

TimDomino

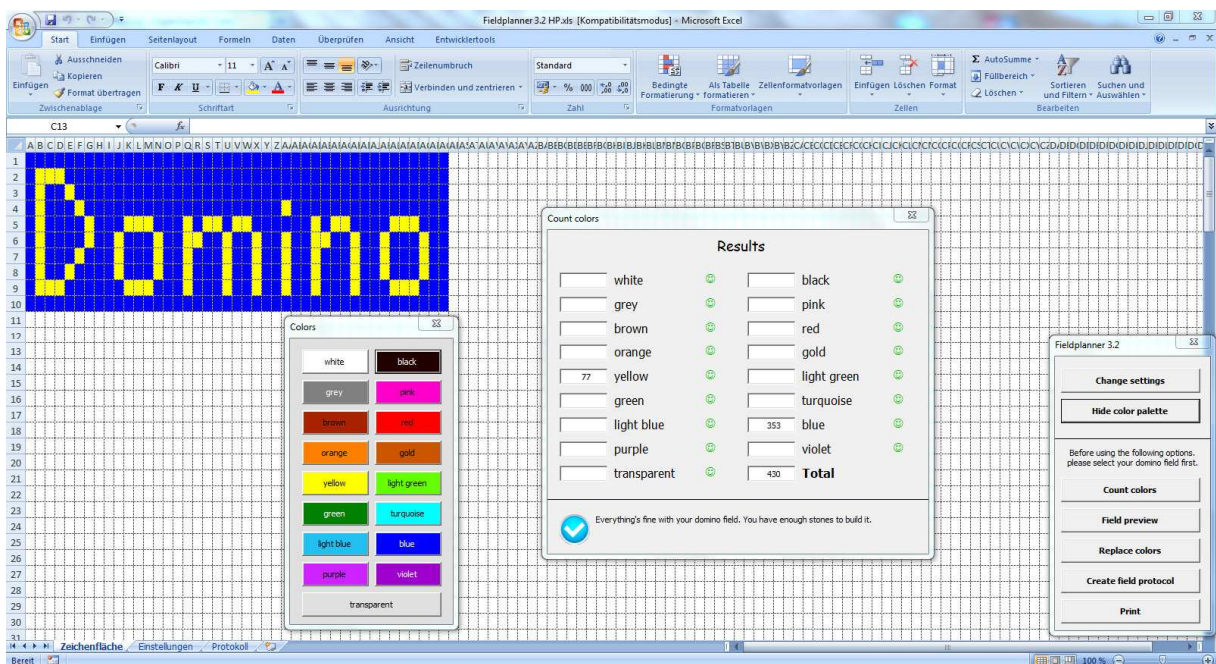
Domino

Fieldplanner 3.3

Handbook

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1. Preliminary remark

Fieldplanner 3.3 is an application that helps you to plan domino fields fast and efficiently. It took me quite a lot of time to create all the algorithms and functions, but now I'm really proud to be allowed to show you how to use Fieldplanner 3.3 in this handbook. Fieldplanner 3.3 is freeware and can be downloaded from my homepage www.domino-tim.de.

2. System requirements

In order to use the Fieldplanner, the application *Microsoft Office Excel* has to be installed on your computer. I would like to mention that other alternative applications, such as Open Office, Star Office or Excel Viewer cannot run Fieldplanner 3.3! I have created the Fieldplanner with Excel 2007, normally it should also work with older versions, but there is the possibility of calculation errors, etc. Later Excel versions than 2007 are not a problem at all!

3. The first start-up of Fieldplanner 3.2

After downloading the Fieldplanner, you can open it with a double click. Now, before starting your work, there is still something that has to be done...

- ...at every start-up: Macros 

The Fieldplanner is based on macros that have to be activated at the beginning. Therefore, you have to click the button "Options" that appears next to the security warning. After having activated macros, you will be able to see a welcome screen and the Fieldplanner is ready to use.

