Gordon Mumma MEANWHILE, A TWOPIECE (1961)

Properties:

Grand Piano, top removed.
Six non-pitch objects of various timbres and short decay-times (e.g., bongos, cowbells, templeblocks) played from SCORE 2 as shown in the placement diagram.
A long decay-time vibrating object (e.g., suspended cymbal, tamtam) played from SCORE 2 and SCORE 4 as shown in the placement diagram.
One of the following: Vibraphone, Xylophone, Marimba, or similar instrument.
A non-keyboard instrument which one of the performers can play with proficiency, different from the other instruments chosen.
A large assortment of mallets for the percussion instruments.
Two-channel tape playback apparatus and two wide-range loudspeakers.
Four music stands, one for each of the four scores, which are placed as numbered on the placement diagram.

Procedure:

MEANWHILE, A TWOPIECE consists of four scores and a two-channel magnetic tape. SCORES 1, 2, and 4 consist of seven pages each, in indeterminate order, and are read from top to bottom in columns from left to right. Each page contains three sequences, seperated by a circled number. SCORE 3 is for the non-keyboard instrument on which one of the performers is proficient.

The scores, numbered consecutively from left to right on the placement diagram, apply to the other instruments as follows:
1 = Piano; 2 = Six non-pitch objects, inside the piano, and long-decay object; 4 = Vibraphone (or etc.) and long-decay object.

Each column of SCORES 1, 2, and 4 takes approximately twelve seconds of performance time. These scores are graphic analogs of the performers' physical actions.

SCORES 1, 2, and 4 primarily influence the density of events in time and the relative extent or span of activity within the pitch range of the instruments. The remaining factors (actual pitches, duration of events, loudness, attack, and density of events at a given instant) are determined by the performer's response to the events of the magnetic tape and the events of the other performer.

On SCORE 3 the performer is generally given only exact pitches. The remaining factors (duration, loudness, timbre, attack) are determined by the performer's response to the events of the magnetic tape and the events of the other performer. Unconnected pitches are aperiodic.

The performer from SCORE 1 plays the first sequence on the page immediately in view. Upon finishing the sequence the performer places that page behind the other six pages on that stand and goes to the score indicated at the end of the just-finished sequence. At this score the performer plays the second sequence on the page immediately in view. Upon finishing the sequence the performer places

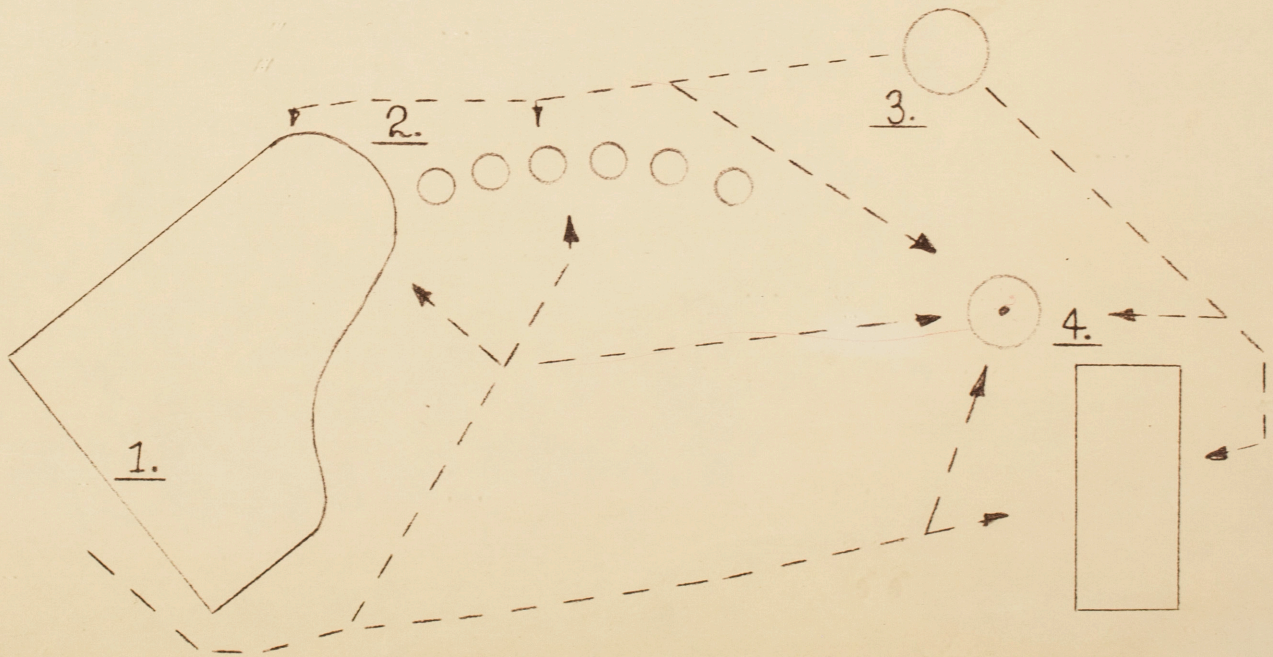
Procedure (cont.)

that page behind the other six pages on that stand and goes to the score indicated at the end of the just-finished sequence. At this score the performer plays the third sequence on the page immediately in view. Upon finishing the sequence the performer places that page behind the other six pages on that stand and goes to the score indicated at the end of the just-finished sequence, where he plays the first sequence on the page immediately in view. This process continues until the end of the magnetic tape.

The performer of the instrument at SCORE 3 reads from left to right. A stave is chosen from Group 1 (indicated by the large arrow). After performing the chosen stave the performer goes to the score indicated by the number at the end of that stave. At this score the performer plays the second sequence of the page immediately in view. Upon finishing the sequence the performer places that page at the end of the other six pages on that stand and goes to the score indicated at the end of the just-finished sequence. At this score the performer plays the third sequence, or if he is at SCORE 3 he chooses a stave from Group 3 (indicated by the large arrow). This process continues until the end of the magnetic tape.

The magnetic tape is approximately seven minutes long, which is the length of the performance. The performers enter together (one performer actuates the tape playback) and go to SCORES 1 and 3 depending on which is their performing instrument. They begin playing immediately.

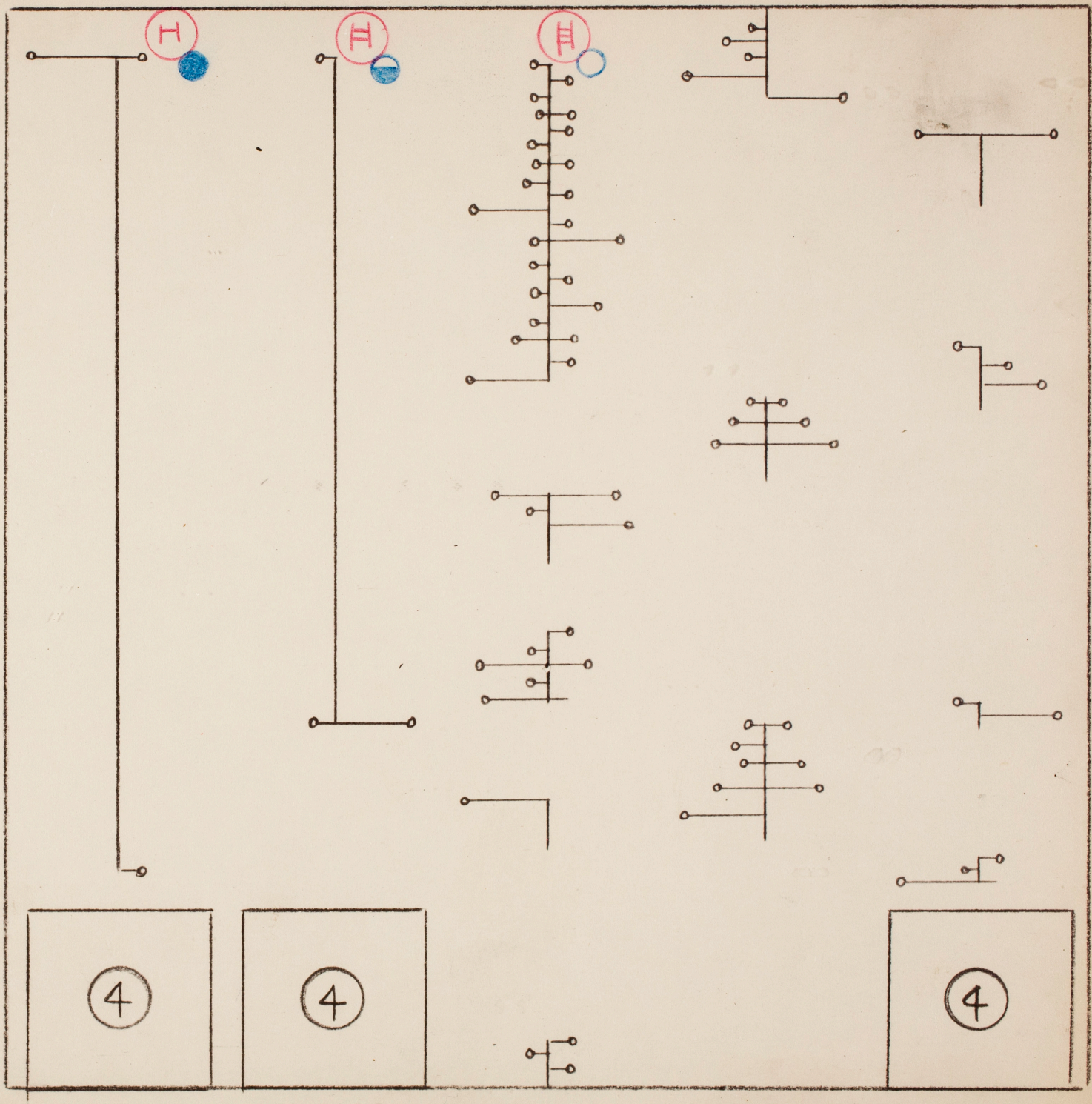
After due consideration, any remaining questions may be resolved by the performers.



