

# **Russian Peasant Multiplication**

**In previous centuries knowledge of the multiplication was not common so many techniques were developed that did not require memorizing the multiplication table**

**Finger Reckoning was one technique**

**Russian Peasant Multiplication only requires doubling and halving (duplation and mediation)**

# How to do it

Write the two numbers to be multiplied in a row

On successive rows halve the first number and double the second number (ignoring fractions)

Stop when you get to 1

Cross off every row with an even number in the first column

Add up the remaining numbers in the second column

**Example:**

$$\begin{array}{r} 21 \quad 27 \\ \hline 10 \quad 54 \\ 5 \quad 108 \\ \hline 2 \quad 216 \\ 1 \quad \underline{432} \\ \quad 567 \end{array}$$

**Is this right?**

**How does it work?**