- ...only at the first start-up: Entering data 

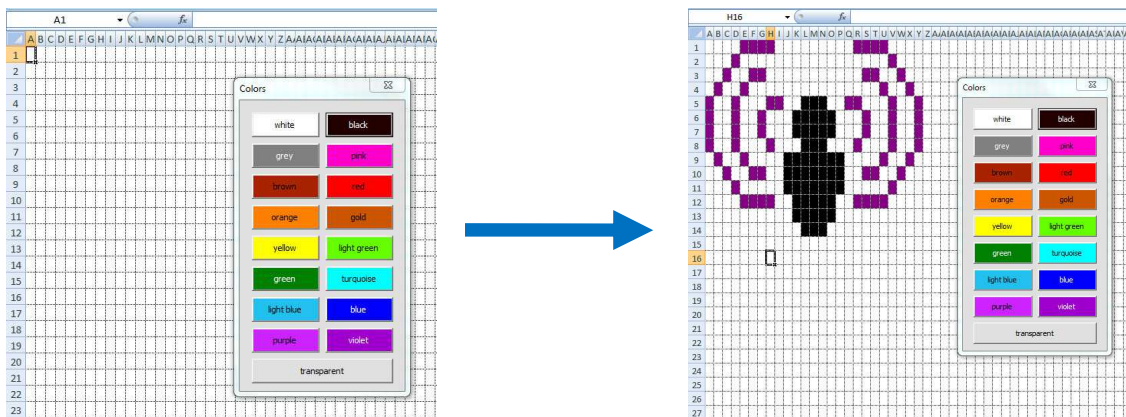
The very first time, it makes sense to give the Fieldplanner information about your dominos. Therefore, click the button "Change settings" in the main window. You can now enter the dimensions of a domino and the number of dominos of each color you have at home. This information is required for some special functions in the Fieldplanner (see 4.). If you forget to enter those numbers, standard domino dimensions and 1000 dominos for each color are used.

Remark: You should make a copy of Fieldplanner 3.2 after having entered your personal information. As a result, later copying is made easier when you want to create new fields.

4. Functions of the Fieldplanner

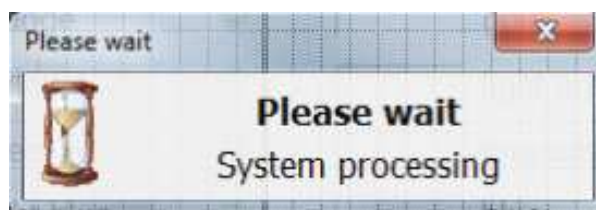
4.1 Basic functions

The main screen of the Fieldplanner shows a domino field seen from above; each cell represents a domino. You can now open an overview of colors that can be used in your domino field using the button “Show color palette”. In order to color a certain cell, just select it and click on the desired color in the color palette. That’s how you can draw a domino field. These images show how a podcast logo is created.

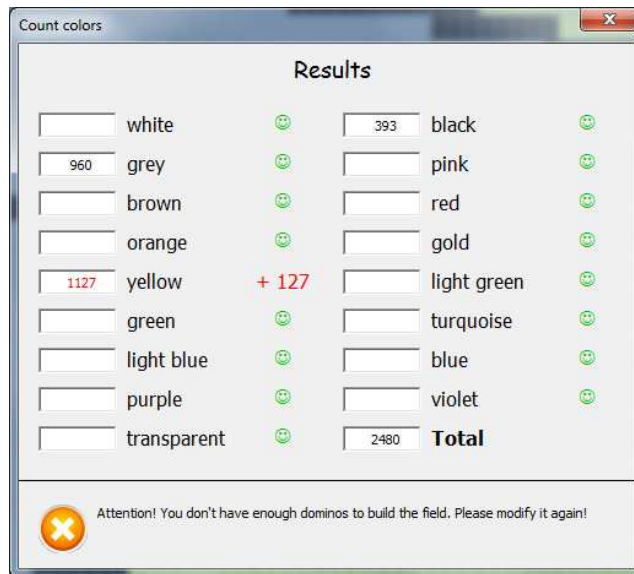


4.2 Count colors

When you’re done drawing your domino field, you can make the Fieldplanner count it in order to find out how many dominos of each color are needed to build the field. Therefore, you have to select your drawn domino field and click on “Count colors”. After a short period of waiting...



