

SEARCHING FOR A DOUBLE 10-BY-10

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Avid readers of **Word Ways** may remember that I attempted a computer search for 10-by-10 word squares a number of years ago. I had a vocabulary of 55,000 ten-letter words and phrases stored in the computer, about half dictionary words and the rest names and phrases I had devised from brainstorming and free association. For example, I'd pick a word like **carpet** and think of all the things that go with it, like **-bags, bugs, tack, roll, shop, -less, -like, etc.** My best effort, a square containing eight words from Webster's Second, appeared in the February 1977 **Word Ways**.

Recently, I began a search on my personal computer for a 10-by-10 double word square. I had about one thousand words already stored in the computer, and began combing the pocket dictionary for words, adding a few hundred per day. So far, I have entered a total of 5,335 words into the computer.

The double word square program searches all combinations of words that might possibly lead to a 10-by-10 square. With the 5,335-word list, this takes 78 minutes. With such a small vocabulary, the computer can progress only as far as level 4-10; that is, it can find partial squares with four valid words in one direction and ten valid words in the other. It has also found a few squares at level 5-5. I have listed a sample of the better squares below.

If there is any **Word Ways** reader who has a PC, and would like to help compile the word list, or who has a list already, or who knows how to extract the word list from a spelling checker, please write to me at 59 DeGarmo Hills Road, Wappingers Falls, NY 12590.

SCABROUSLY	ACCELERATE	ACCESSIBLE
ORNAMENTAL	CHAPFALLEN	CHANCELLOR
BETROTHALS	CATALEPTIC	CONGEALING
EMACIATING	ENCUMBERED	ORDINARILY
RAGAMUFFIN	SCALLOPING	RUINATIONS
STORMINESS	SELECTIONS	DSDER
IONOSPHERE	ILLTREATED	ALAEI
DRILLPRESS	BLITHERING	NITRS
EISENHOWER	LONELINESS	CNEET
DAMSONPLUM	ERGS	EESDS