

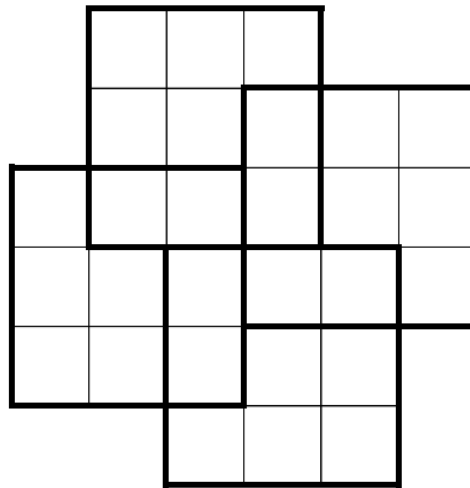
## Almost Magic

magic!

22	7	10
1	13	25
16	19	4

almost magic

50	72	16
12	46	80
76	20	43



example

		50	72	16	
		12	46	80	75 53
77	76	20	43	69	96
1	58	114	85	64	59
95	40	39	88	137	
		111	90	62	

sum: 1828

For the purposes of this puzzle, define a magic square to be a 3-by-3 grid of positive integers for which the rows, columns, and two diagonals all have the same sum. An example is shown top left; the 8 sums all equal 39.

An almost magic square is, well, *almost* a magic square. It differs from a magic square in that the 8 sums may differ from each other by at most 1. An example is shown top right; the sums are all 138 or 139<sup>1</sup>.

For this puzzle, place *distinct* positive integers into the empty grid above such that each of four bold-outlined 3-by-3 regions is an almost magic square. Your goal is to do so in a way that *minimizes* the overall sum of the



integers you use.

If you find an entry with a sum lower than 1800, send it in! To submit an entry, submit a comma-separated list of the 28 integers in your diagram in top-to-bottom order. For the example above, that list would be “50, 72, 16, 12, 46, 80, 75, 53, 77, 76, 20, 43, 69, 96, 1, 58, 114, 85, 64, 59, 95, 40, 39, 88, 137, 111, 90, 62”.

[1] Not that it matters for this puzzle, but a magic square is, technically, also an almost magic square.

---

### Submit Your Answer \* Required fields

---

Name/Username

Email \*

Answer \*

Questions/Comments

☐

I would like to have my name added to the leaderboard.

Submit

Please note that only initial submissions will qualify.

New York  
London  
Hong Kong  
Amsterdam  
Investor Relations  
Media Inquiries

## DISCLOSURES & POLICIES

© Copyright 2015-2022 Jane Street Group, LLC. All rights reserved. Services are provided in the U.S. by Jane Street Capital, LLC and Jane Street Execution Services, LLC, each of which is a SEC-registered broker dealer and member of FINRA ([www.finra.org](http://www.finra.org)). Regulated activities are undertaken in Europe by Jane Street Financial Limited, an investment firm authorized and regulated by the U.K. Financial Conduct Authority, and Jane Street Netherlands B.V., an investment firm authorized and regulated by the Netherlands Authority for the Financial Markets (*Autoriteit Financiële Markten*), and in Hong Kong by Jane Street Hong Kong Limited, a regulated entity under the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (CE No. BAL548). Each of these entities is a wholly owned subsidiary of Jane Street Group, LLC. This material is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute an offer or solicitation for the purchase or sale of any security or other financial instrument. | Jane Street and the concentric circle mark are registered trademarks of Jane Street.

[Ad and Cookie Policy](#)   [Privacy Policy](#)  
Jane Street is an Equal Opportunity Employer