Speed Climbing

Certification Standards

Version 20200106 **DRAFT**

USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards - Version 20200106 **DRAFT**

This document shall remain in effect until a subsequent version has been published.

Any amendments to this document will be published on the USA Climbing website www.usaclimbing.org and shall be read in conjunction with and shall take precedence over the original document.

This document is subject to review by the Risk Management Committee and Athletes' Advisory Committee of USA Climbing, and to approval by the Chief Executive Officer and the Board of Directors of USA Climbing. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Bylaws and this document, USA Climbing's Bylaws will control. This document is intended to supplement and not to conflict with the USA Climbing Rulebook. To the extent that matters covered in this document are appropriate for inclusion in the Rulebook, USA Climbing intends for the Rulebook to be updated in the usual course accordingly. In the event of any conflict between USA Climbing's Rulebook and this document, the Rulebook will control.

All climbing and safety equipment used during any USA Climbing competition or event, including but not limited to harnesses and belay devices, must be used in full compliance with manufacturers' specifications. Nothing in this document is intended to conflict with the manufacturers' specifications. However, to the extent there is a conflict between this document and any manufacturers' specifications, the manufacturers' specifications shall govern regarding the use of all climbing and safety equipment.

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This documented was drafted by USA Climbing.

1 Significant Changes

This is the first published version of the USA Climbing Speed Climbing Certification Standards.

2 Introduction

This USA Climbing Speed Certification Standards (Standards) document is intended to provide guidance for Event Organizers to understand the Standards for USA Climbing Speed Climbing competitions.

This document is not intended to be a complete description of all elements of a Speed Climbing competition, including without limitation all aspects of safety and fairness. In planning for and executing such a competition, a Host Facility and Event Organizer should consult:, Host Facility policies, rules, and processes; equipment manufacturer technical information, recommendations, and allowed uses; and the USA Climbing Rulebook.

3 Field of Play Standards

The Field of Play Standards address without limitation the Speed Climbing wall, holds, belay systems, and timing systems.

The Standards are based on, and informed by, the IFSC Speed Climbing standards as outlined in the IFSC Speed License Rules document available on the ifsc-climbing.org website. (At the time this USA Climbing document was published, the IFSC Speed License Rules were available here.)

For all USA Climbing Speed Climbing competitions, the IFSC Speed Field of Play standards are *recommended.* However, for select USA Climbing Speed Climbing competitions the IFSC Speed Field of Play standards are *required*. See the USA Climbing Rulebook for such requirements.

This USA Climbing Standards document outlines three levels of certification, as introduced in the USA Climbing Rulebook: National, Qualifying, and Event. See the USA Climbing Rulebook for the high-level definition and for the use of these certification levels.

The remainder of this section outlines specific requirements for the USA Climbing Speed Standard Certification levels. As indicated earlier, the IFSC Standard is at minimum a *recommendation* for all USA Climbing Speed competition events.

3.1 Wall Standards

The Standards for the wall, protection points, holds, hold pattern, etc are below. Where applicable, the current (at the time this USA Climbing document was published) IFSC Standards are listed in parenthesis in the "National Standard" column.

Standard	National Standard	Qualifying Standard	Event Standard
Belay anchor placement, height above finish	IFSC Standard required (1m)	0.75m to 2m required	0.25m or more required
Belay anchor placement, distance from wall	IFSC Standard required (1m)	0m to 1.5m required	0m to 1.5m required
Wall continues above finish pad (w/o obstruction)	IFSC Standard required (at least 50cm)	At least 20cm required	At least safe distance above finish pad required
T-nut grid pattern accurate	IFSC Standard required	IFSC Standard required, but extra t-nuts are allowed.	IFSC Standard recommended, but not required
Distance from ground to bolt of start hand hold	IFSC Standard required (188.82cm +/- 10mm)	+/- 20mm required	Wide tolerance
Floor surface	IFSC Standard required (no starting pad, 1m x 3m)	Solid or firm padding surface required, at least 1m x 3m area, section of plywood suggested.	May be padded
Wall Height	IFSC Standard 15m required	10m or 15m required	10m or 15m recommended, but not required.
Holds	Current IFSC hold manufacturer (VOLX)	Current or past IFSC certified.	IFSC holds or similar recommended
Accurate route, precise Hold orientation/angle	IFSC Standard required	IFSC Standard required	IFSC Standard recommended, but not required
Secure holds, with set screw	required	required	IFSC Standard recommended, but not required
Route with no obstructions or obstacles, no other holds or bolt hangers	IFSC Standard required	No objects within 1.5m on either side of route	IFSC Standard recommended, but not required
Wall angle	IFSC Standard required (5deg)	IFSC Standard required	Wide tolerance
Wall height	IFSC 15m Standard required	10m or 15m wall, within IFSC tolerances	Wide tolerance
Wall panel width	IFSC Standard required	IFSC Standard required	Not required
Granulometry (friction)	IFSC Standard required	IFSC Standard required but wider tolerance, friction tape allowed for repairing	not required

		worn friction spots on the wall.	
Panels adjacent	IFSC Standard Required (adjacent – within 1m of each other)	Lanes/Panels adjacent within 5m of each other.	Not required

