

The Masonic Trowel



*... To Spread The Cement Of Brotherly
Love And Affection, That Cement
Which Unites Us Into One Sacred
Band Or Society Of Brothers, Among
Whom No Contention Should Ever
Exist, But That Noble Emulation Of
Who Can Best Work Or Best Agree ...*



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MASONIC QUOTES BY BROTHERS

Being persuaded that a just application of the principles, on which the Masonic Fraternity is founded, must be promote of private virtue and public prosperity, I shall always be happy to advance the interests of the Society, and to be considered by them as a deserving brother.

[GEORGE WASHINGTON]



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MASONIC CIPHER & SYMBOLS



Masonic Cipher & Symbols[©] contains the Masonic "poundex" substitution cipher characters in upper and lower case, as well as the numerals and a complete set of common punctuation marks (not shown). The symbol set includes the jewels of the officer line and all the symbolic emblems explicated in the three Degrees of Blue Lodge Masonry (F&AM of California), except the very most esoteric.

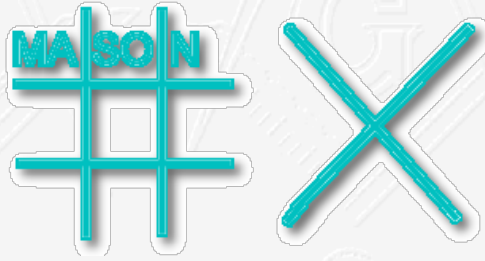
There are two related versions of the Masonic cipher. The version used here is that explained informally to Blue Lodge members, and is not an official part of any authentic Masonic teachings in the Grand Lodge of California. The other is sometimes taught in Royal Arch Masonry, and differs in that the first half of the alphabet (A-M) is assigned to the plain outlines, while the second half (N-Z) are the dotted characters. It should be noted that as simple "substitution ciphers" neither provides more than a superficial cryptographic security.

The security afforded by this cipher is enhanced somewhat by combining it with a simple, separately communicated keyword, as follows:

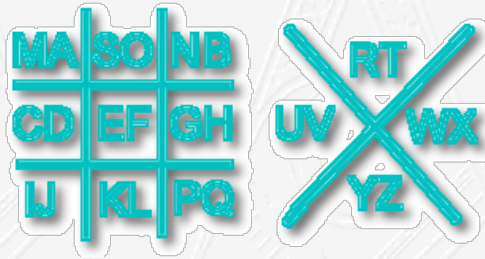
Select a keyword of any length, for example 'MASONS'. Use a different keyword for every message, because this will still be a substitution cipher, even though the specific substitutions change. The longer the message using the same keyword, the easier it is to decode a substitution cipher without knowing the keyword.

Write the unique letters of the keyword in the "poundex" pattern (in our example, just M, A, S,

O and N, since 'S' appears twice in 'MASONS'):



Then continue to fill in the pattern with the remainder of the alphabet, remembering not to repeat any letters of the keyword:



Now, for each letter in the pattern, the substitution symbol is the outline of the cell, with a dot for the second letter in each pair:



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A Mason is not necessarily a member of a lodge. In a broad sense, he is any person who daily tries to live the Masonic life, and to serve intelligently the needs of the Great Architect.



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