Gordon Mumma MEANWHILE, A TWOPIECE (1961)

1

Piano



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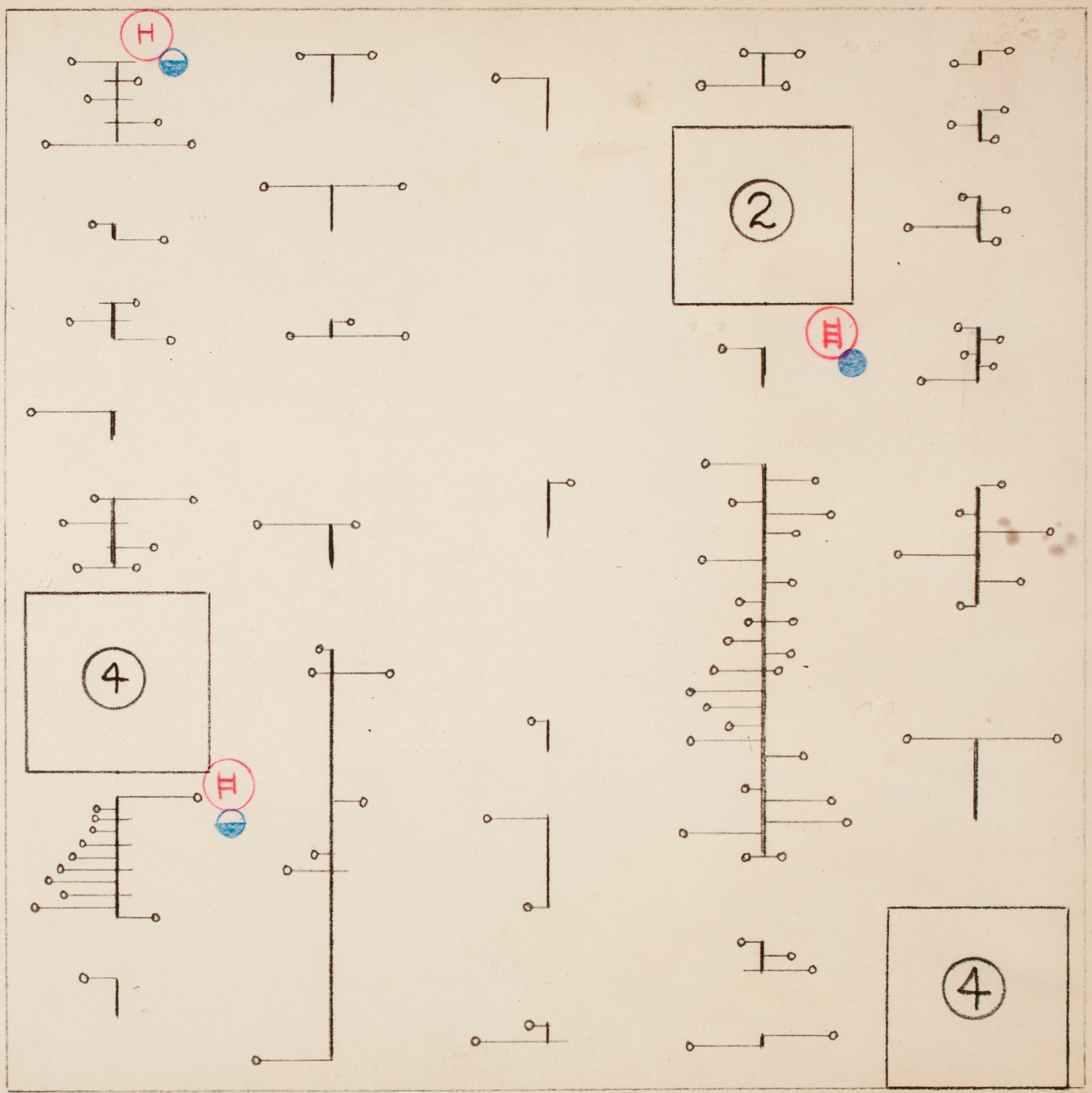
1



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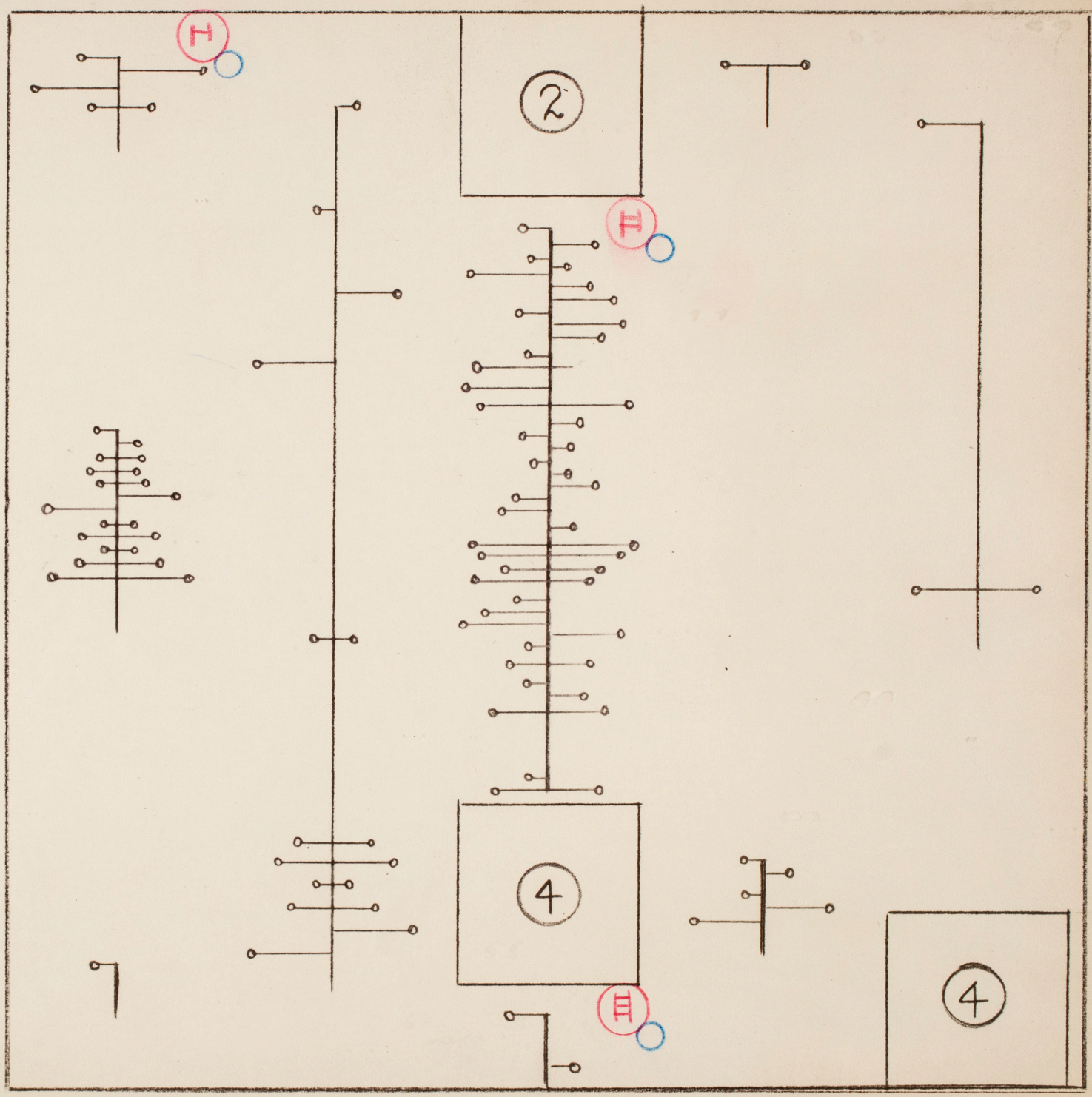
1



