

The Game of Dots And Squares

In this fascinating game, a number of dots are so placed on a sheet of paper that lines connecting them will form a number of squares of the same size. Thus the layout might consist of 49 dots, which when joined would form 36 squares (See Figure 1); or it might be as many more as desired. The finished game need not consist of one large square containing smaller ones, as will result from the layout in Figure 1; it may be any other rectangle, or it may have dots permitting squares jutting out at irregular places.

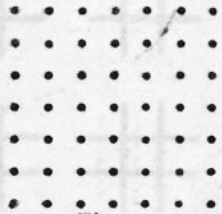


Fig. 1

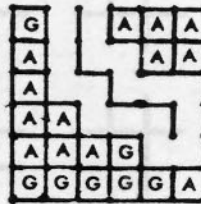
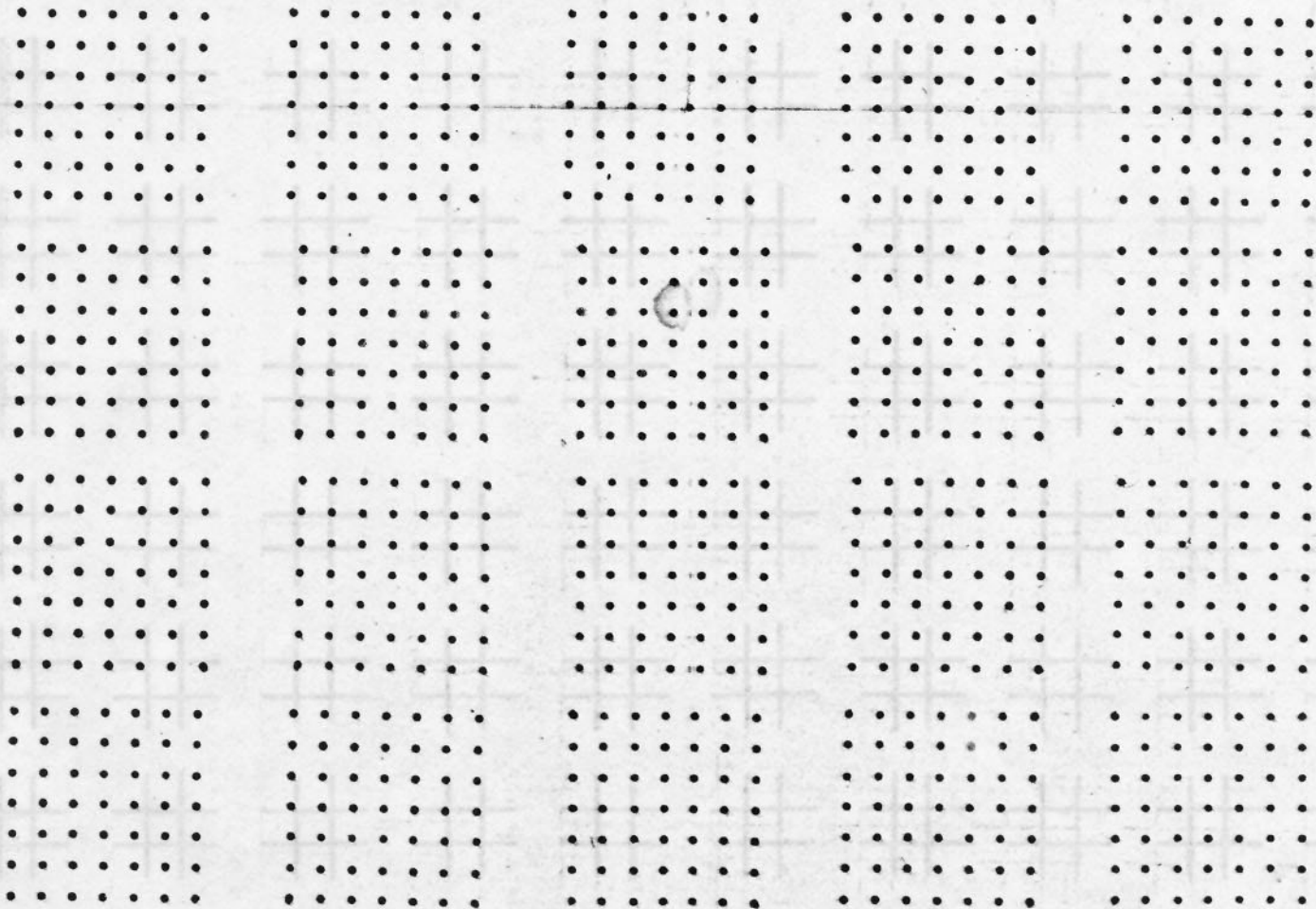


Fig. 2

One player now draws a line connecting any two dots. The other player does the same thing. This is continued alternately. As soon as a player's line completes a square, he marks his initial inside it, and must draw another line. If this other line completes another square, he continues until he draws a line which does not complete a square; whereupon it is the other player's turn. If a player has a chance to complete a square, and fails to see it, but draws another line which does not complete a square, the opponent may fill in this square when it is his turn to play. The game ends when all squares are filled in. Each player's squares are then counted, the largest number winning. In Figure 2, A has filled in 13 squares to G's 7. Notice that, whoever plays next, the turn after that must fill in all the remaining squares on the board. The game calls for great ingenuity.



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TICK, TACK, TOE

(Use this game when your friend calls to see you)

X	0	0
X	X	X
0	X	0

Example.

