

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.

A few people have successfully solved this puzzle with a computer program. For example, Prof. Mike Lisa's program at: http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~lisa/public_access/Puzzle/graphics/LongMovie.gif and a great explanation at: <http://www.physics.ohio-state.edu/~lisa/KassPuzzle/puzzle.html>

I would be very interested to hear from anyone that knows about the history of this (or similar) puzzles.

