

Practical / tabletop task

Tablet counting using a Fretwell's triangle

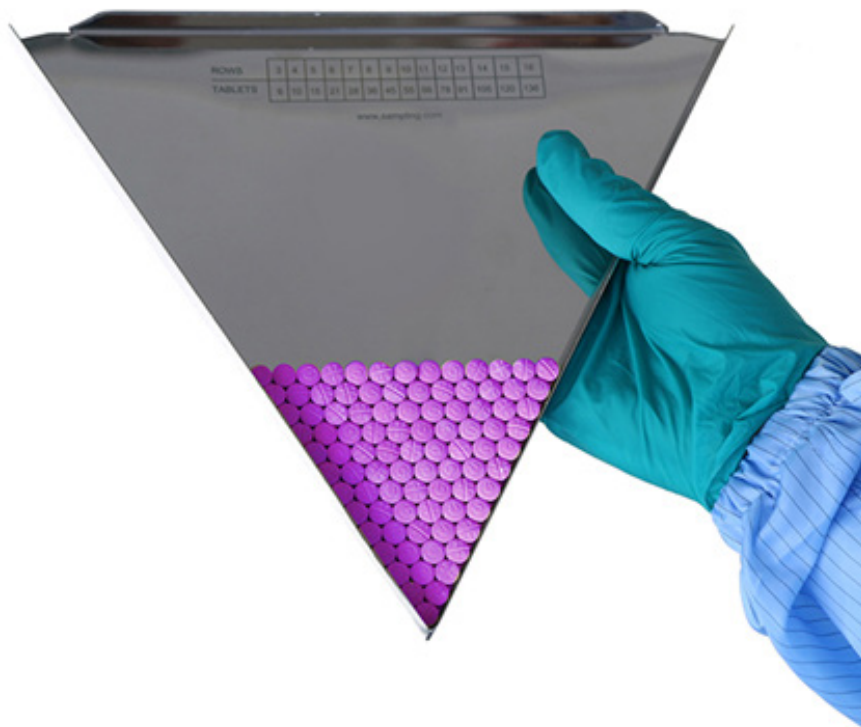
Age Range: 8+

The problem?

Sometimes vet nurses need to prepare large quantities of tablets. Sometimes, you might need to accurately count as many as 500 tablets, which are all smaller than the size of a pea!

The solution?

The tablet counting, or 'Fretwell's' Triangle!



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How to use this calculator

1. Place approximately how many tablets you need into the triangle
2. Shake/swirl it gently and use your fingers to flatten the tablets out and fill all the gaps
3. Count how many rows of tablets there are
4. Use the table at the top to move along to locate how many rows you have – stated on the 'Row' line
5. The figure above the line on the tablet line is the number of tablets you have in your triangle
6. Note – sometimes you may need to add a few more or deduct a few to achieve the desired amount.

Video: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HqbGsfviNRg

Questions

1. How many rows of tablets will you need, if the veterinary surgeon asked you to prepare 171 tablets in total?
2. If you had 210 tablets in total, how many rows of tablets have you got in your triangle?
3. Your vet would like you to prepare 11 tablets. How many rows would you require?
4. 55 tablets are needed and the vet has already dispensed 10. How many more rows of tablets will you require?
5. If you have 16 rows of tablets how many tablets do you have?

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Answers

1. 18 rows
2. 20 rows
3. 4 rows plus 1 extra tablet (or count them manually!)
4. 9 rows
5. 136 tablets