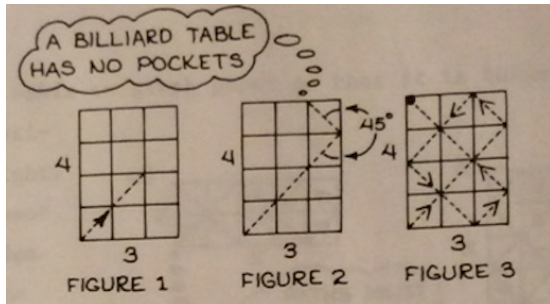


Reflection Does It! Part 3 - Pool Tables and More

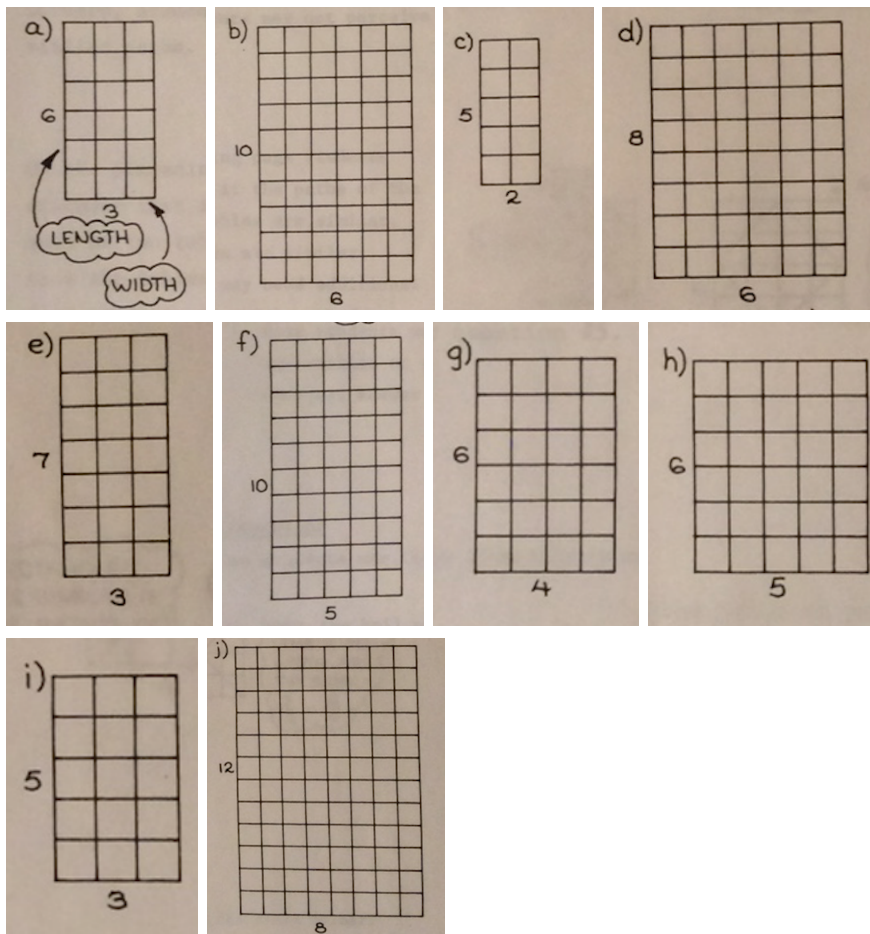
March 6, 2021

Pool Tables

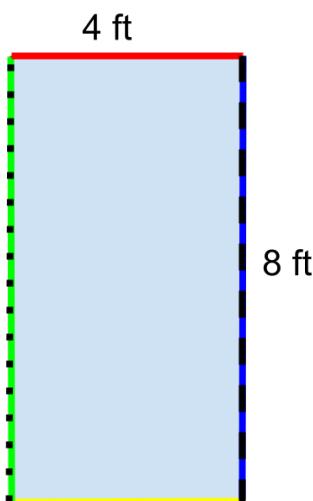
1. The figures below represent the same billiard table. A ball has been hit from the lower left hand corner so that it travels at a 45° angle from the sides of the table (Figure 1). When the ball strikes the cushion of the table, it rebounds from it at the same angle (Figure 2). If the ball continues, it will reach the upper left hand corner (Figure 3).



For each table below, draw the path of the ball until it strikes a corner. Always shoot the ball along a 45° path from the lower left hand corner.