3.2 Belay Standards

USA Climbing Speed Climbing Competitions must use a belay system and belay devices determined by the host facility to be designed or suitable for speed climbing, used in a manner approved by the manufacturer, with all belay devices in good working order to the best knowledge of the Host Facility after reasonable diligence and regularly scheduled maintenance, as applicable, and subject to the limitations and notifications in the Host Facility Agreement and the USA Climbing Rulebook.

Note that USA Climbing is not aware of any manual belay device that is designed for and suitable for speed climbing and that USA Climbing is aware that there are auto-belay devices that are not suitable for speed climbing.

3.3 Timing System Standards

The Timing system for the National and Qualifying Standards must be an Automatic Timing System.

Standard	National Standard	Qualifying Standard	Event Standard
Automatic Timing System	Required	Required	Recommended, but Hand timers allowed. See Rulebook
Precision	Measure/Detect to 3 decimal places. Display to at least 2 decimal places.	At least 2 decimal places	At least 2 decimal places, if Automatic System
Technical False Start Detection	Required	Recommended	Recommended, if Automatic System

3.4 Floor Area Standards

Standard	National Standard	Qualifying Standard	Event Standard
Warm up area	Multiple angles of wall required with multiple holds. Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors	Multiple angles of wall required with multiple holds.	tbd
Staging area	Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors	Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors	n/a
Competition area	Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors	Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors	Cordoned off from crowd, off-limits to non-competitors

3.5 **Staffing Standards**

Standard	National Standard	Qualifying Standard	Event Standard
Chief Speed Judge	Certified, if available. Otherwise Trained.	Trained	Trained
Starting Judge	Certified, if available. Otherwise Trained.	Trained (may be combined with Chief Speed Judge if necessary)	Trained (may be combined with Chief Speed Judge if necessary)
Clippers	Trained	Trained	Trained
Stagers	Trained	Trained (may be combined with Stagers if necessary)	Trained (may be combined with Stagers if necessary)

