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Mathematical Puzzles to Confound and Delight



MWW 18: SOLUTION

If you flatten each picture, then we see we are counting the number of ways to fold a strip of paper into half, into thirds, into quarters, and so on.

1 

2 

6 



There are 16 ways to fold the strip into quarters, 50 ways into fifths, 144 ways into sixths, 462 ways into sevenths, 1392 ways into eighths, and so on. These are not easy to count.

This is a famous puzzle in mathematics usually asked as: *In how many ways can you fold a strip of stamps?*