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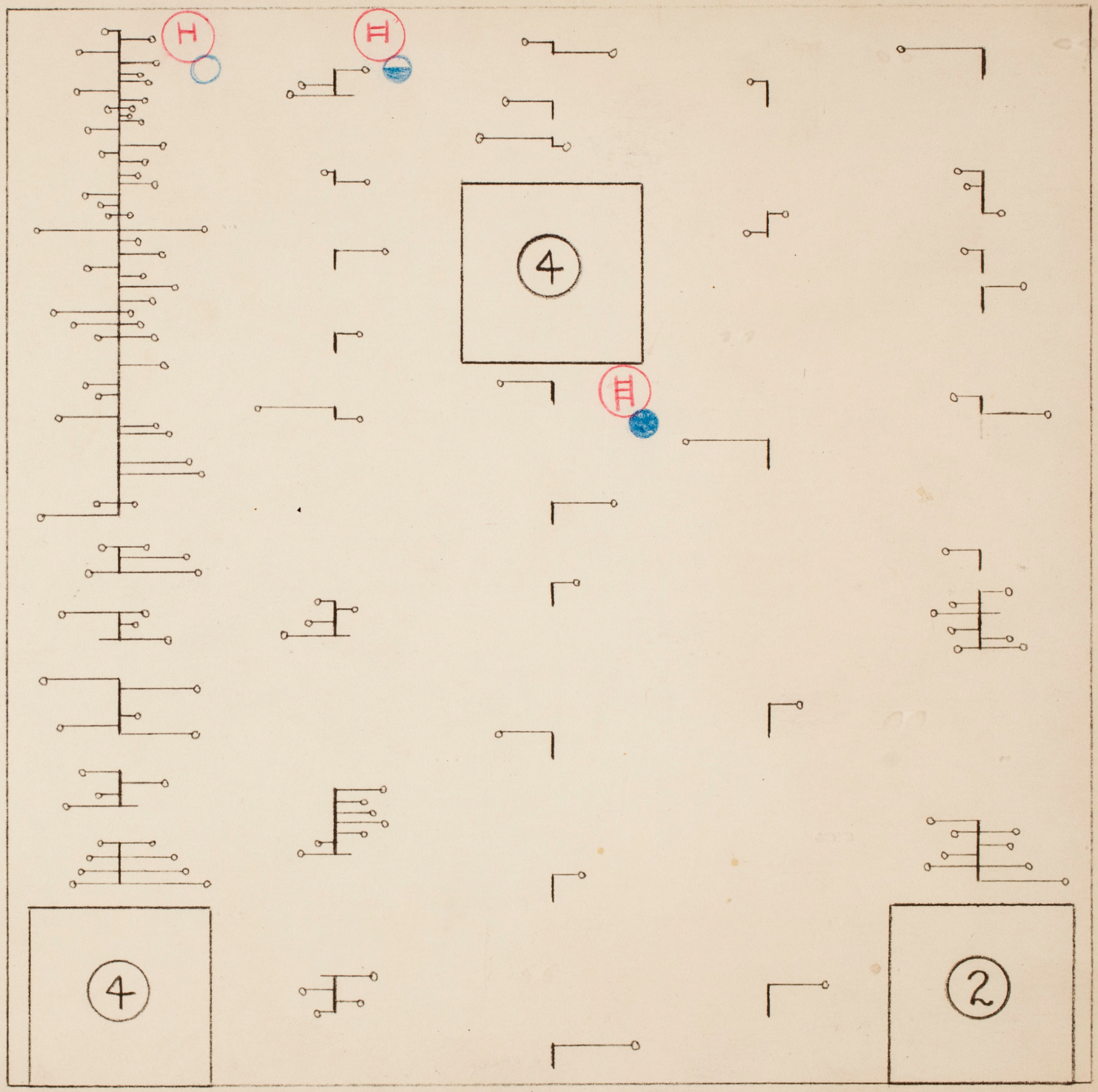

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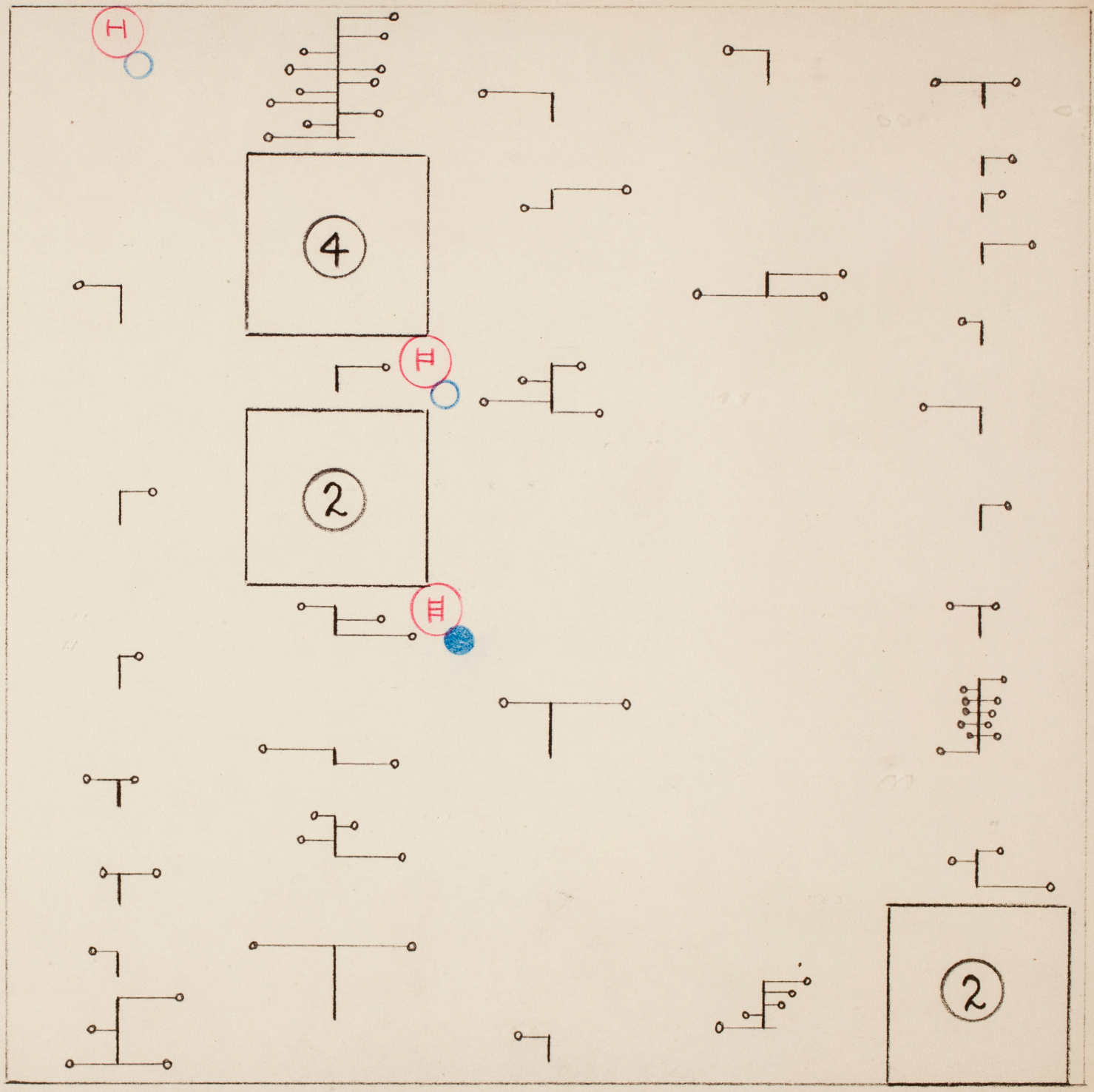
1