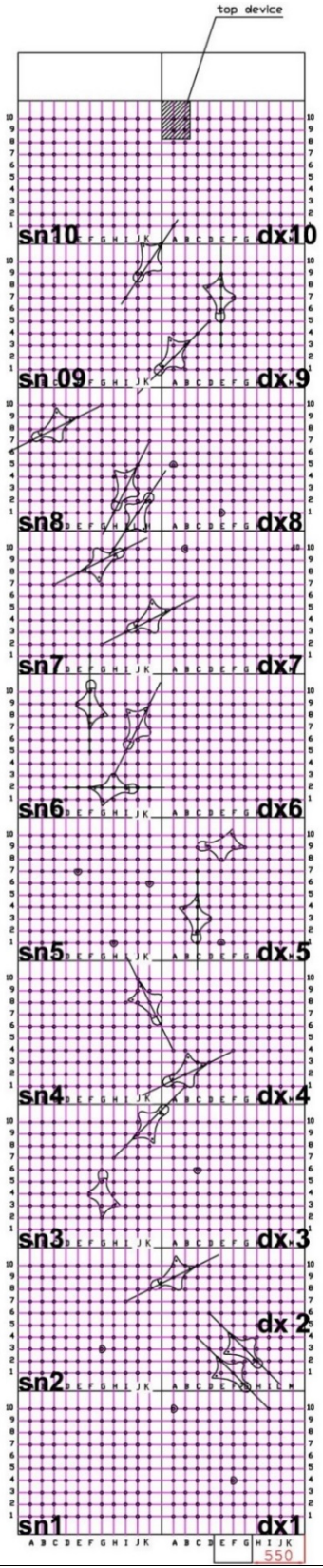
4 Field of Play Certification Process

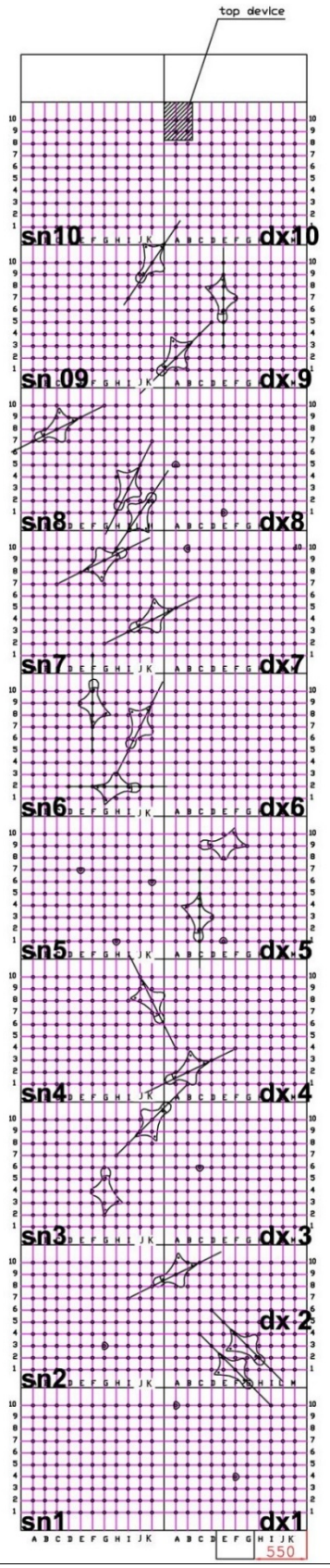
TBD.

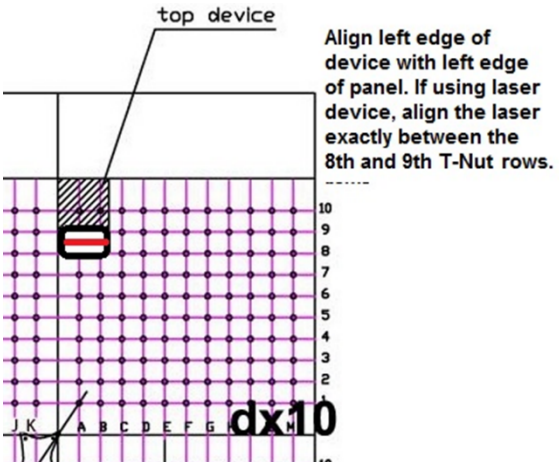
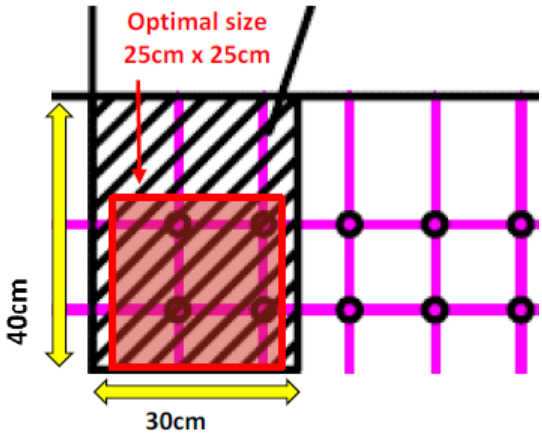
- What is the process to inspect / certify a wall.
- Who is qualified to inspect and certify a wall

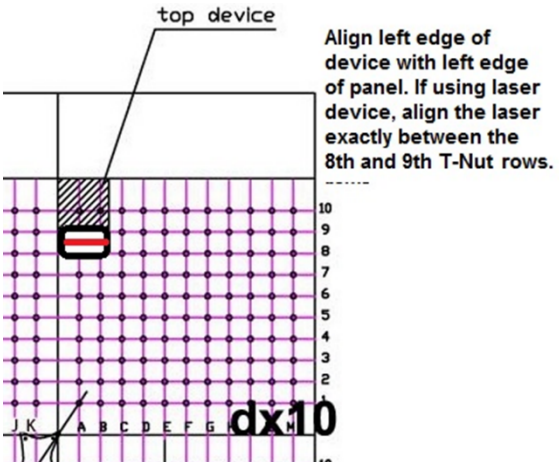
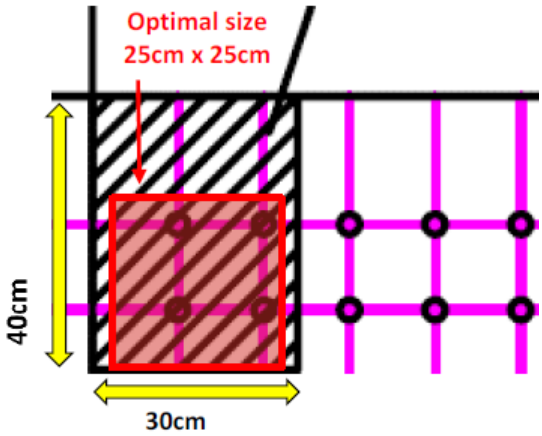
5 Appendix

