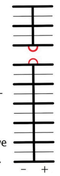
Book: Ancient Computers, Part I - Rediscovery, Ed. 2
DVDs: Ancient Computers, Part II: Video Users' Manual
DVD-1: How To Use A Counting Board Abacus
DVD-2: How Romans Used A Counting Board Abacus

Paperback	eBook	DVD-1	DVD-2
1490964371 on Amazon.com	B00DVPPQ78 on Amazon.com	B00DUJBAL6 on Amazon.com	B00DUJBE3U on Amazon.com

The Salamis Tablet

A circle represents a whole. Two semi-circles represent two parts of a whole. So a number has two parts: a fraction (lower grid) and a radix point shift (upper grid), which we call a base exponent.



For base 60, the tablet accommodates 5 digits (pun intended) for the fraction and 2 digits for the radix shift.

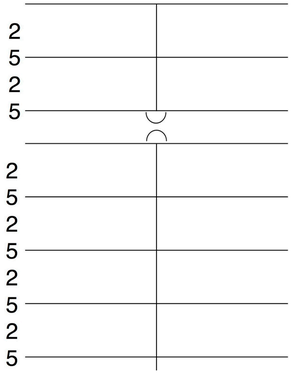
We have 5 fingers per hand and 2 hands.

Coincidence? NOT!

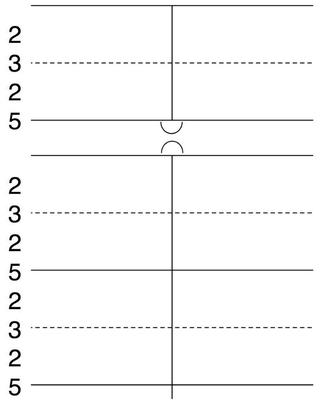
The endpoints of each semicircle point to the additive and subtractive sides of each part.

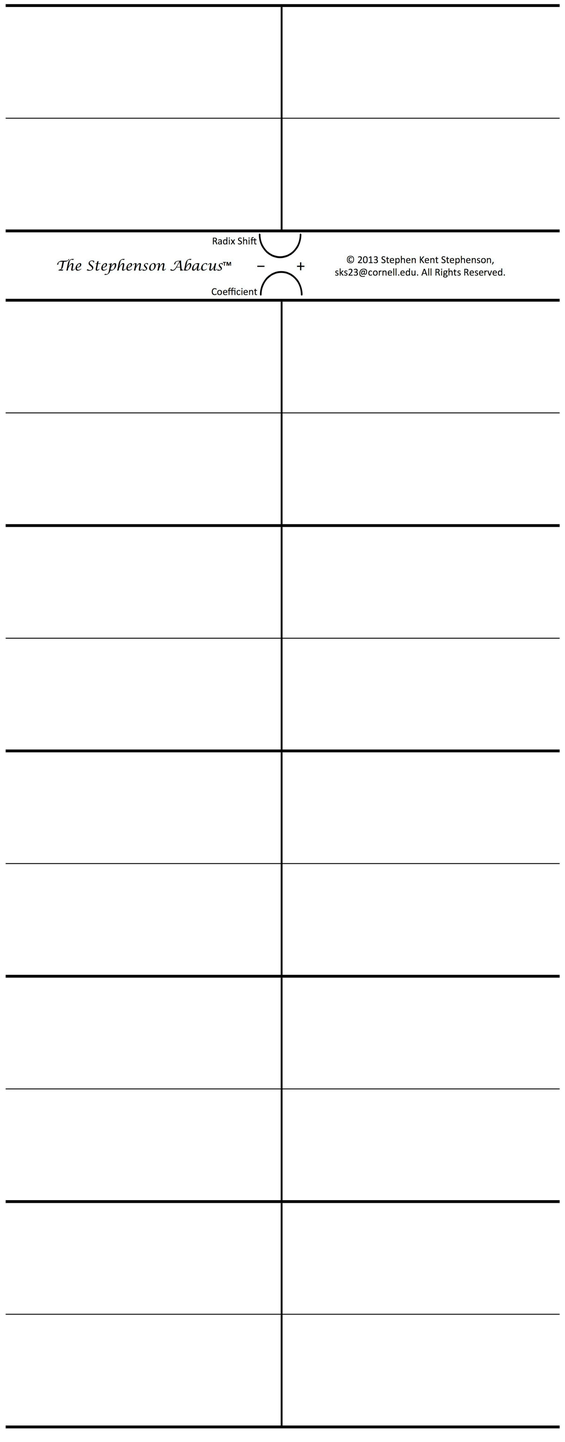
Use ~100 pennies or pebbles.