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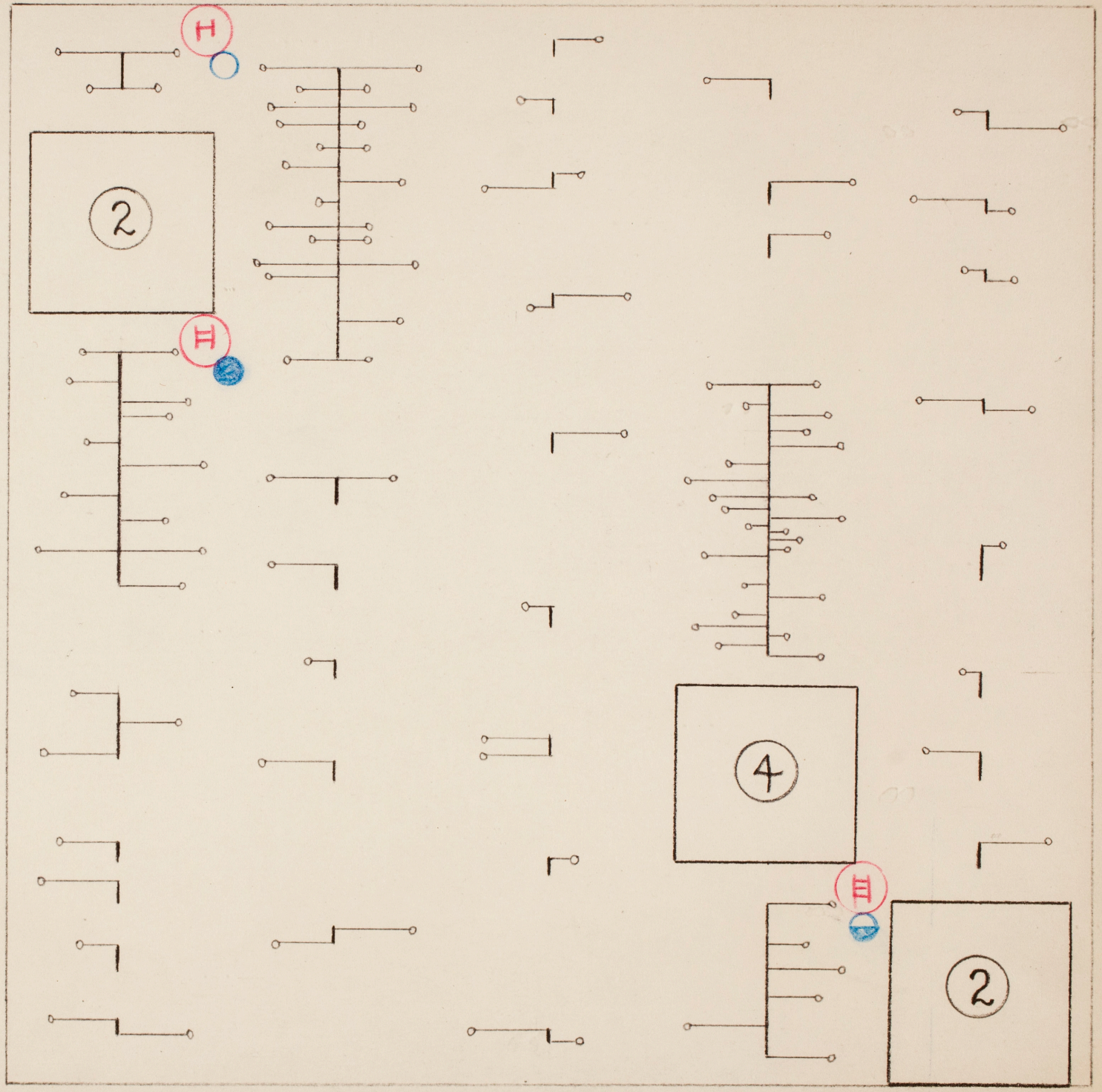
1



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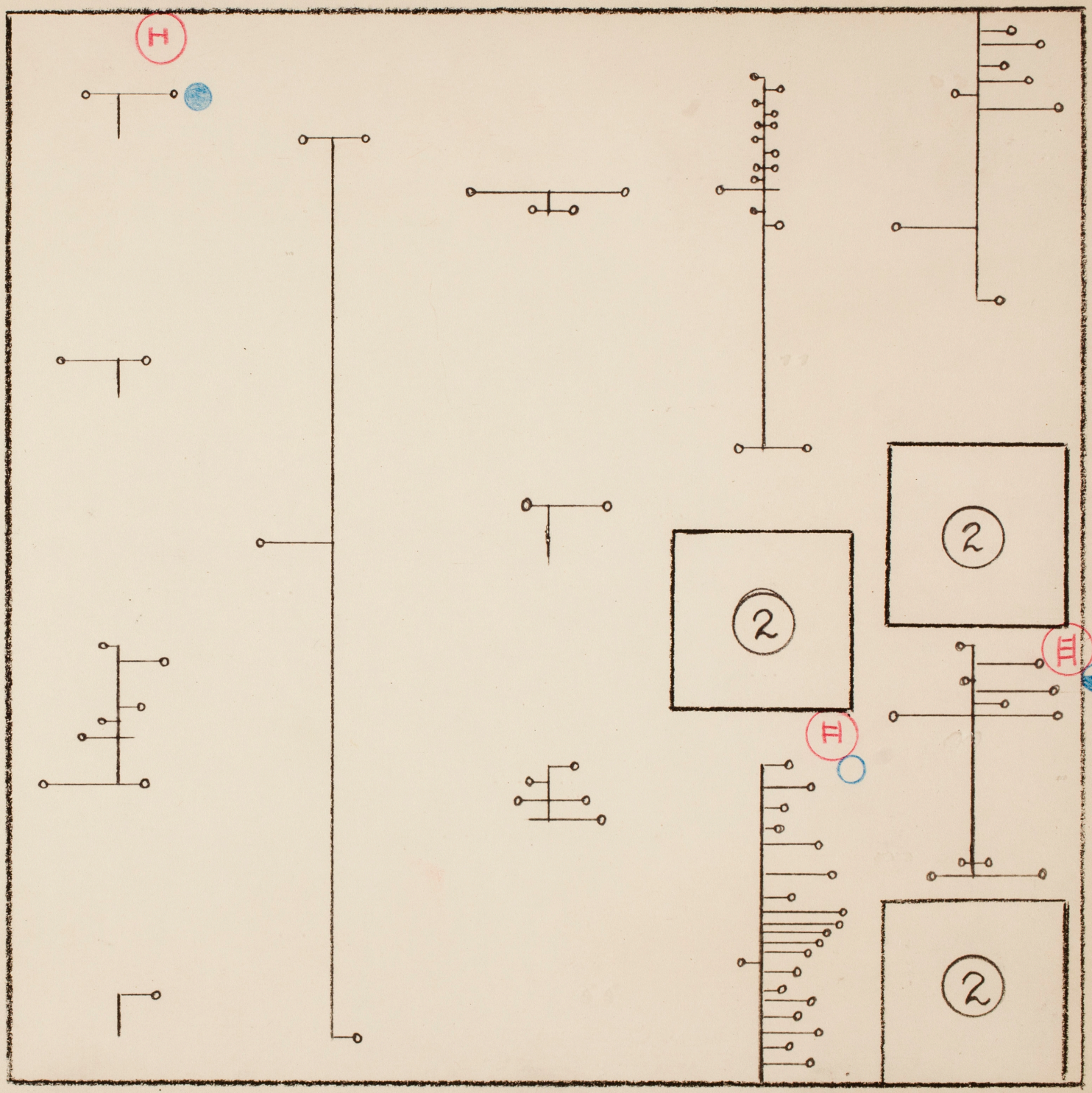
1



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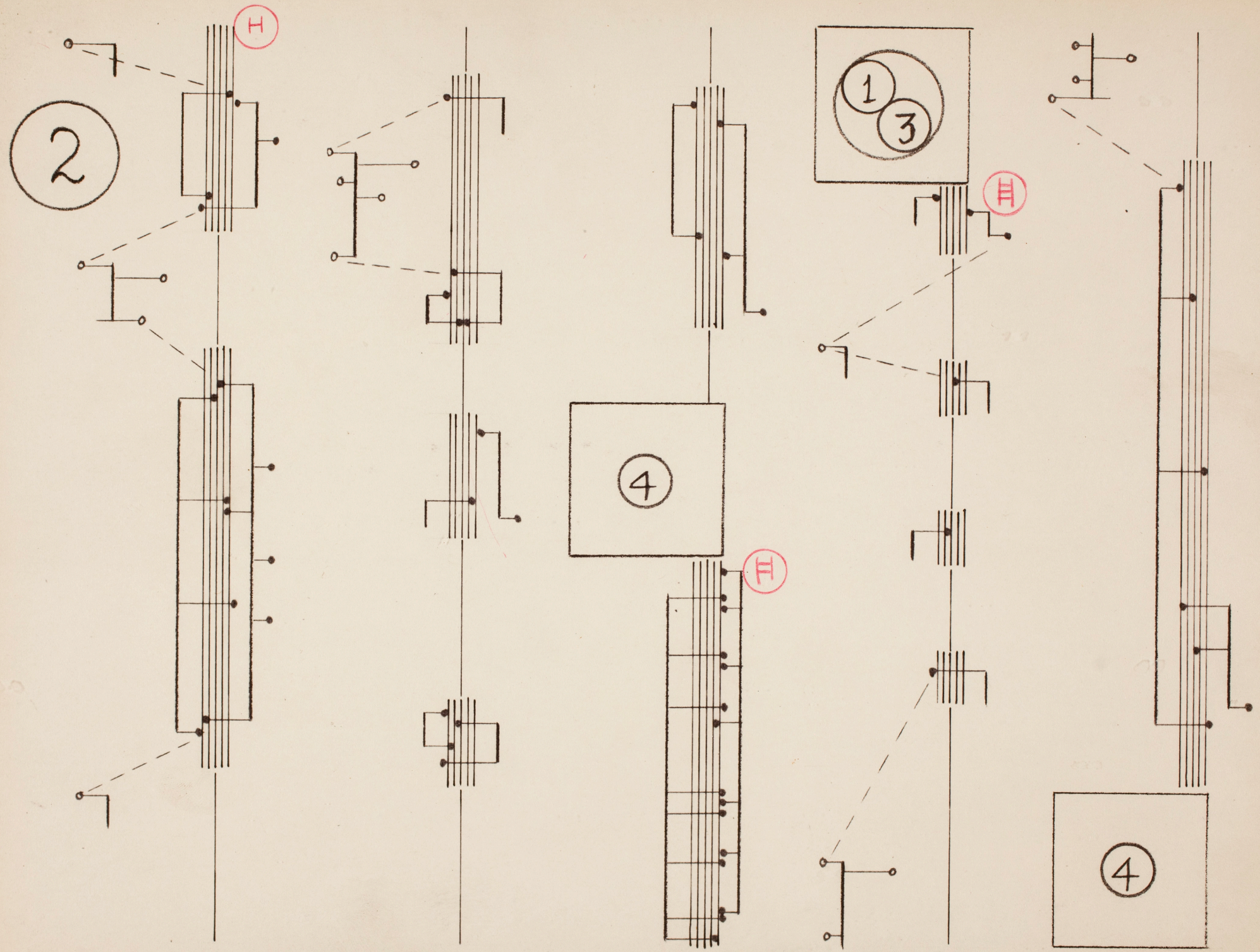

