

NIHILIST TRANSPOSITION (10x10 maximum)

The same key is applied to rows and columns.

Elcy Chap IV (p. 18) describes the following method for enciphering Nihilist Transposition.

Enter the plaintext in square 1 by rows as shown. Transpose columns by key order into square 2. Transpose rows of square 2 by key order into square 3. The ciphertext is taken off by columns or rows from square 3.

pt: square needed here

Key: 2134

	1	2	3	4
1	S	Q	U	A
2	R	E	N	E
3	E	D	E	D
4	H	E	R	E

1

2	1	3	4
Q	S	U	A
E	R	N	E
D	E	E	D
E	H	R	E

2

	2	1	3	4
2	E	R	N	E
1	Q	S	U	A
3	D	E	E	D
4	E	H	R	E

3

Another option for encipherment follows. This method is described by **LEDGE** in *Novice Notes*.

Enter the plaintext in square 1 by rows as shown. Transpose columns to numerical order in square 2. Transpose rows of square 2 to numerical key order into square 3. The ciphertext is taken off by columns or rows from square 3.

pt: square needed here

Key: 2134

	2	1	3	4
2	S	Q	U	A
1	R	E	N	E
3	E	D	E	D
4	H	E	R	E

1

1	2	3	4
Q	S	U	A
E	R	N	E
D	E	E	D
E	H	R	E

2

	1	2	3	4
1	E	R	N	E
2	Q	S	U	A
3	D	E	E	D
4	E	H	R	E

3

The Nihilist Transposition encipherment method in *Elcy* uses a Writing-in key (see *Elcy* p.23), whereas **LEDGE**'s encipherment method uses a Taking-out key. Writing-in and Taking-out keys are the inverse of each other, and *Elcy* describes converting between them. With some specific keys, such as 2134, the Writing-in key and Taking-out key are identical, and in that case the encipherment methods above both return the same ciphertext.

C1: EQDER SEHNU EREAD E. (taken off by columns)

or

C2: ERNEQ SUADE EDEHR E. (taken off by rows)