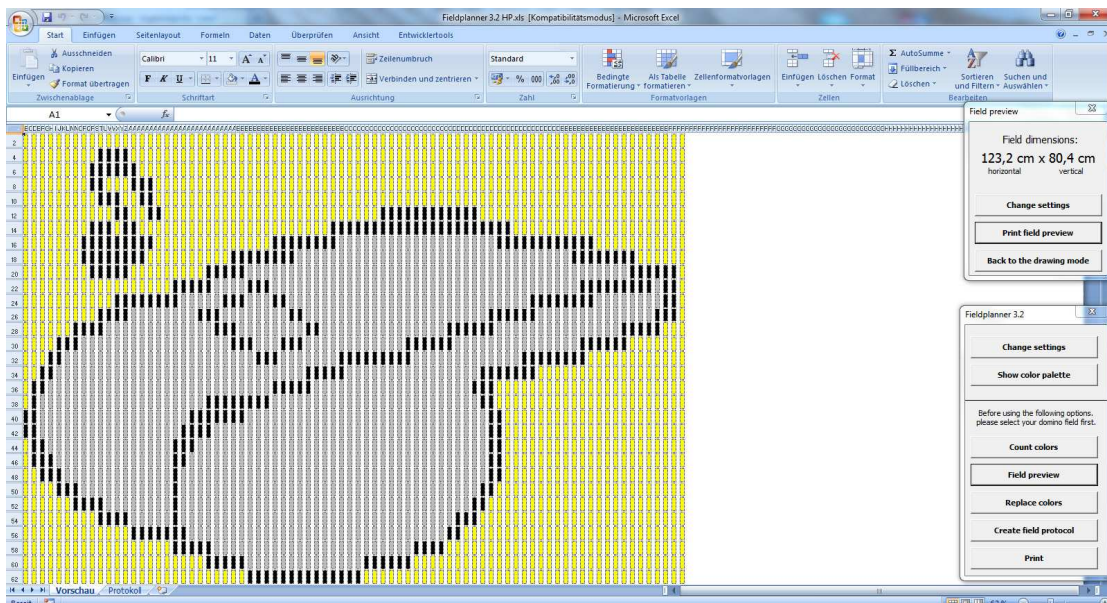
... you will see this “Results” screen:



The Fieldplanner shows for every color how many dominos are needed. A smiley next to a color shows that you have enough dominos at home to build the field. A red number however indicates that this number of dominos is missing in your collection. That’s why it is recommended to enter the number of dominos of each color you have at home (see 3.). A click on the red X closes the window.

4.3 Field preview

While drawing a domino field, it is hard to image how the field will look like after having set it up in reality because Fieldplanner’s drawing mode has no empty spaces between the dominos. That’s why I have created the “Field preview” function. Just select your domino field and click on “Field preview” in the main window.



After a short period of waiting, you will see your drawn field in the “reality look”. You will be given the dimensions (in centimetres) of the domino field in a separate window. Please note that these numbers are just approximations and may vary. Apart from that, you must have entered the dimensions of one domino before (see 3.). You can modify this again using the button “Change settings”. If you wish to go back directly, you just have to click the button “Back to the drawing mode”.

Remark: Please do not close the Fieldplanner while in preview mode because this may cause complications when reopening it. Do always click “Back to the drawing mode” first before quitting the Fieldplanner!

4.4 Replace colors

A very simple but useful function is “Replace colors”. This is really useful for changing for example the background color of a field after having finished drawing it. With the color palette, this would be really complicated and would take a lot of time. Instead, select your domino field and click on “Replace colors”.

Now select which color should be replaced by another one and click on “OK”. The selected colors now have been replaced and you are happy 😊.



4.5 Field protocol

This is another very useful function that helps you setting up the domino field. Select your domino field and click on “Create field protocol”. Now you can choose whether you want to create a general field protocol or a field protocol adapted to your individual domino comb size. Of course, if you choose the last option, you have to enter the size of your comb.

As an example, I will show you the general field protocol of the above shown whistle:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M
1	Line 1	80											
2	Line 2	9	4	67									
3	Line 3	8	6	66									
4	Line 4	8	2	3	3	64							
5	Line 5	9	3	2	2	64							
6	Line 6	11	2	2	2	26	12	25					
7	Line 7	8	3	1	2	23	22	21					
8	Line 8	7	9	14	8	19	12	11					
9	Line 9	7	8	10	8	33	8	6					
10	Line 10	8	5	9	5	46	6	1					
11	Line 11	18	5	4	3	37	9	1	2	1			
12	Line 12	11	8	5	3	3	2	29	8	8	2	1	
13	Line 13	9	4	8	3	8	2	22	6	14	3	1	
14	Line 14	6	4	13	3	8	2	15	6	15	5	3	
15	Line 15	4	3	18	3	3	3	12	6	15	6	7	
16	Line 16	3	2	23	3	7	9	13	8	12			
17	Line 17	2	2	30	5	16	7	18					
18	Line 18	1	2	27	5	19	3	23					
19	Line 19	1	1	20	8	25	2	23					
20	Line 20	2	18	7	29	2	22						
21	Line 21	2	17	4	33	2	22						
22	Line 22	1	2	15	3	35	2	22					
23	Line 23	1	3	14	2	36	2	22					
24	Line 24	2	3	13	1	37	2	22					
25	Line 25	4	3	11	1	36	2	23					
26	Line 26	6	4	8	1	35	2	24					
27	Line 27	9	4	5	1	33	3	25					
28	Line 28	13	7	31	2	27							
29	Line 29	18	5	24	4	29							
30	Line 30	22	5	14	6	33							
31	Line 31	27	14	39									
32													

You will see how you have to build the domino lines for your field. This saves a lot of counting work. In order to build line 2, for example, you have to set up 9 yellow, 4 black and 67 yellow dominos. Just build every line and your drawn domino field will appear in reality.