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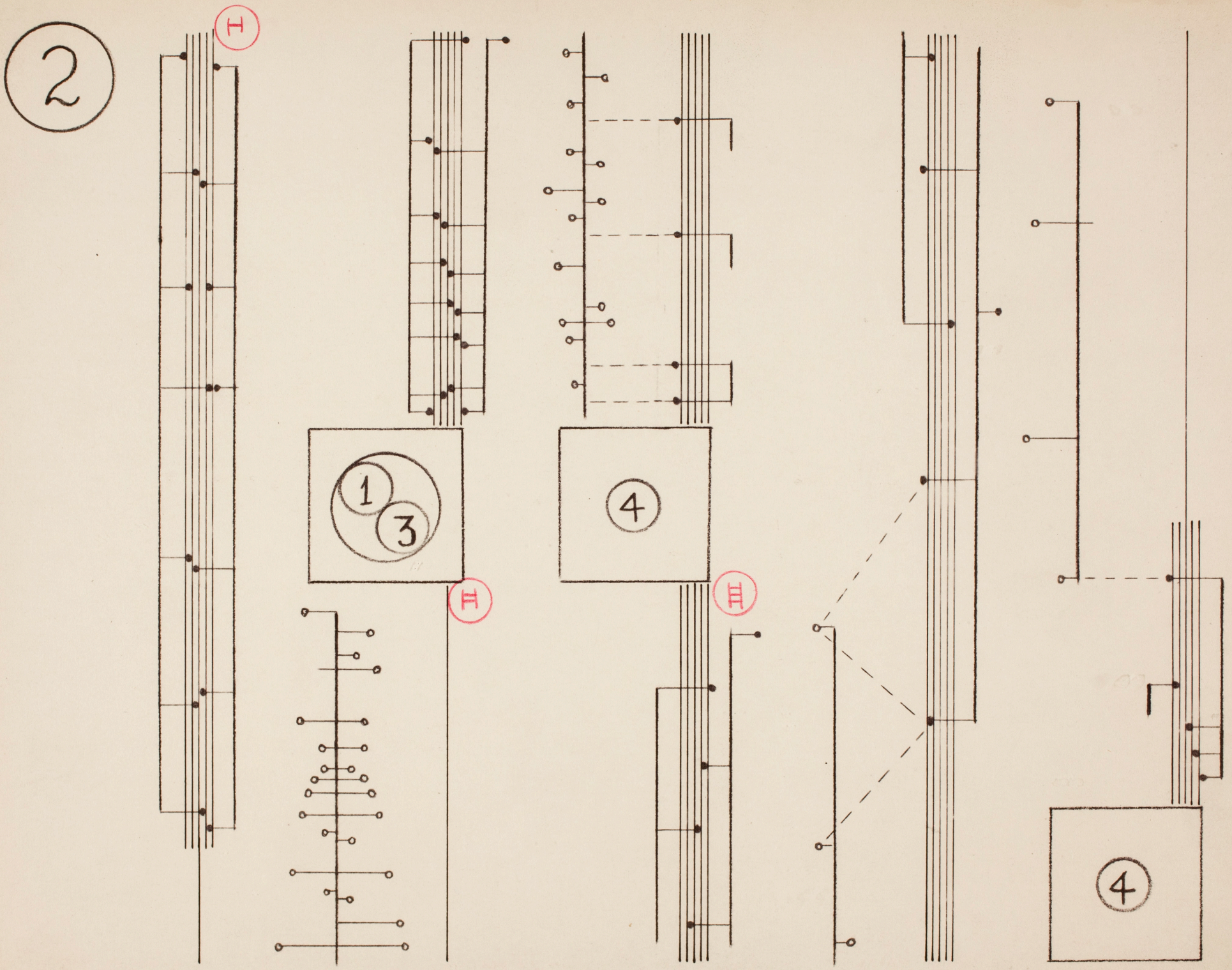

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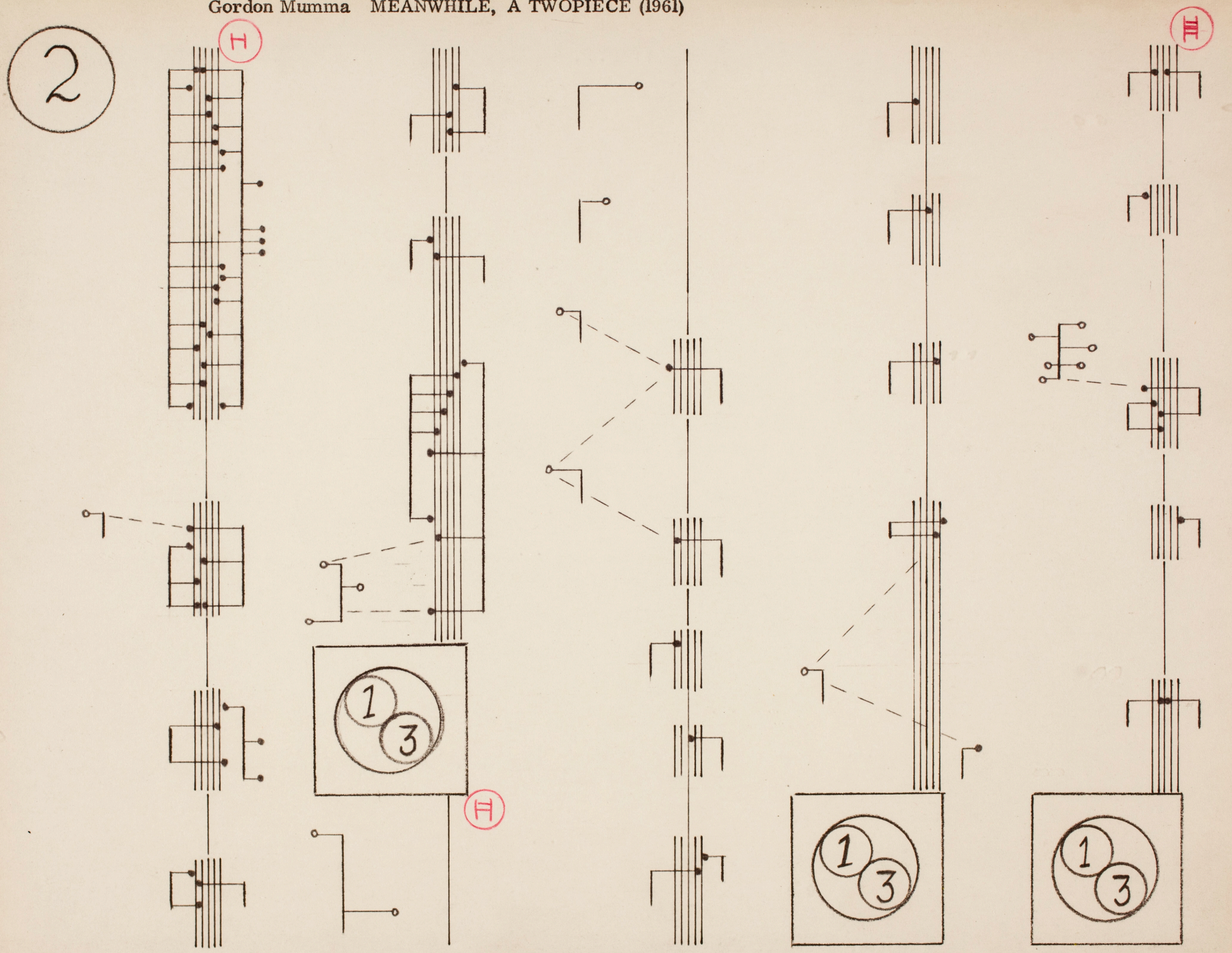

