Fence in the Z-Pentomino

—Craig S. Kaplan

The last issue's puzzle was so much fun, we're running a variation this time. In the grid below, build a "good fence" around the given Z-pentomino. You must surround the shape with copies of itself, where each copy has at least one point in common with the original. Copies may be rotated, reflected, or both, and they may not overlap each other except at their boundaries. What is the maximum number of copies you can lay down this way, all touching the original pentomino?

Because this puzzle might involve a healthy amount of erasing and redrawing, we've made a pdf that you can print out and work on at maa.org/maa-focus-supplements.

An interactive version of "Good Fences" is available for iOS and Android. For more information, please see isohedral.ca/goodfences. ⬡

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