

Creating Secret Messages Using a Code Wheel

Use this code wheel to create **ciphers**: algorithms for creating secret messages and for getting the original message back.

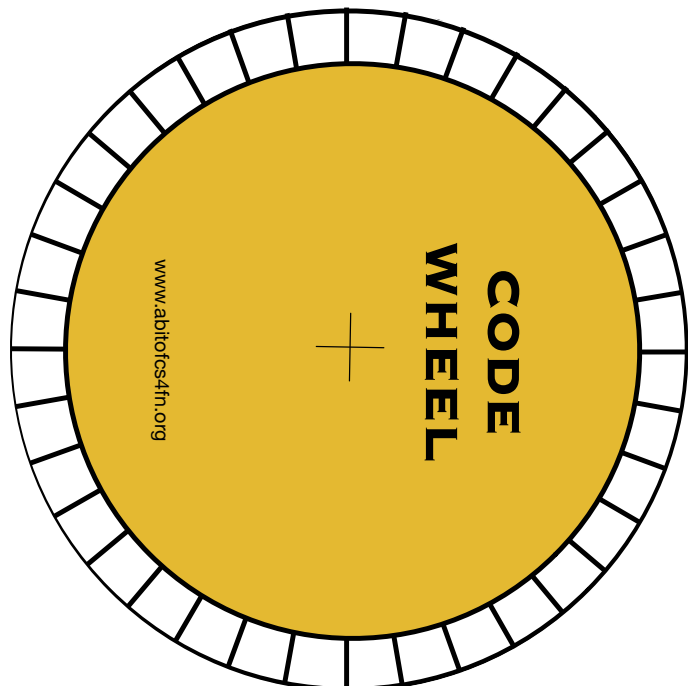
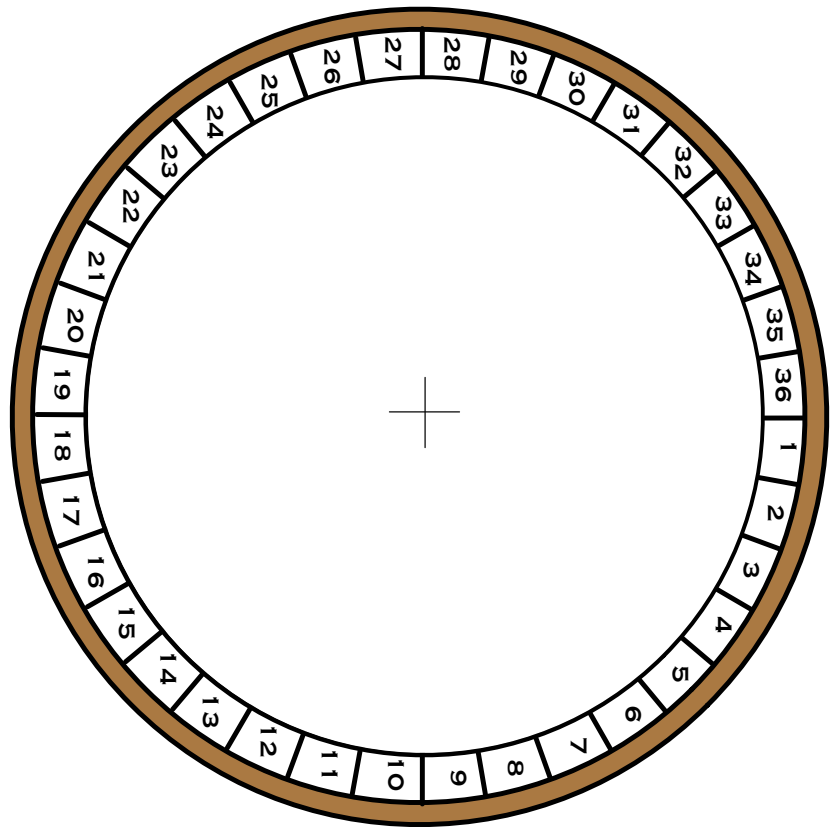
The original message is called **plaintext**. The secret message is called **ciphertext**.

Cut out the two circles and pin the smaller one on top of the larger using a brass split pin paper fastener pushed through the crosses in the middle. Write the letters of the alphabet and other symbols needed, in any order, round the inner ring. Fix the position of the ring.

To encrypt a message using your cipher, for each letter in your plaintext message, write down the number on the outer ring next to it.

To decrypt a message, set the wheel in exactly the same position you used to encrypt the message. For each number in your ciphertext message, write down the letter on the inner wheel next to it.

Just spin the wheel to create a new cipher!



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