

## Close Conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn, December 21, 2020

Per the USNO's MICA 2.2.2 software, the formal conjunction in geocentric right ascension occurs at 9 am EST on December 21.

The table below was prepared for an observer at a location of 40°N-75°W.  
Sunset data is from USNO's MICA 2.2.2 software, Jupiter-Saturn data is from SkyTools 3.2k

December	Sunset EST	Jupiter Altitude at 5 pm	Jupiter-Saturn separation at 5 pm	Saturn from Jupiter "o'clock" at 5 pm
18	4:37 pm	18.6°	0.33°	11:00
19	4:37 pm	18.2°	0.23°	11:30
20	4:38 pm	17.9°	0.14°	12:00
21	4:38 pm	17.6°	0.10°	1:30
22	4:39 pm	17.2°	0.16°	3:30
23	4:39 pm	16.9°	0.26°	4:00
24	4:40 pm	16.5°	0.37°	4:30

On December 18, Jupiter will be at the Sagittarius-Capricornus border, moving eastward in direct (or prograde) motion. Saturn will already be in Capricornus, also moving eastward in direct motion. Jupiter is moving eastward (with respect to the background stars) at approximately twice the rate of Saturn. During the six days from December 18 to 24, Jupiter moves 1.32° and Saturn moves 0.65°. However, the sun is also moving eastward, covering 6.1° during those six days, so the span between these planets and the sun is shrinking. Saturn will reach solar conjunction on January 23, 2021 at 10:01 pm EST and Jupiter will reach solar conjunction on January 28, 2021 at 8:40 pm EST.