

Two-way Lookup in Excel

To lookup a value in a two-dimensional range, use INDEX and MATCH in Excel. Below you can find the sales of different ice cream flavors in each month.

1. To find the position of Feb in the range A2:A13, use the MATCH function. The result is 2.

SUMIF		:	X	✓	<i>fx</i>	=MATCH(G2,A2:A13,0			
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189	Month	Feb	=MATCH(G2,A2:A13,0		
3	Feb	217	719	679	Flavour	Chocolate			
4	Mar	810	178	810	MATCH(lookup_value, lookup_array, [match_type])				
5	Apr	567	926	929	Sales				
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

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2. To find the position of Chocolate in the range B1:D1, use the MATCH function. The result is 1.

SUMIF						=MATCH(G3,B1:D1,0	
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	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189		Month	Feb	2	
3	Feb	217	719	679		Flavour	Chocolate	=MATCH(G3,B1:D1,0)	
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929		Sales			
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

3. Use these results and the INDEX function to find the sales of Chocolate in February.

G5 : <input type="button" value="X"/> <input type="button" value="✓"/> <input type="button" value="fx"/> =INDEX(B2:D13,H2,H3)									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189		Month	Feb	2	
3	Feb	217	719	679		Flavour	Chocolate	1	
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929		Sales	217		
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

Explanation: 217 found at the intersection of row 2 and column 1 in the range B2:D13.

4. Put it all together.

G5 : <input type="button" value="X"/> <input type="button" value="✓"/> <input type="button" value="fx"/> =INDEX(B2:D13,MATCH(G2,A2:A13,0),MATCH(G3,B1:D1,0))									
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189		Month	Feb		
3	Feb	217	719	679		Flavour	Chocolate		
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929		Sales	217		
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					

10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

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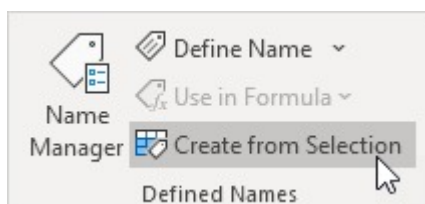
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You can also lookup a value in a two-dimensional range without using INDEX and MATCH. The following trick is pretty awesome.

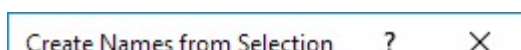
5. Select the range A1:D13.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189					
3	Feb	217	719	679					
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929					
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

6. On the Formulas tab, in the Defined Names group, click Create from Selection.



7. Check Top row and Left column and click OK.



Create names from values in the:

☒ Top row

☒ Left column

☐ Bottom row

☐ Right column

OK Cancel

8. Excel created $12 + 3 = 15$ named ranges! Simply select a range and look at the Name box.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189					
3	Feb	217	719	679					
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929					
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

9. Use the intersect operator (space) to return the intersection of two named ranges.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1		Chocolate	Strawberry	Vanilla					
2	Jan	544	639	189					
3	Feb	217	719	679					
4	Mar	810	178	810					
5	Apr	567	926	929		Sales	217		
6	May	745	230	364					
7	Jun	298	820	947					
8	Jul	457	522	832					
9	Aug	495	500	239					
10	Sep	871	391	529					
11	Oct	585	225	791					
12	Nov	478	262	540					
13	Dec	741	883	809					
14									

10. Create a dynamic two-way lookup.

Explanation: the [INDIRECT](#) functions convert the text strings ("Feb" in cell G2 and "Chocolate" in cell G3) into valid named ranges.

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