5.1 Speed Wall and Route Checklist

Lane A (LEFT)	
	**Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed** **(draw arrow to hold with comment/needed change)**

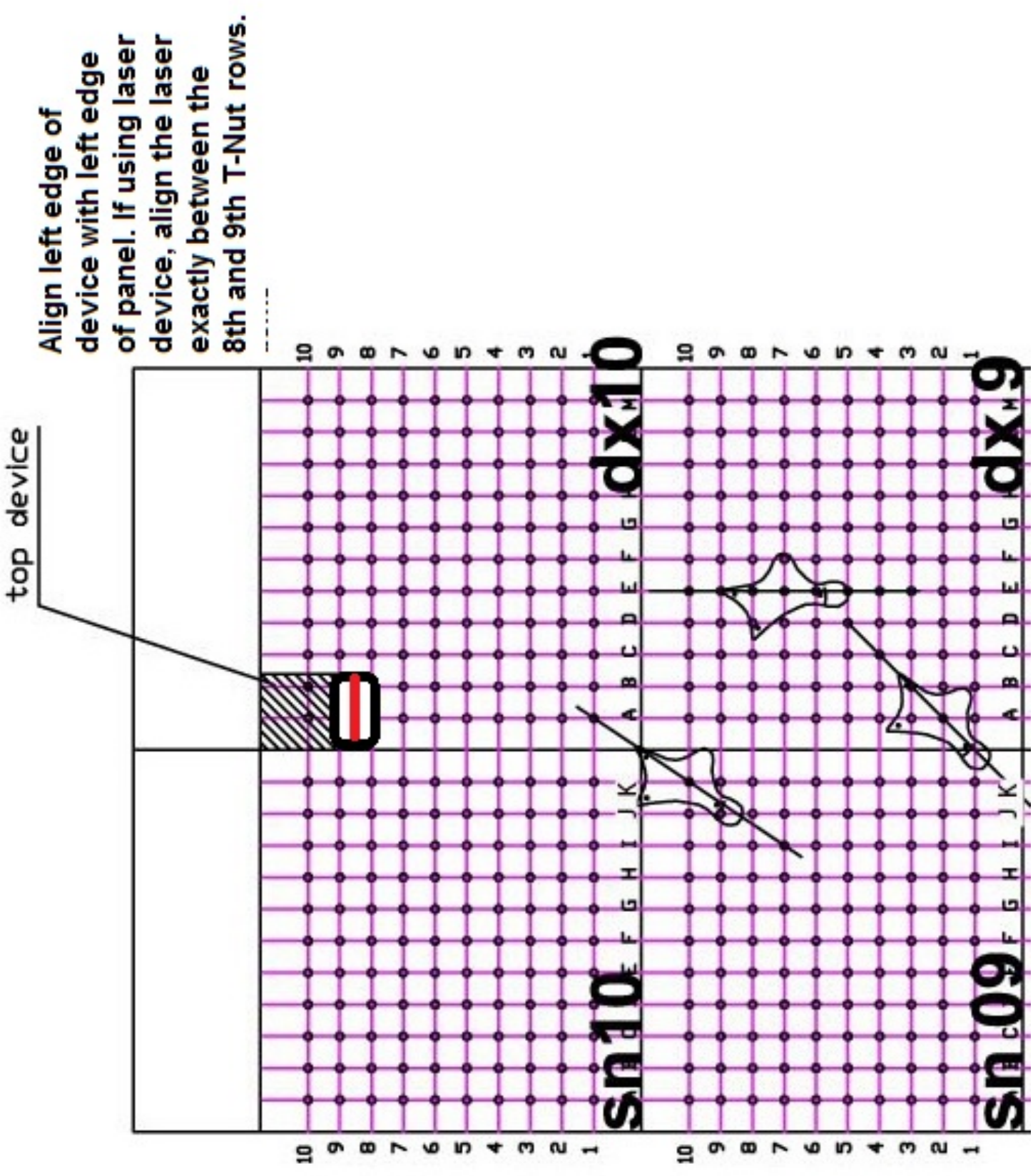
Lane B (RIGHT)	
Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed (draw arrow to hold with comment/needed change)	

