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**Author:** Steensen, Anna Kiel  
Johansen, Mikkel Willum  
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**Abstract:** Based on semiotic analyses of examples from the history of mathematics, we claim that the influence of the material aspects of diagram tokens is anything but trivial. We offer an interpretation of examples of diagrammatic reasoning processes in mathematics according to which the mathematical ideas, arguments, and concepts in question are shaped by the physical features of the chosen diagram tokens.  
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