

planetmath.org

Math for the people, by the people.

Franklin magic square

Canonical name FranklinMagicSquare
Date of creation 2013-03-22 16:24:52
Last modified on 2013-03-22 16:24:52
Owner PrimeFan (13766)
Last modified by PrimeFan (13766)

Numerical id 4

Author PrimeFan (13766)

Entry type Example
Classification msc 05B15
Classification msc 01A50
Synonym Franklin square

One day in 1771, Benjamin Franklin, tired of hearing political debates, amused himself by creating the following magic square, now called a *Franklin magic square*:

```
4
           13
               20
                  29
                      36
                          45
    3
       62
           51
               46
                  35
                      30
                          19
53 60 5
           12
              21
                  28
                      37
                          44
11
   6
       59 54
              43
                  38
                      27
                          22
       7
57
              23
           10
                  26
                      39
                          42
           56
              41 40
                      25
                          24
           15
               18
                  31
                      34
                          47
          49 48 33 32
                          17
       64
```

The magic constant is 260. Furthermore, half any row or column (positions 1 to 4 or 5 to 8) equals half the magic constant. Two centuries later, Joseph Madachy realized that some half diagonals from the corner to the center also give 260.

Some other 8 by 8 magic squares with these properties are also called Franklin magic squares.