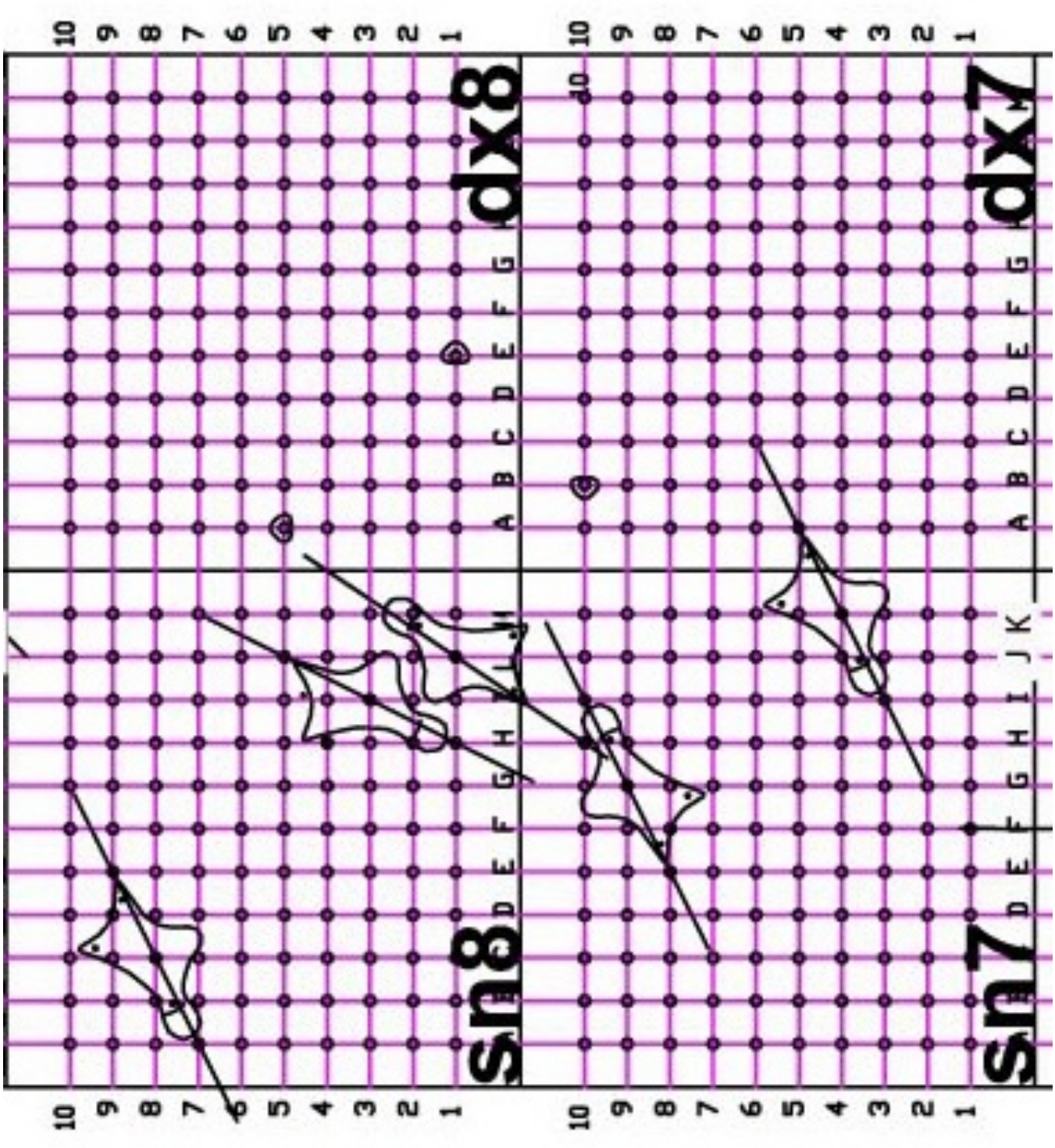
Lane A Finish Pad	
Laser:  	Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed (draw arrow with comment/needed change)
Pressure Pad:  Maximum allowed size is 40cm x 30cm (black box) and optimal size is 25cm x 25cm (red box)	Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed (draw arrow with comment/needed change)

Lane B Finish Pad	
Laser:  	Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed (draw arrow with comment/needed change)
Pressure Pad:  Maximum allowed size is 40cm x 30cm (black box) and optimal size is 25cm x 25cm (red box)	Notes to Routesetter / Corrections Needed (draw arrow with comment/needed change)

