relation to you there in Massachusetts or Western Sahara.

And how long is a sidereal month then Mr. Mallehead?

**Well it is pretty darn close to 27.3 days.** That is, it takes the Moon 27.3 days to be in the same position relative to the distant stars. Some folks refer to this as the Moon’s true orbital period, but they did not watch *Moonstruck* starring Cher and Nicolas Cage.

Now of course, the **synodic month** (also called a “lunar month”) is the time it takes for the Moon to complete one cycle of phases. (This does not include adolescence which we all know has all kinds of “phases” within it.)

The cycle of phases being the time between successive new moons. This depends on position of the Sun, the Moon and the Earth. **And it is approximately 29.5 days.**

So when you are considering a Paiste Moon Gong, you need to consider which orbital vibration you are more in sync with. Are you a deep astrologer or a cyclical wave rider?

Thanks,

Mr. Mallehead of Gongs Unlimited