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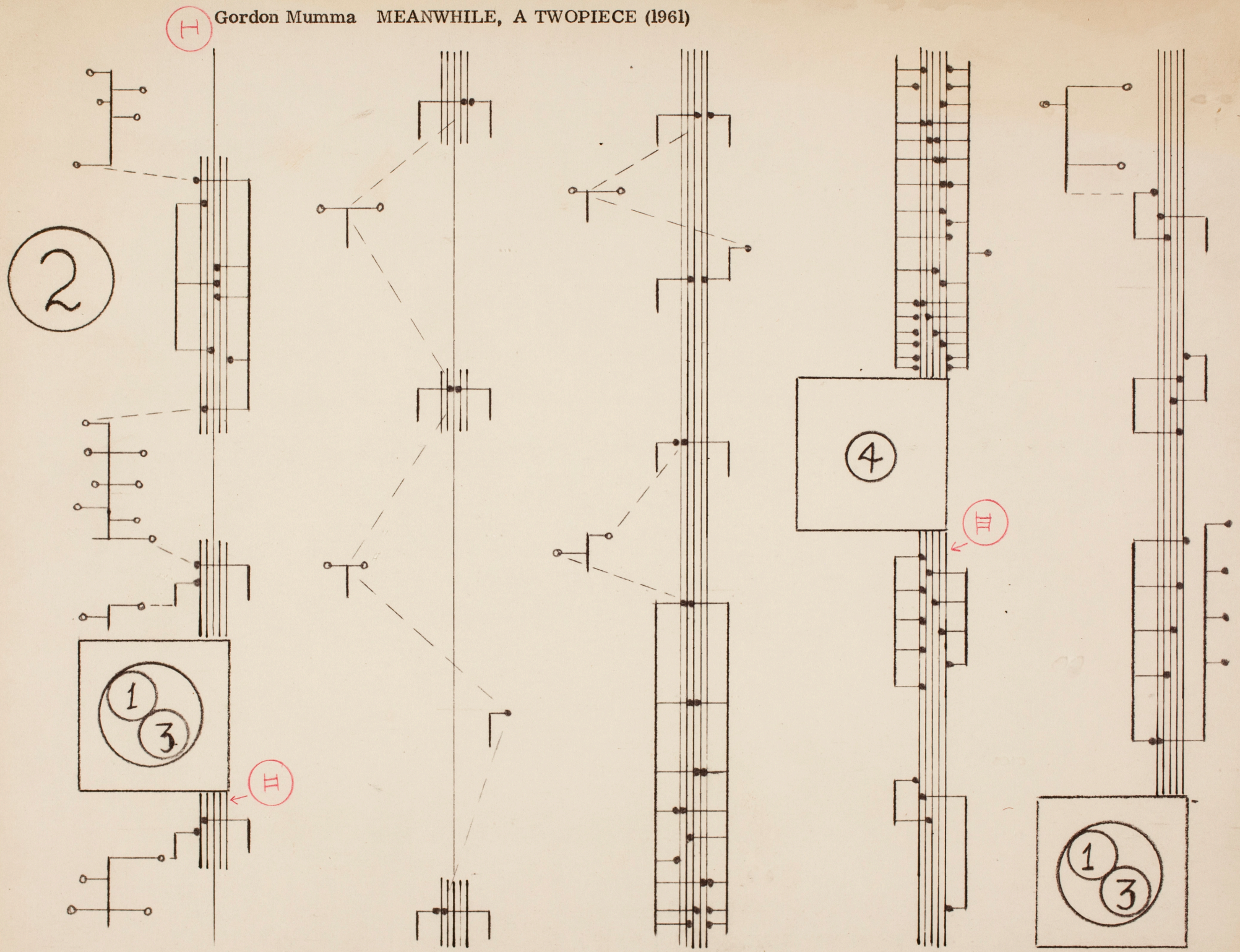

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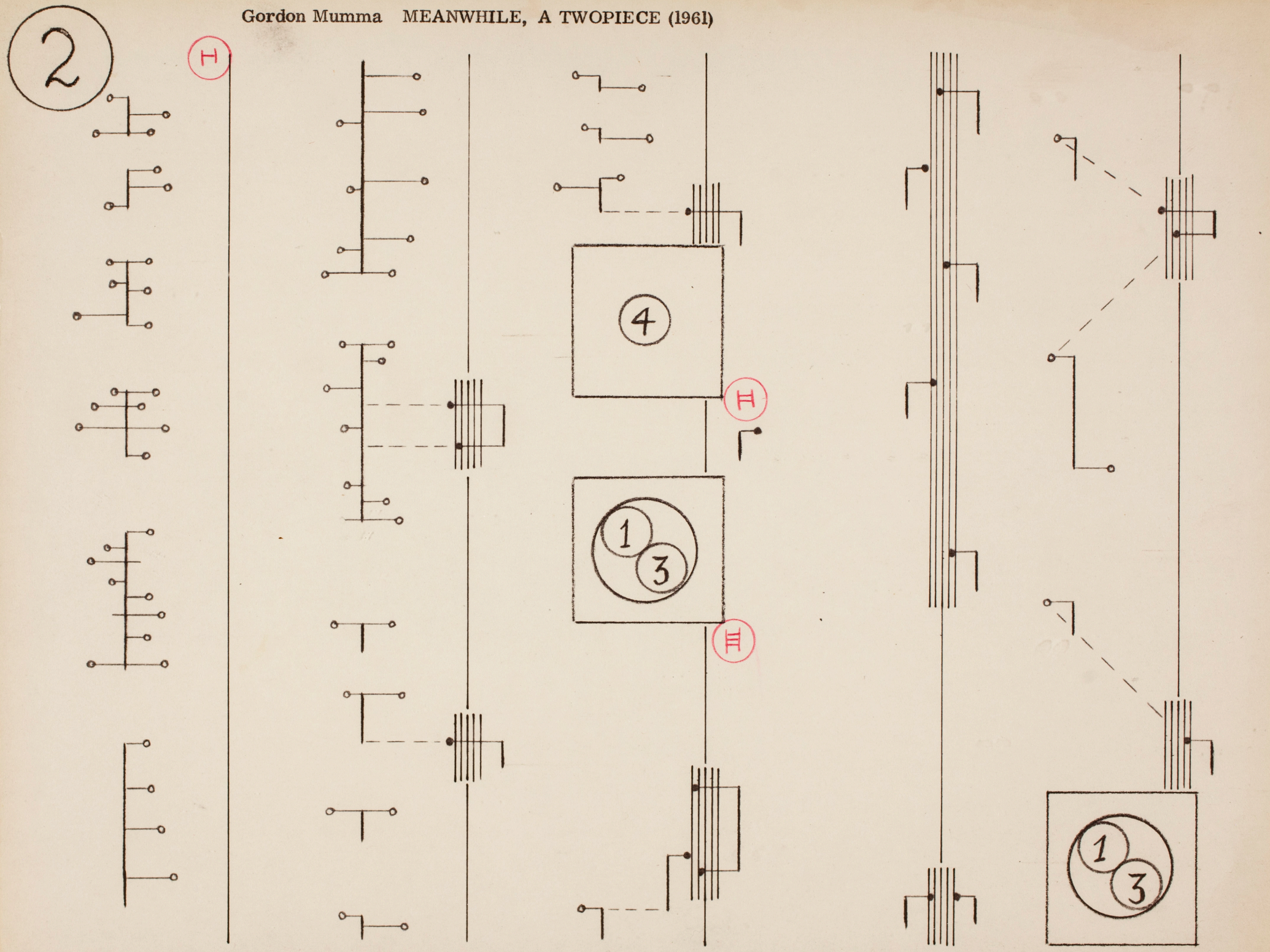

