chatdoku   a mind-teaser for elektornics enthusiasts

Contributed by **Claude Ghyselen** (France)

This New Year, our traditional Hexadoku grid is being replaced with a Catdoku grid (the outline is shaped like a cat's head).
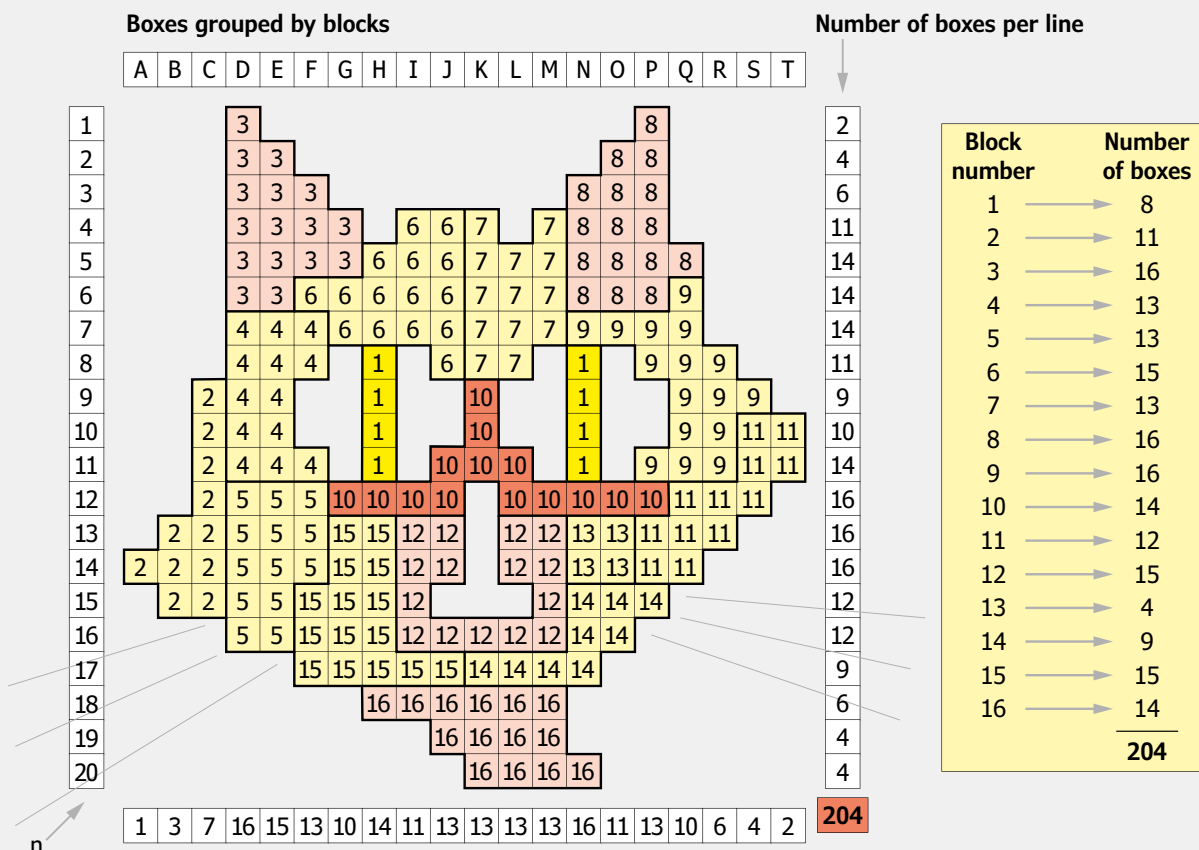
The rules for filling in the grid and the characters allowed are the same as for the normal Hexadoku grid.
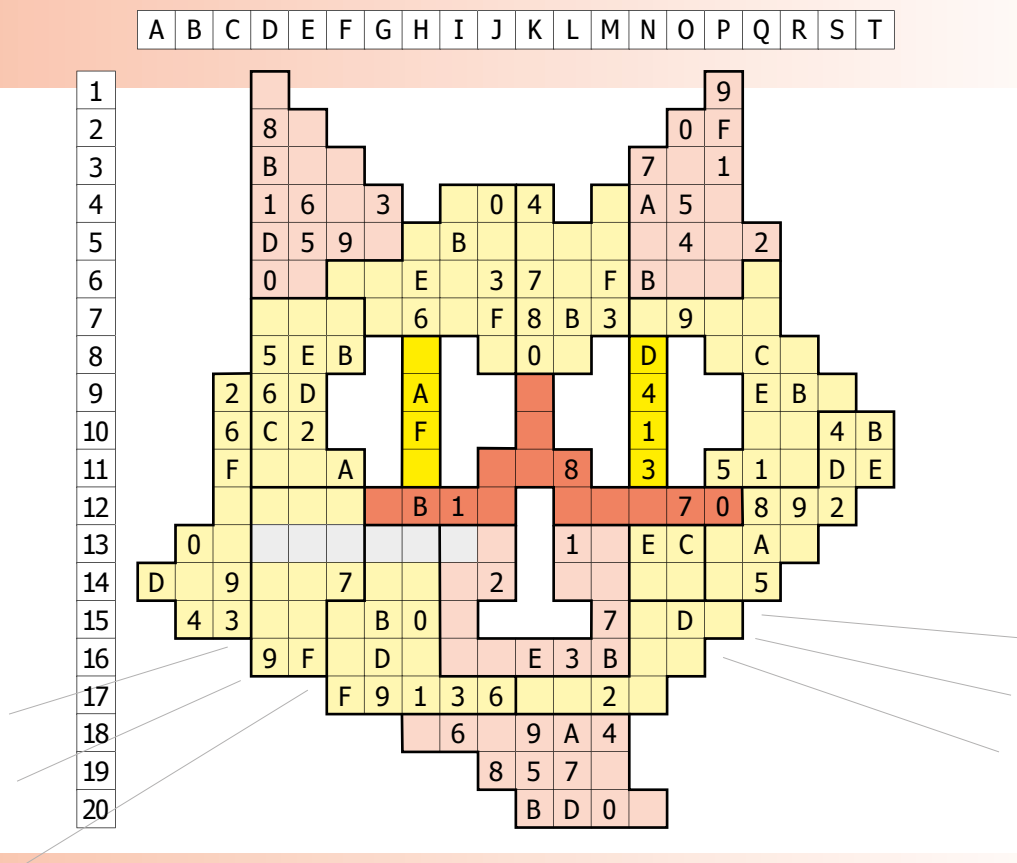Reminder: a Hexadoku grid uses figures from the hexadecimal system, i.e. from 0 to F. You should fill it in so that all the hexadecimal figures from 0 through F (0–9 and A–F inclusive) are used **once and only once** in each row, column, and block (identified by a thicker line).