Speed Wall Certification Checklist	
Wall Standard – Check box if meets standard	**NOTES /ACTUAL**
☐ Speed Autobelay: Manufacturer / model:	
☐ Belay Anchor Point 1 meter above finish pad	
☐ Belay anchor point 1 meter away from wall	
☐ Wall continues at least 50cm above finish pad	
☐ Wall angle 5 degrees +/- .5 degrees / consistent (Check 3-5 panels of each route); max overhang 1698mm	
☐ Panel width 3 meters +/- 2mm	
☐ T-Nut grid: 11 wide x 10 high	
Distance between T-Nuts: ☐ 125mm +/- 1mm horizontal and vertical distance between holes ☐ Horizontal hole to edge distance 188mm +/- 1mm ☐ Vertical hole to edge distance 250mm +/- 1mm (measure at least 20 holes)	
☐ Distance from bolt of 1st starting hand to center of finish pad: 13,140mm +/- 20mm	
☐ Distance from floor to bolt of 1st starting hand hold: 1, 888.2 mm +/- 10mm	
Floor Surface ☐ Solid surface (no padding) ☐ Size of solid surface (minimum 1 meter x 2 meters; each lane)	
HOLDS ☐ Manufacturer ☐ Certified/bar-coded ☐ Clean / chalked ☐ Size / consistency ☐ All set screws installed	
☐ Timing System ☐ Measure/detect to 3 decimal places, display to at least 2 decimal places Manufacturer: Verify finish, .1 second technical FS and FS	
☐ No interference with route (bolt hangars, other holds)	
☐ Granulometry -Present	
☐ Lanes Adjacent (within 5 meters)	
☐ Warm up area (adequate space and surfaces, isolated from non-competitors, adjacent to competition zone)	
ADDITIONAL NOTES:	USA Climbing National Event / National Record Eligible?

Route map attached to print and supply to Routesetters. A laser pointer is helpful, if tweaking holds.

