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Venus in Daytime Sky

Posted by admin on October 8, 2012



Venus is more elusive than the moon, for she usually reveals herself only in the twilight and nighttime skies. The moon, however, can be seen both day and night, depending on its phase. Try to see Venus in the daytime sky on Friday, October 12, 2012, as she conveniently glides across the sky near the thin crescent moon.

On September 12, 2012, the thin waxing crescent moon was visible in the daytime sky, illuminated 13.7% by the sun as seen from earth. The moon's conjunction with Venus that day allowed one to find the thin moon and hop from it to nearby Venus.

I was fortunate to be with Linda Marks and Steve Accuosti that afternoon, when we spotted brilliant Venus

near the moon against a blue sky. Shortly thereafter, a plane's contrail perfectly bisected the celestial pair. A few days later I reported this sighting on the Transit of Venus Group page at http://www.facebook.com/groups/108400462513165/.

Chuck Bueter While moon was thin crescent, Venus appeared slightly gibbous (63%). Moon's proximity helped me and others readily see Venus midday with naked eye. An airplane contrail then bisected the pair.

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On **October 12, 2012**, the moon and Venus once again draw <u>near each other</u>, though the circumstances are slightly more challenging this next time around. Venus is essentially the same brightness, and the moon is again 26+ days old (and changing continuously, of course). The attached images show the moon-Venus separation for both <u>September</u> and <u>October</u> 12, and their location relative to the sun on October 12, with different data prioritized in the box. Note that the time is given in DD/MM/YYYY.

Compare the alignment from September with that of October. The biggest difference for the time listed is that the <u>September moon</u> was magnitude -6.3 when illuminated 13.7%, whereas the <u>October 12 moon</u> is slightly fainter at magnitude -5.76 while illuminated 10.6%. The zoomed illustrations of



the moon show the relative sizes.



I recommend you first observe the moon and Venus in the dark morning sky on October 12 so you have a sense of how far apart they are and approximately where Venus is relative to the moon's cusps. Nighttime conjunction image is courtesy of Robert Beasecker.

Later, when you spot the moon during the day, look for Venus to appear as a nearby bright star. At first it's hard to find, like spotting the first star to come out at twilight, but once you focus on Venus it's readily apparent.

If you're among the lucky, this will be at least your second daytime sighting of Venus in 2012, with the first one being on <u>June 5</u>. Enjoy the hunt.

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