

Proposal to encode the two remaining tally mark systems proposed in L2/15-328**Eduardo Marin Silva****27/03/2018**

Introduction. In a previous document (<https://www.unicode.org/L2/L2015/15328-tally-marks.pdf>) Ken Lunde proposed encoding characters for 4 tally mark systems, two of these systems were accepted for encoding (fence and ideographic tally marks) and they were allocated in the “Counting Rod Numerals” block. This proposal picks up where Lunde stopped, to encode the other two tally mark systems (square and, dots and slashes tally marks).

Code position. Since there are now only two spaces that have not been assigned in the “Counting Rod Numerals” block, and the “Number Forms” block only has 4 empty spaces a new block must be assigned for these I suggest calling it: Number Forms Extended A, it must have a minimum of two rows. Another option is to use the codepoints in the Mayan Numerals block, but really those codepoints should be reserved for any new discoveries on the Maya numerical notation.

In the other case it made sense to use the “Counting Rod Numerals” block because the systems are very similar, in the sense that the next glyph only differs by the previous glyph by one stroke (or rod), while the Mayan numerals do not share such parallel.

The new block could start at 1D380.

Evidence. All the evidence for the use of the two systems is contained in Ken Lunde’s proposal so it would be redundant to also include it here. However I will add that the Wikipedia page mentions them both along with the already approved tally systems (English: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tally_marks) (German: <https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Strichliste>).

One thing to note is that the English Wikipedia page, an alternative presentation of the initial tally mark is presented in which it is slanted to better distinguish cluster boundaries, which could mean encoding a DIAGONAL TALLY MARK ONE; but more research is needed into such a system.

Names. I propose to name them differently than Ken did. Instead of BOX TALLY MARK, I propose SQUARE TALLY MARK, and instead of DOT AND SLASH TALLY MARK, I propose DOTS AND SLASHES TALLY MARK.

Other properties. Apart from the names, all other aspects of the characters are okay, including glyphs, character properties and confusables. If I must suggest a collation order I would place the fence style tally marks first, followed by the box tally marks, then the ideographic tally marks and finally, the dots and slashes tally marks. One could argue that the ideographic and the box tally marks should switch places, but I have no preference either way.