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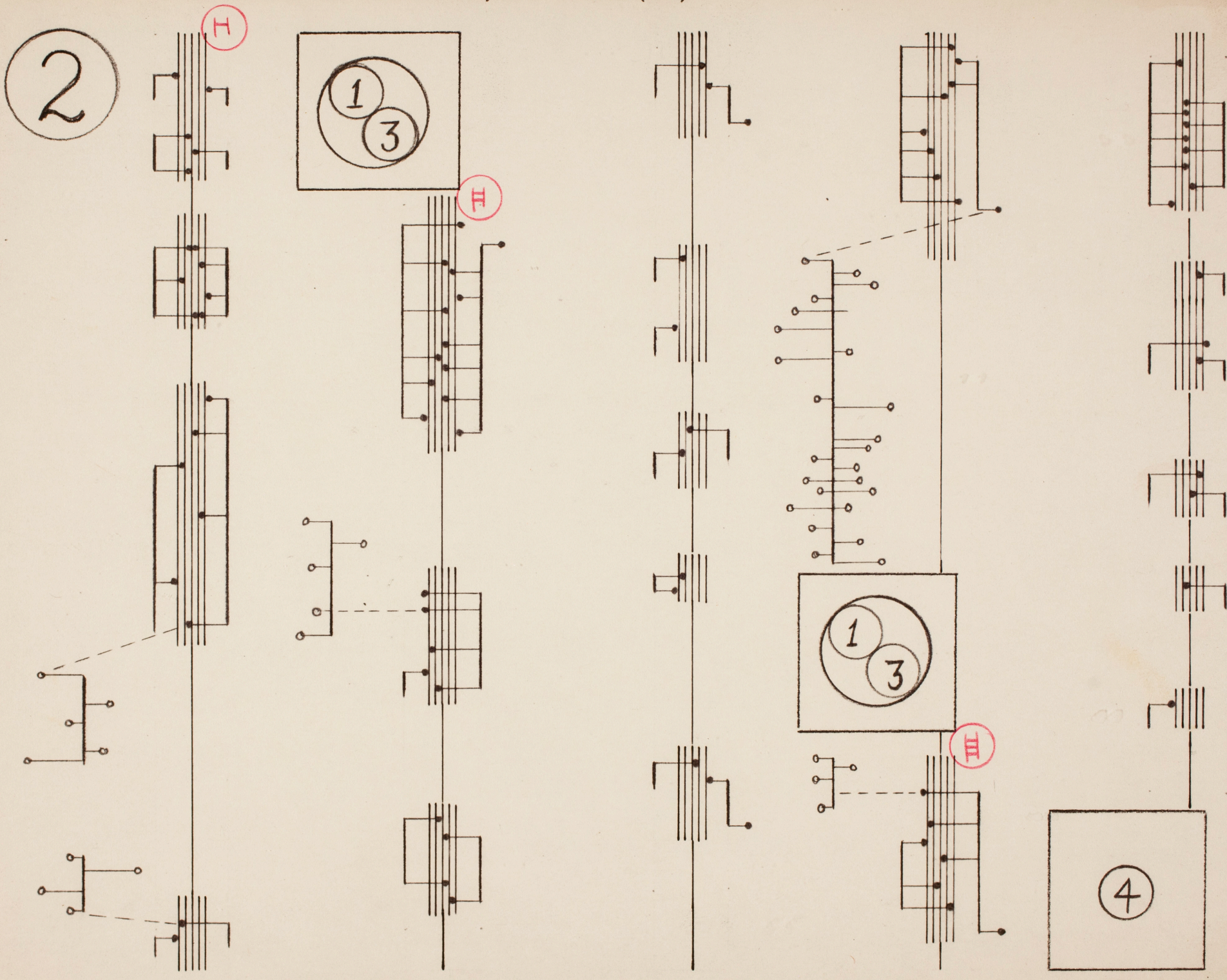

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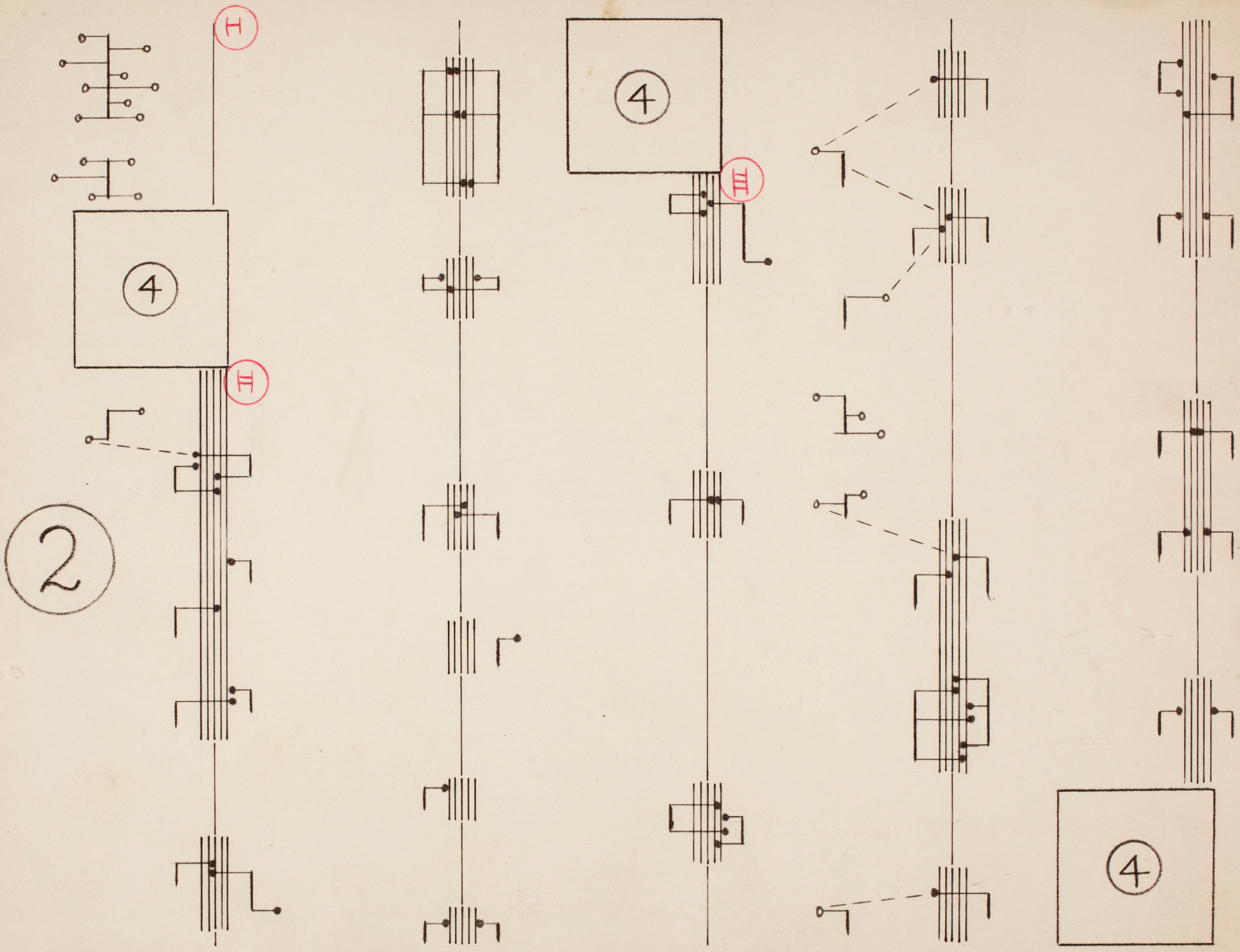

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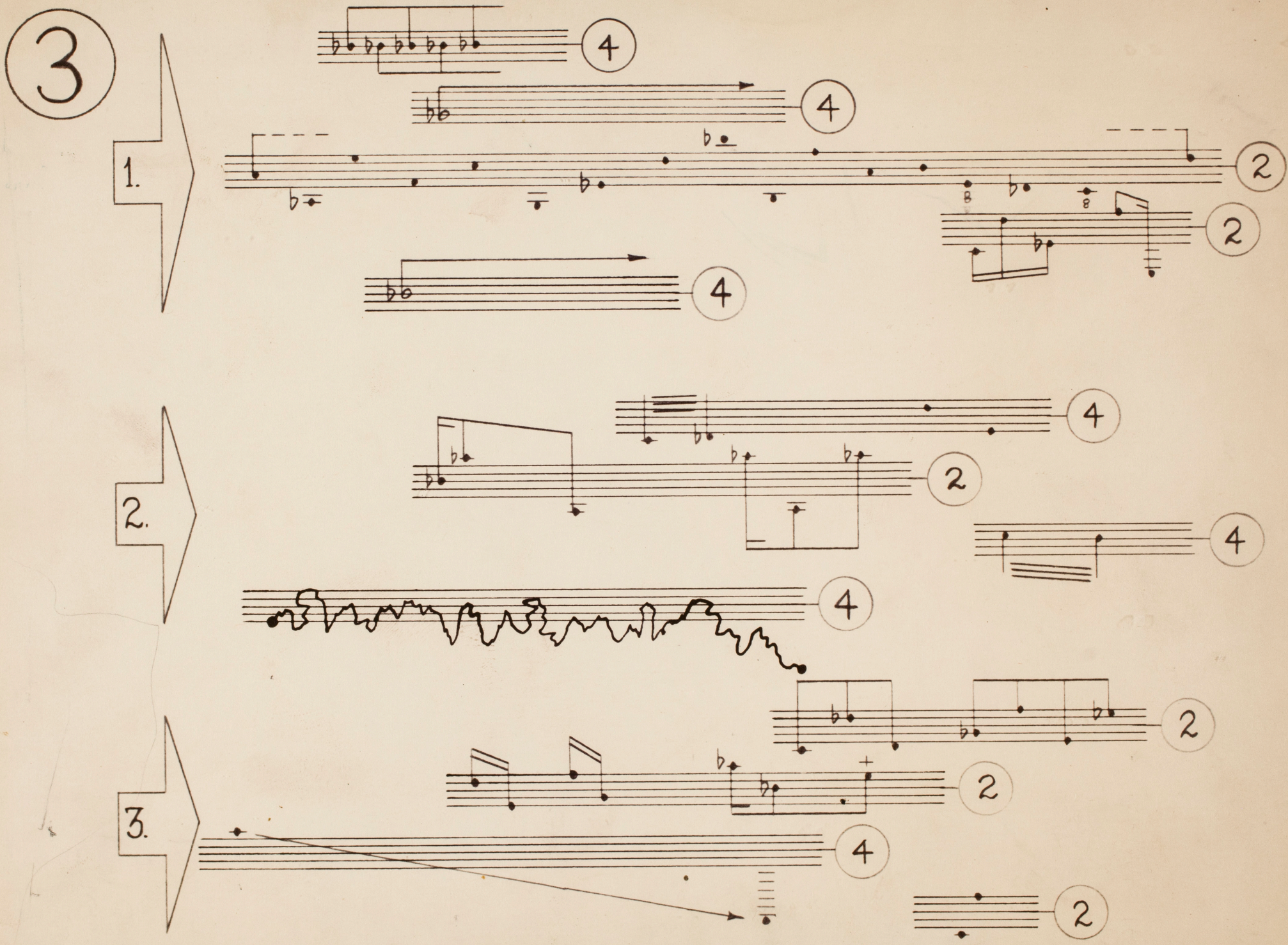

