

8.5 Divide Fractions by Fractions

Blake has $\frac{3}{4}$ cup of vinegar to make a homemade cleaner that saves money and is non-toxic. How many batches of cleaner can he make if he uses $\frac{1}{8}$ cup of vinegar in each batch?

$\frac{3}{4}$ divided by $\frac{1}{8}$

Option 1: Divide with a model

Option 2: Multiply by the Reciprocal

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$$\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{8}{1}$$

Practice Together:

$\frac{1}{3}$ by $\frac{1}{6}$

$$\frac{1}{3} \div \frac{1}{6}$$

$$\frac{1}{3} \cdot \frac{6}{1} = \frac{6 \div 3}{3 \div 3} \cdot \frac{2}{1}$$

$$= \boxed{2}$$

$\frac{7}{24}$ by $\frac{7}{12}$

$$\frac{7}{24} \div \frac{7}{12}$$

$$\frac{7}{24} \cdot \frac{12}{7} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{1}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Practice Together:

$\frac{1}{2}$ by $\frac{1}{8}$

$$\frac{1}{2} \div \frac{1}{8}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{1}^4}{\cancel{2}^4} \cdot \frac{8}{1} = \frac{1}{1} \cdot \frac{4}{1} = \frac{4}{1}$$

$$= \boxed{4}$$

$\frac{3}{22}$ by $\frac{3}{11}$

$$\frac{3}{22} \div \frac{3}{11}$$

$$\frac{\cancel{3}^1}{\cancel{22}^2} \cdot \frac{11}{\cancel{3}^1} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \frac{1}{1}$$

$$= \boxed{\frac{1}{2}}$$

Practice Together:

$\frac{3}{8}$ by $\frac{3}{8}$

$$\frac{3}{8} \div \frac{3}{8} = \frac{3}{8} \cdot \frac{8}{3} = \frac{\cancel{3}^1}{\cancel{8}_3} \cdot \frac{\cancel{8}^3}{\cancel{3}_1} = \frac{1}{1} \cdot \frac{3}{1} = \frac{3}{1} = 3$$

$\frac{5}{9}$ by $\frac{2}{3}$

$$\frac{5}{9} \div \frac{2}{3} = \frac{5}{9} \cdot \frac{3}{2} = \frac{5}{\cancel{9}_3} \cdot \frac{\cancel{3}^1}{2} = \frac{5}{3} \cdot \frac{1}{2} = \frac{5}{6}$$