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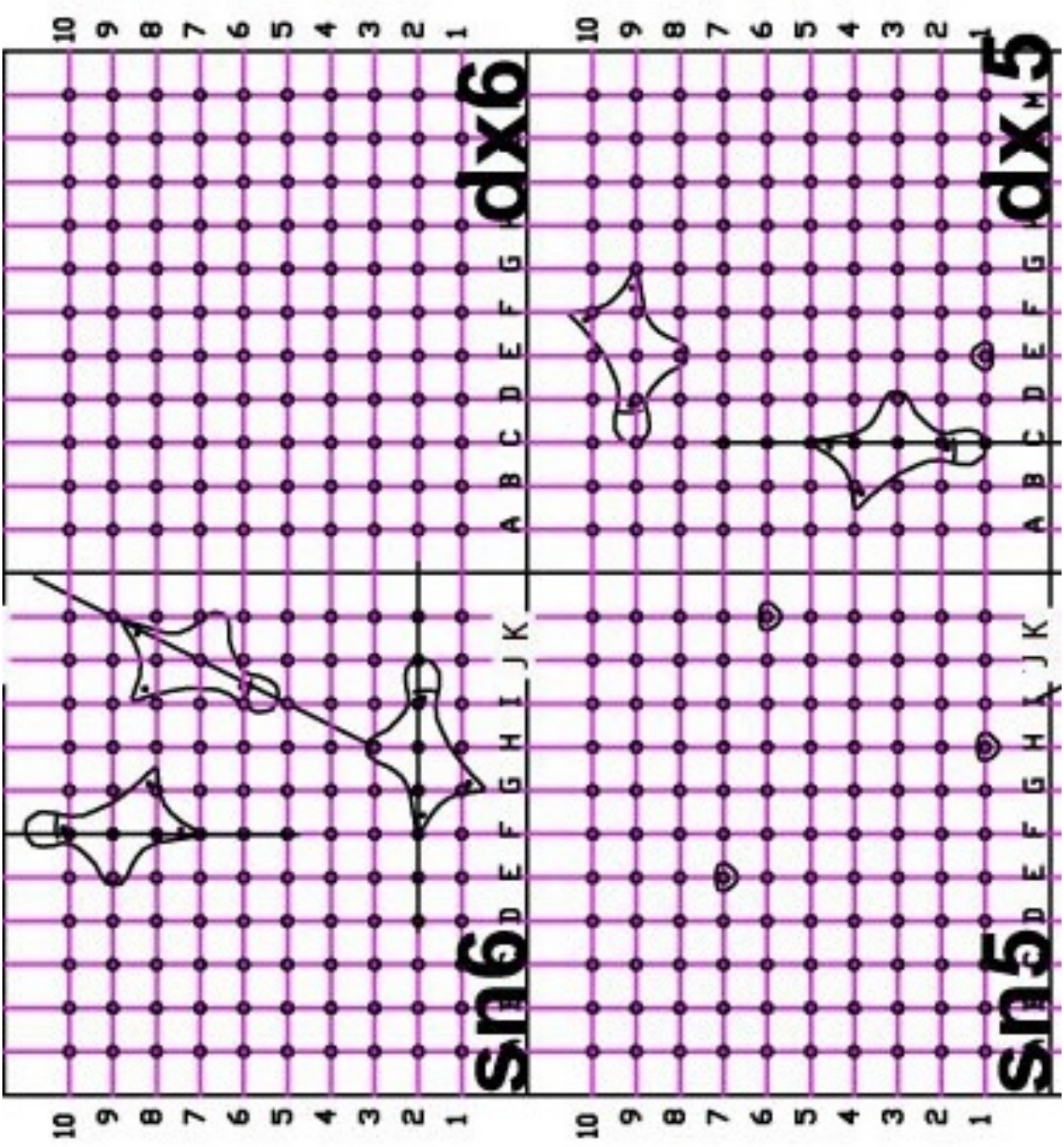
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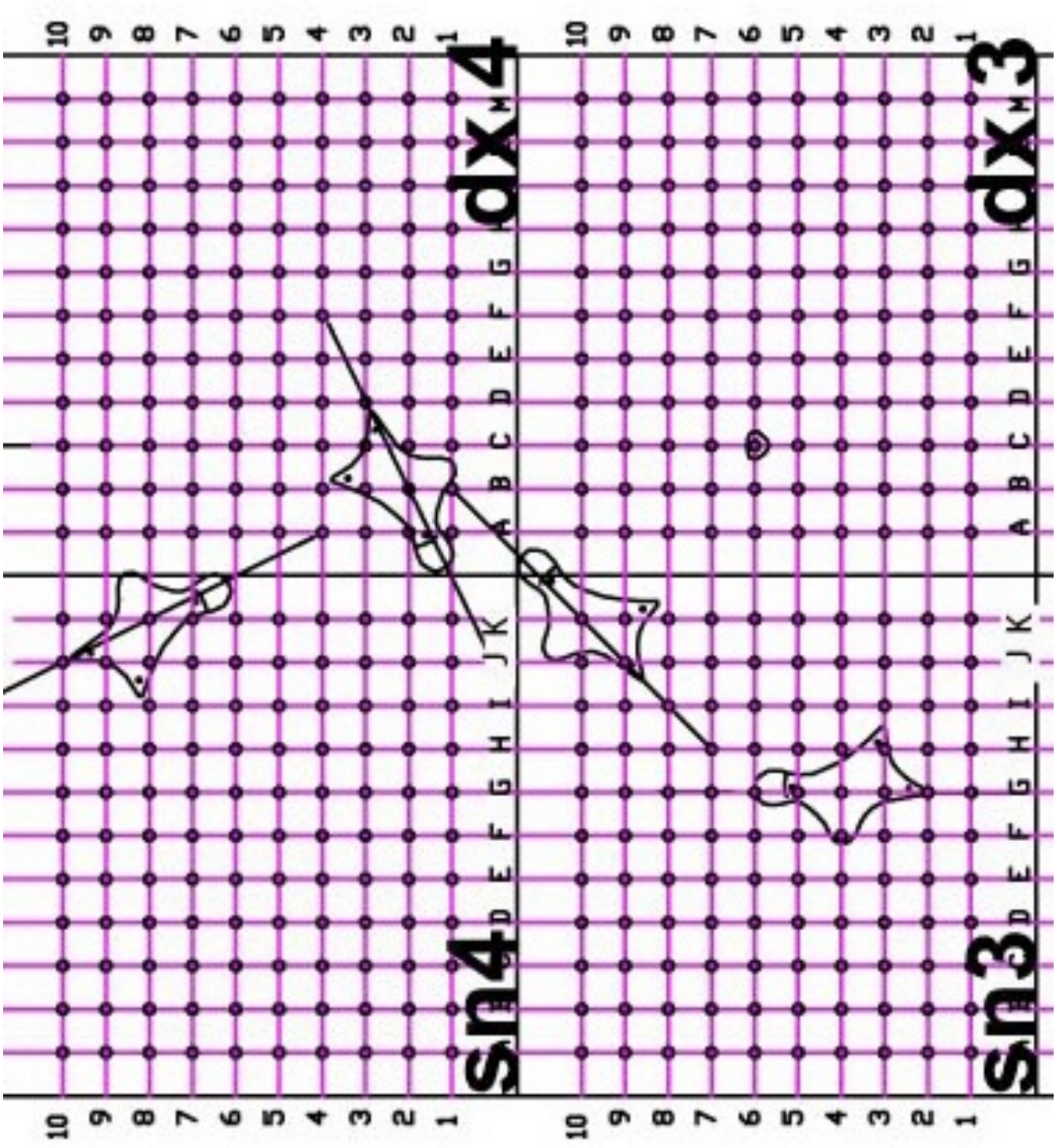
