

A checkerboard is cut into the following twelve pieces.

*Can you put the checkerboard back together?*

A family friend showed this puzzle to me in 1981. She received the puzzle as a gift in the mid-1940's. She used to offer her guests \$5 if they could put the checkerboard back together. No one ever collected on this challenge. Over the years I have shown this puzzle to many of my physics colleagues, graduate students, post-docs, and professors. In fact, whenever anyone mentions that they like to do puzzles, I introduce them to this checkerboard. To date, I have not met anyone that can put the checkerboard back together. I would be very interested to hear from anyone that knows about the history of this (or similar) puzzles and if there is a systematic way to solve this puzzle.

