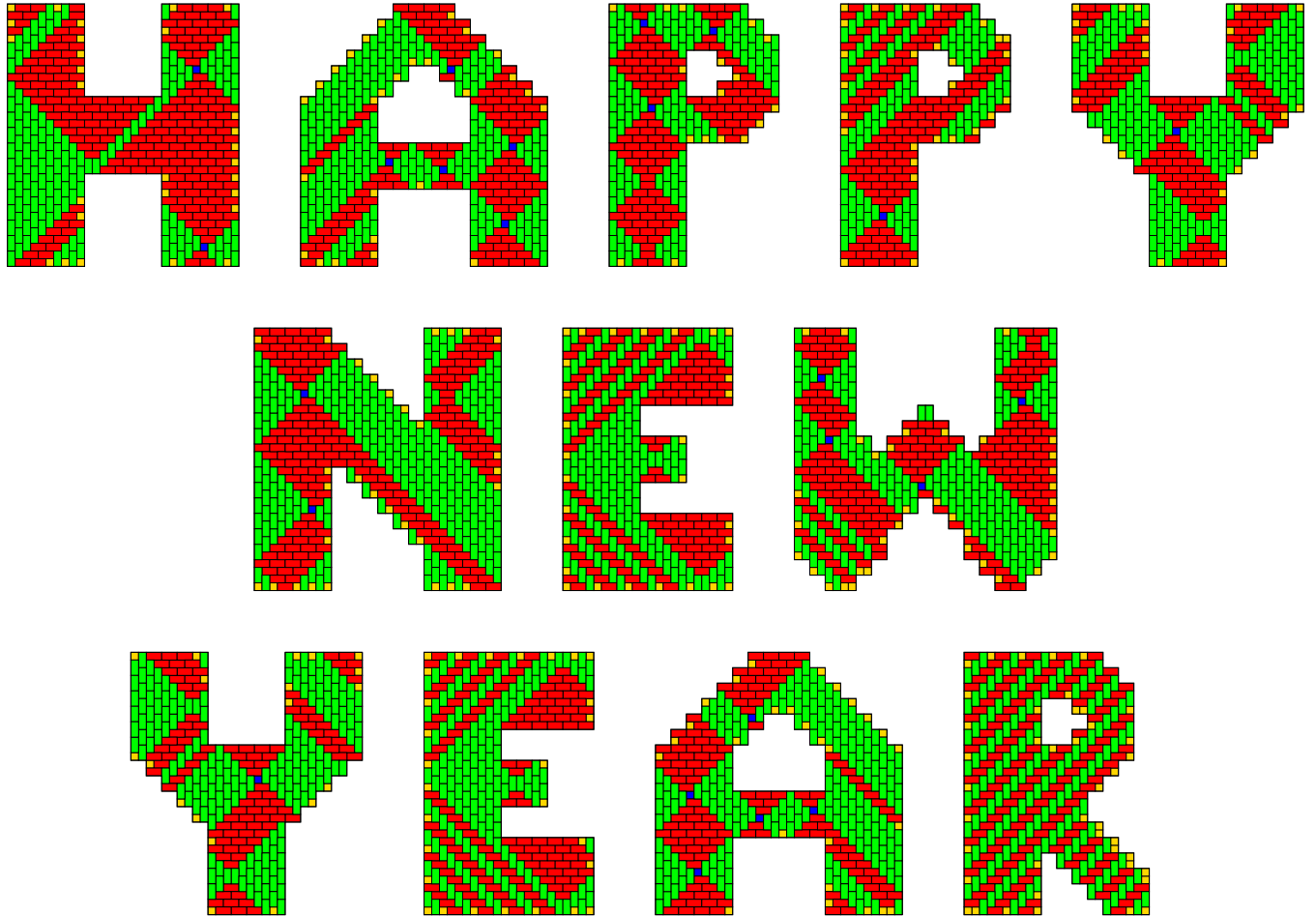# Frank Ruskey's Nerdy New Year's Greeting

Dear Friends,

Best wishes for the upcoming year. Unlike the past couple of years, this greeting is not based on Venn diagrams. It is an example of a "Tatami tiling"; the orthogonal regions are filled with dimer and monomer tiles in which no four tiles meet at a point. There is nothing special about the tilings of the letters, but they are illustrative of the structural characteristics of such tilings. If you are bored, perhaps you will have fun proving that the number of such tilings of an $n \times n$ square that maximize the number of monomers is $n2^{n-1}$.

Cheers,

Frank