Verdic Multiplication

Travelling folk in Lincolnshire back in the fifties could be seen in the market place multiplying using their fingers on each hand numbered 6 to 10. Put two fingers together and count the number digits in front as the first number and multiply the behind fingers together for the second digit.

Here's the proof it works.

Write the two numbers vertically and subtract each from 10 to give

8 2

7 3

Subtract either number from its diagonal and write in a third row.

8 2

7 3

5 (ie 8 – 3 or 7 – 2

Now multiply the right column numbers together to get

8 2

7 3

5 6 ie 8 × 7 = 56

This method will work with any two numbers, two digit three digit etc.

77

96

Subtract from 100, and calculate the third row as before

77 23

96 4

73

Multiply second column to get

77 23

96 4

73 92 ie 77 × 96 = 7392

Algebraic Proof

x 10 – x

y 10 – y

(x + y – 10)×10 - the "tens" part

(10–x)(10–y) = 100 –10x –10y +xy

which is the ones part.

Add together

10(x+y – 10) + (100 –10x –10y+xy)

= xy

I've chosen numbers that "work well" with the tens/hundreds separating out cleanly. Sometimes there is a "carry over" with smaller numbers. ☺ *rg*

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