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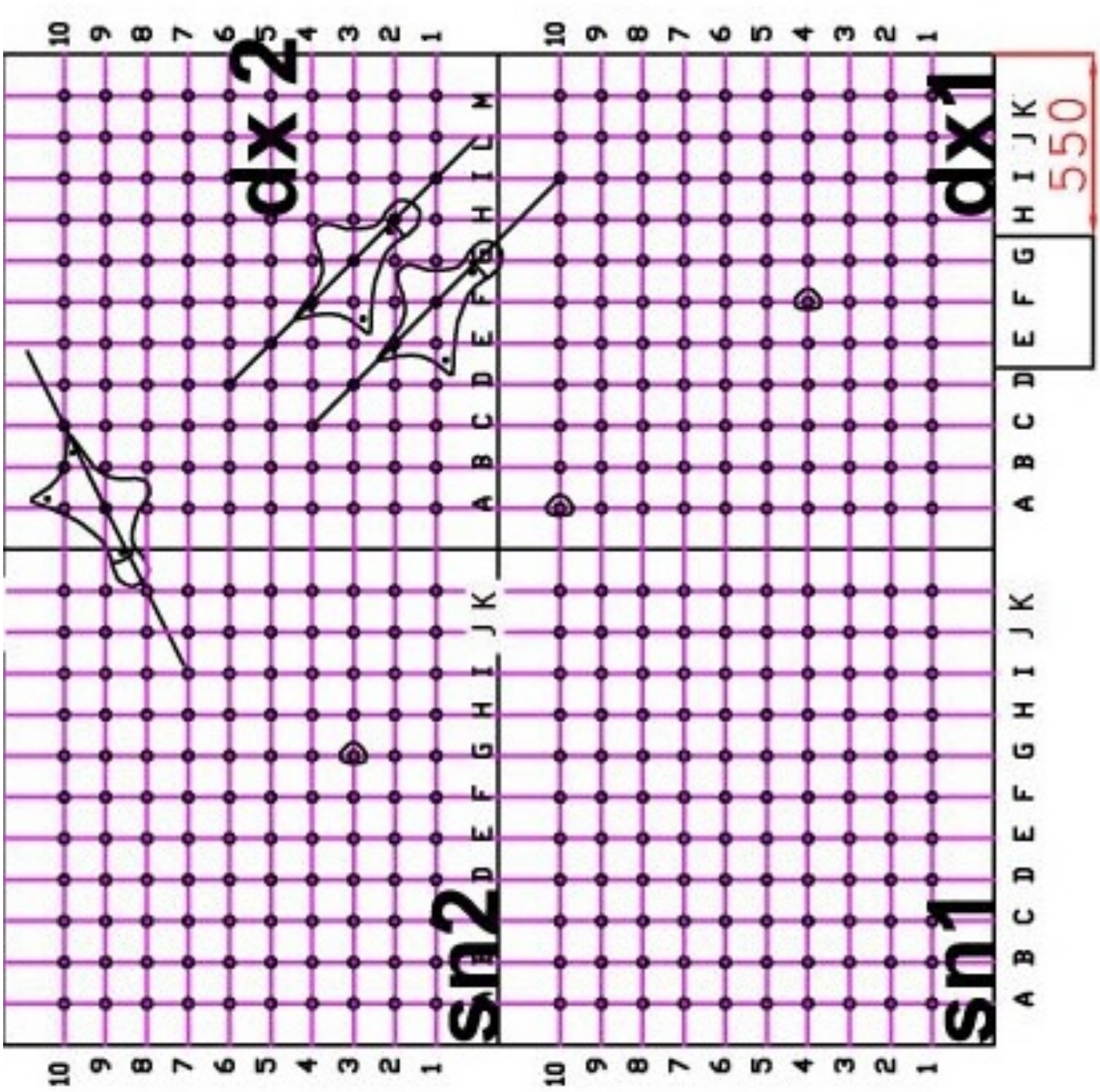
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