The Catdoku differs from the Hexadoku in the following ways:

- The grid has 16 blocks, but 20 lines (1–20) and 20 columns (A–T) (see grid below).

- Five areas are empty (white).

- The blocks are not square or rectangular, but are more like pieces of a jigsaw (referred to as a hexadoku jigsaw).

- Block #1 (pupils of the eyes, in bright yellow) is made up of two separate parts, one each for the left and right eyes.

- The number of boxes in each block depends on its shape and position, but is never more than 16. So this grid can still be described as a Hexadoku.

- The total number of active boxes is 204, compared to 256 for a Hexadoku.

As certain blocks contain fewer than 16 boxes, it's not possible to use all the hexadecimal characters in these ones. This is just a little extra difficulty to bear in mind when solving it. Certain figures have already been entered in the grid to define the starting situation. In order to enter, there's no need to send us the whole grid, all you need do is send us the sequence of six figures in the grey boxes.

Boxes grouped by blocks   **Number of boxes per line**

Block number	Number of boxes
1	8
2	11
3	16
4	13
5	13
6	15
7	13
8	16
9	16
10	14
11	12
12	15
13	4
14	9
15	15
16	14
204	

Solve Catdoku and win!

Correct solutions received from the entire Elektor readership automatically enter a prize draw for three Elektor Book Vouchers worth **$70.00 / £40.00 / €50.00 each**, which should encourage all Elektor readers to participate.

Participate!

Ultimately February 1, 2017, supply your name, street address and the solution (the numbers in the gray boxes) by email to: **hexadoku@elektor.com**

Prize Winners

The solution of Hexadoku installment 5/2016 (November & December) is: **6182F**.

The €50 / £40 / $70 book vouchers have been awarded to: Eugene Stemple (USA); Michael Staffler (Germany); Dirk Dreesen (Belgium).

Congratulations everyone!

3	6	4	5	A	7	B	F	8	D	E	0	2	9	C	1
D	E	1	7	C	0	2	8	F	9	3	5	A	B	4	6
A	F	0	2	9	D	1	5	C	B	4	6	8	E	3	7
9	8	B	C	3	4	6	E	A	1	7	2	5	D	F	0
E	C	3	6	D	8	4	7	0	2	F	9	B	A	1	5
4	1	2	8	B	5	0	3	D	6	A	E	C	F	7	9
5	7	9	0	F	A	C	2	3	8	B	1	4	6	D	E
B	A	F	D	E	1	9	6	4	C	5	7	3	0	8	2
C	0	E	B	2	9	7	4	6	A	8	3	D	1	5	F
1	2	A	F	5	B	3	0	7	4	9	D	6	8	E	C
6	3	8	4	1	E	D	C	B	5	0	F	9	7	2	A
7	5	D	9	6	F	8	A	1	E	2	C	0	3	B	4
F	9	5	E	0	C	A	1	2	3	D	8	7	4	6	B
0	B	6	1	8	2	F	D	9	7	C	4	E	5	A	3
2	D	7	3	4	6	E	B	5	0	1	A	F	C	9	8
8	4	C	A	7	3	5	9	E	F	6	B	1	2	0	D