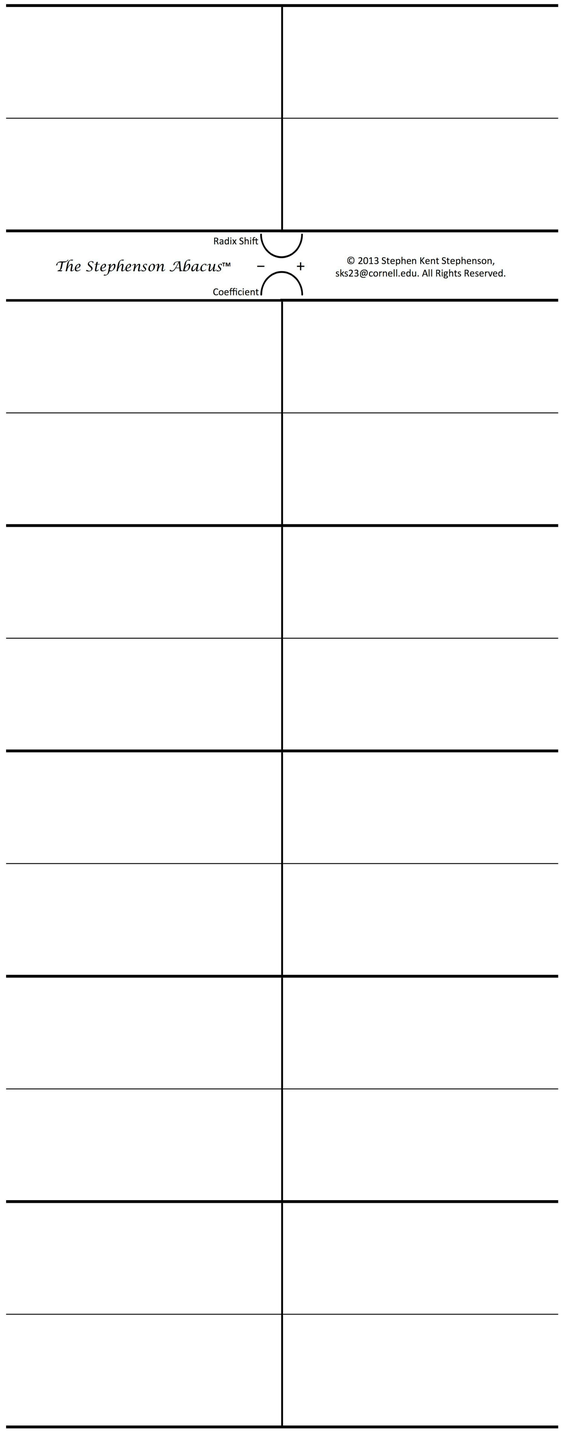
Base 10
Promotion Factors

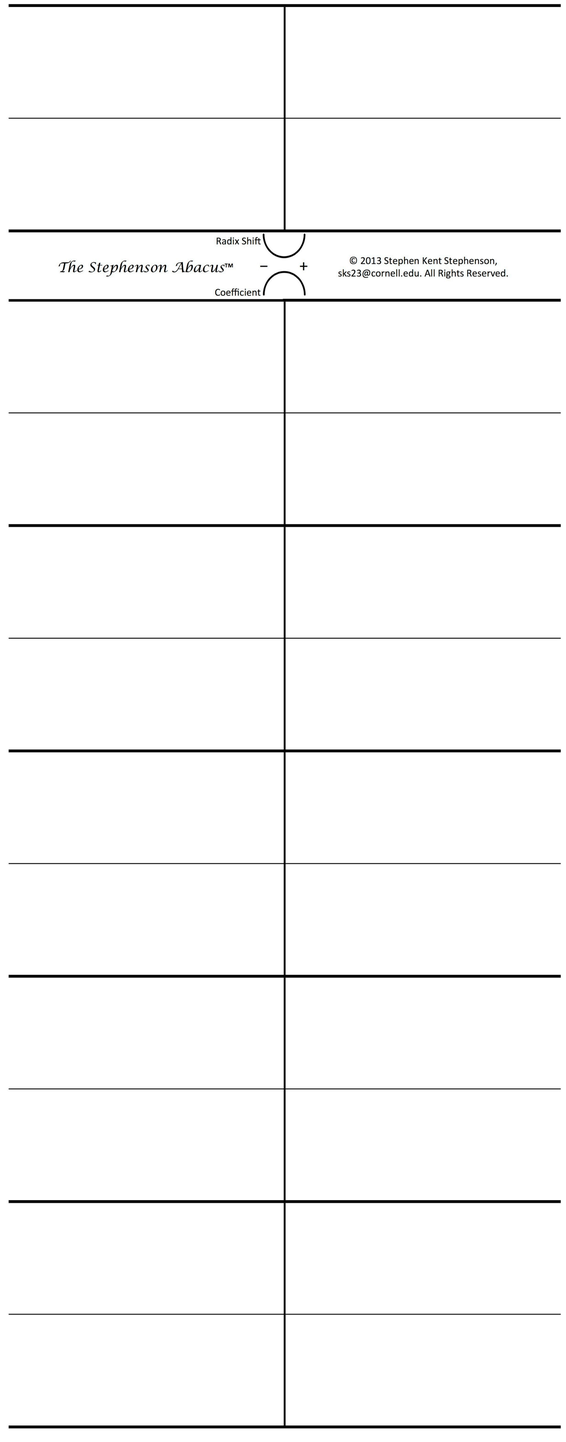


Base 60
Promotion Factors

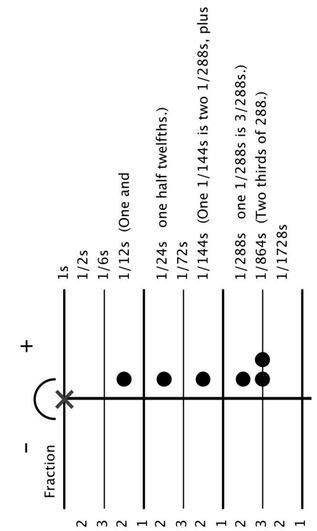




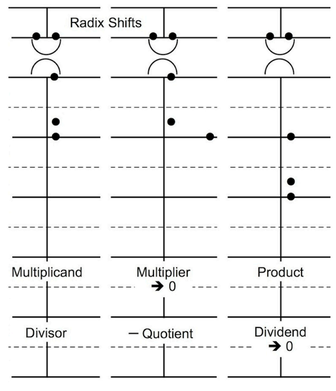




Base 12 Promotion Factors
with Frontinus' result.



Addition / Subtraction Strategies

Enter one number next to the median and the other away from the median on a single tablet. If one number is being subtracted, move all its fraction tokens to the opposite side of the median. Shift the number with the smaller radix shift down until both radix shifts are the same. Remove one number's radix shift and combine the two fractions. Use zero pairs to make sum readable.

Multiply / Divide Strategies