If you have chosen an individual field protocol, a thick light green line between the dominoes indicates that a new domino comb begins.

If you wish to make any changes or just want to return to the main screen, click on “Back to drawing mode” in the window.

4.6 Print

There are three documents that Fieldplanner 3.2 can print out for you:

- *The drawn field:* Select your domino field and click on “Print” in the main window. If you like the preview, you can confirm and print it.
- *The field preview:* Just click on the button “Print field preview” in the window where you are given the original dimensions of the domino field.
- *The field protocol:* Use Excel’s normal print function to print the protocol.

Remark: You can adjust the “printing zoom” using Excel’s “Page setup” function. This can save a lot of paper (you sometimes might be able to downsize a field from 4 pages to just one page!).

5. Dealing with problems

Sometimes people send me e-mails like “The Fieldplanner doesn’t work!” or “I cannot open it!”. These descriptions are not sufficient enough to find out what your actual problem is. If you do have a problem, just record it and post it on YouTube (as a private video). I can then have a look at the problem personally and am able to help you better and efficiently.

6. Closing remarks

Thank you for using Fieldplanner 3.3! I hope that this handbook helped you with your questions. If not, feel free to contact me personally. I’m always thankful for any hints, clues and suggestions.

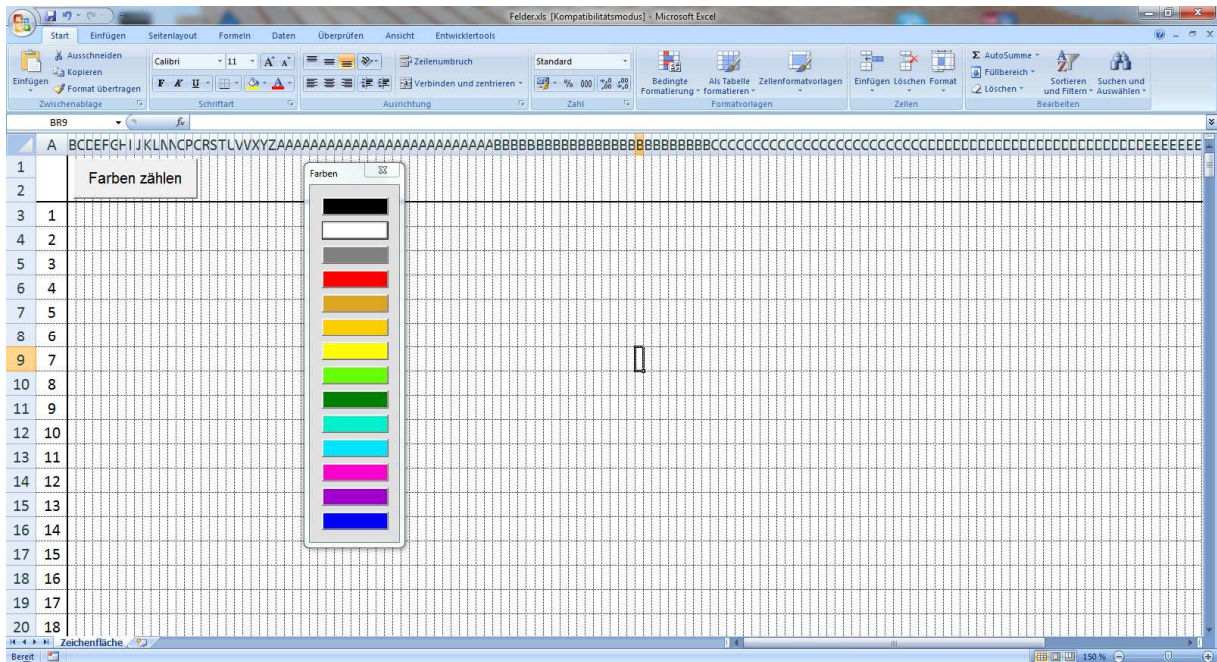
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LOL! Screenshot of Fieldplanner 1.0