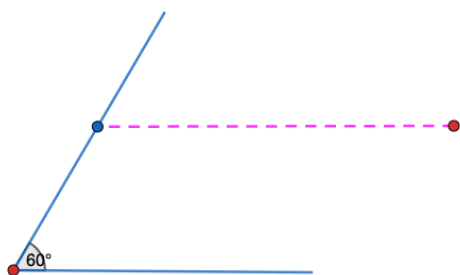
2. What do you notice about the paths on Tables (g) and (j)?
3. Name another pair of tables that have similar paths to each other.
4. Table (c) has a width of 2, a length of 5. Predict the dimensions of a table on which a ball will travel a similar path: width length . Test your prediction by drawing the table and the path on graph paper.
5. What will the paths on a table with width 6 and length 10 look like? A table with width 15 and length 20?
6. A ball is shot from the lower left corner of a pool table at a 45 degree angle. Which corner of the pool table will the ball reach first, and how many times will it hit the sides until it does so, if (a) the pool table is 3×5 , and (b) the table is 3×1001 ?
7. A pool table is 8 feet long and 4 feet wide, as drawn below. You strike a ball that is initially placed at the bottom left hand corner, so that its first bounce is against the dashed blue wall. In how many places can you hit that dashed blue wall so that the ball goes into the pocket on the top left corner after exactly 3 total bounces off the dotted and dashed walls? It doesn't matter how many times the ball bounces off the walls drawn with solid lines.



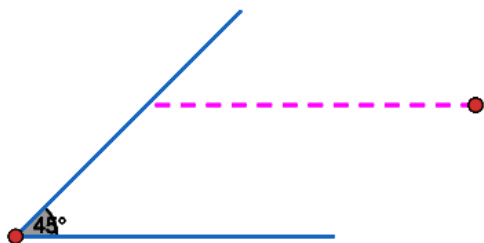
Hinged Mirrors

Two hinged mirrors form an angle. A light beam enters the hinged mirror angle parallel to one of the sides and is reflected from the sides according to the usual law that the angle of incidence is equal to the angle of reflection.

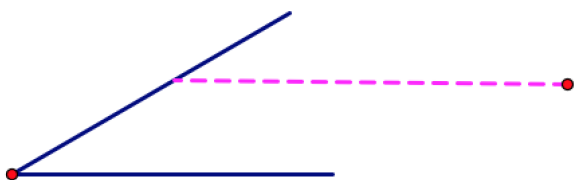
8. Prove that the beam will eventually leave the hinged mirror angle for this 60° angle. How many times will it reflect off of the mirrors before leaving?



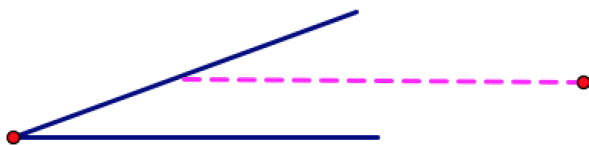
9. What if the angle between the mirrors is 45° ?



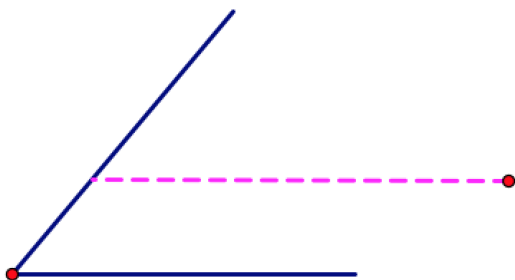
10. What if the angle is 30° ?



11. What if the angle between the mirrors is 20 degrees?

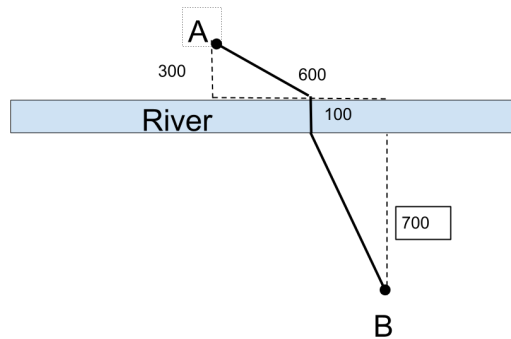


12. What if the angle is 50 degrees?



Bridges

13. Two tiny towns, A and B , are on opposite sides of a river with parallel straight sides. A road with a bridge that crosses the canal perpendicularly is to be built. Where should the bridge be located so that the length of the road from A to B is to be minimized?



A is located 300 meters from the river, B is located 700 meters from the river, and the river itself is 100 meters wide. The river runs west to east, and town A is 600 meters west of B, and also 1100 meters north of B.