

Download Remembering Sin Cos Tan

Divide your sine values by the cosine values to fill the tangent column. Simply speaking, tangent = sine/cosine. Thus, for every angle, take its sine value and divide it by its cosine value to calculate the corresponding tangent value. To take 30° as an example: $\tan 30^\circ = \sin 30^\circ / \cos 30^\circ = (1/2) / (\sqrt{3}/2) = 1/\sqrt{3}$. An alternate way to remember the letters for Sin, Cos, and Tan is to memorize the nonsense syllables Oh, Ah, Oh-Ah (i.e. / o? ? ? o?. ? /) for O/H, A/H, O/A. Or, to remember all six functions, Sin, Cos, Tan, Cot, Sec, and Csc, memorize the syllables O/H, A/H, Oh/Ah, Ah/Oh, H/A, H/O (i.e. / o? ? ? o? . ? ? ? o? h ? ? h o? /). I recently tweeted the following (on Twitter, of course): Tip for remembering sin, cos and tan: Some Old Hags Can't Always Hide Their Old Age (sin = Opp/Hyp, cos = Adj/Hyp, tan = Opp/Adj) Tan=O/A, opposite over adjacent; also sin/cos. Sec is 1/cos, csc=1/sin, and cot=1/tan - and they aren't used as often, either. One last huge memorization task in Trig class is principal values. The only way to remember these is to play with the triangles they are derived from. If you cut a square in half at the opposite corners, you end up with two identical triangles with 45-45-90° corners. The long side, across from the 90° angle, is the hypotenuse and it's 1.414 times the ...