

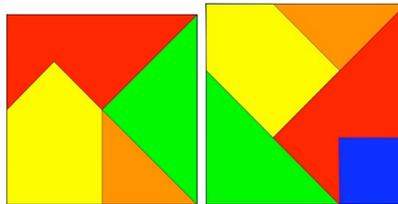
Double Square



a.k.a. *Square Me, Five Block Puzzle, Madagascar Madness*
ThinkFun Binary Arts, 2003.

(plastic, 4-piece square is 3 inches, solved 5-piece square is 3.2 inches square)

People often quickly find the four piece solution and then get stuck trying "stretch" the puzzle just a little bit in a way that will accommodate an additional small square piece. If the four piece solution is 4 units square, it has area 16, the extra square has area 2, and the five piece solution has area 18 (forming a square that is just under 4.25 units square); for each of the pieces in the four piece solution, its orientation is 45 degrees counter-clockwise in the five piece solution:



Characterized on page 102 of the 1942 *Filipiak book* as "recorded in the records of antiquity", has been periodically made as a promotional item.



"Square Me", CSPI promotional circa 1975.

(plastic, solved 5-piece 2.9 inches square;

this was a company that J. A. Storer's father was a part of in the 1970's.;
came with a wire loop which J. A. Storer replaced in 2007 with Snowbird key ring)

Other Versions of Double Square



"Madagascar Madness", Behavioral Sciences Inc., 1969.
(5 inches square by 3/4 inch thick plastic box and five plastic pieces;
the square piece was lost and replaced with a green plexi-glass piece)

This puzzle is packaged with a tray for the 4-piece solution and the 5th piece loose; perhaps to guide the solvers thinking away from the 5-piece solution. The directions on a 4.5 inch square card inserted into the back give an interesting discussion of the geometry:

MADAGASCAR MADNESS™ — a geometry puzzle

You won't believe this, but Pythagoras (pie-*thag*-uh-russ) didn't really discover his famous theorem. What happened was this; Pythagoras was visiting relatives one summer on the island of Madagascar. He saw some natives with a plastic puzzle trying to fit the pieces together to form a perfect square.

"Puzzles are my *bag*", he shouted, and grabbed the puzzle. One of the pieces was already a square, so he put it aside and, using the other four, quickly formed a square. "No, no, no", cried the local witchdoctor, "You must use all *five pieces*," You add the square "A" to the square "B" to form a third square, "C", see?"

"Si-si" said Pythagoras, "A square plus B square equals C square." He began muttering to himself — "A square plus B square equals C square" over and over.

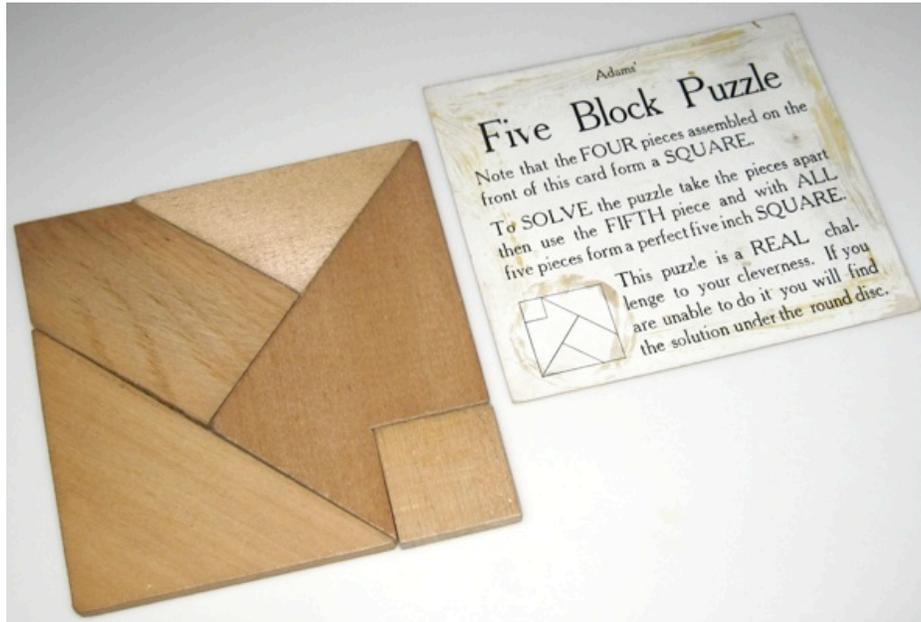
Now, it so happened that a passing troubadour overheard the famous Greek and his mutterings and wrote a song. "The Square I Met in Hypotenuse" (Hypotenuse is the ancient name for Madagascar) — It made the Hit Parade and eventually became the Pythagorean Theorem, which we study in school even to this very day! Isn't that interesting?

So you see it wasn't really Pythagoras who gave us the theorem, but a witchdoctor and a travelling troubadour. This legend became effective August 15, 1969.

Replacement pieces may be obtained by sending 25¢ to P.B.S., P.O. Box 1176, Palo Alto, Calif. 94302.

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Other Versions of Double Square Continued



"Five Block Puzzle", S.S. Adams Co. circa 1950?
(1/4 inch thick wood pieces, solved 5-piece square is 5 inches square)



Dickinson's Witch Hazel promotional, unknown age.
(3" x 4.5" envelope with cardboard pieces, solved 5-piece square is 4" square;
Dickinson's Witch Hazel was first made in 1866 and was still being made in 2000)

Further Reading

Dickinson's Witch hazel Page, from: www.witchhazel.co

Dickinson Co. Records, from: <http://www.lib.uconn.edu/online/research/speclib/ASC/findaids/EEDickinson/MSS19960001.html>