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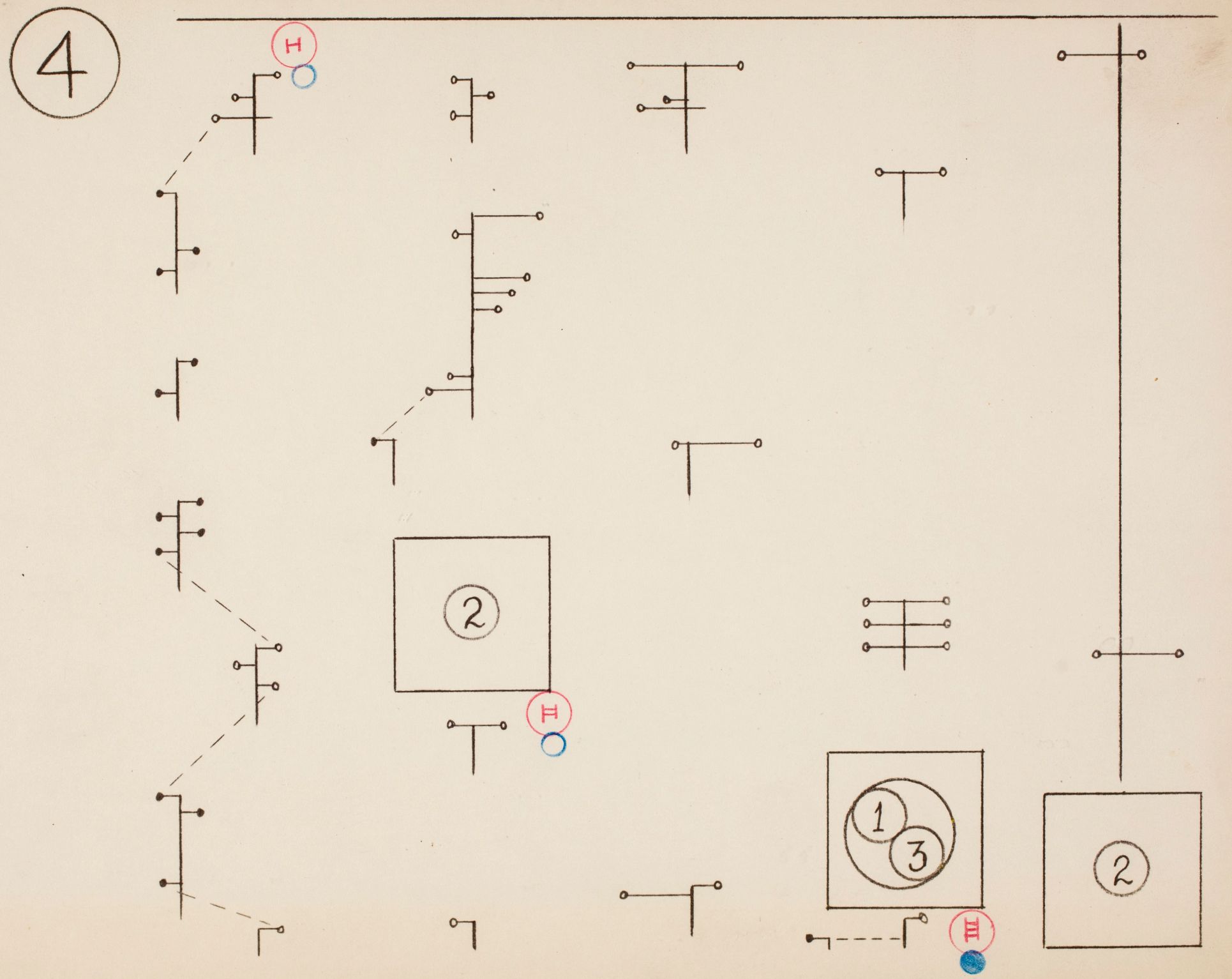

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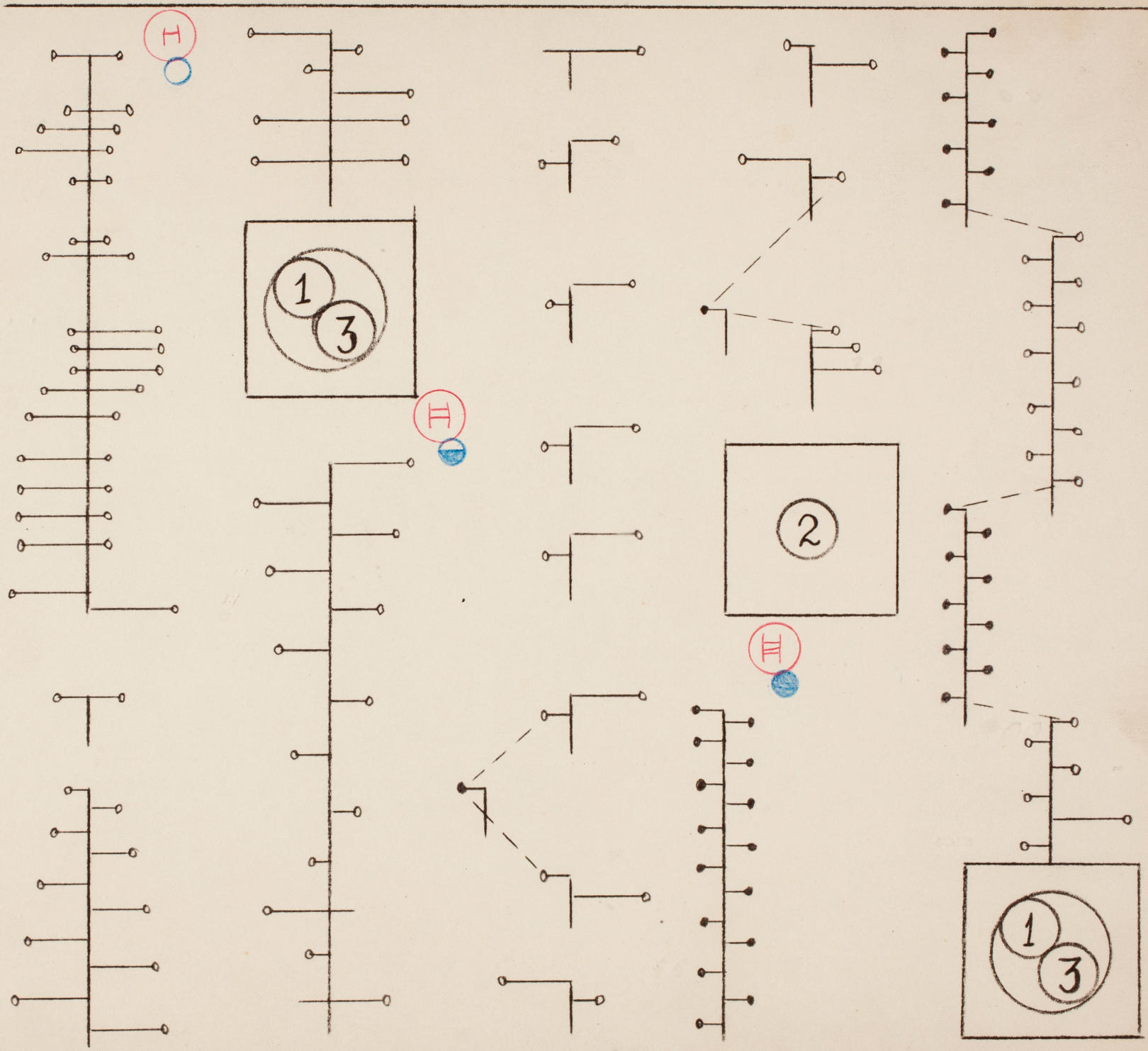

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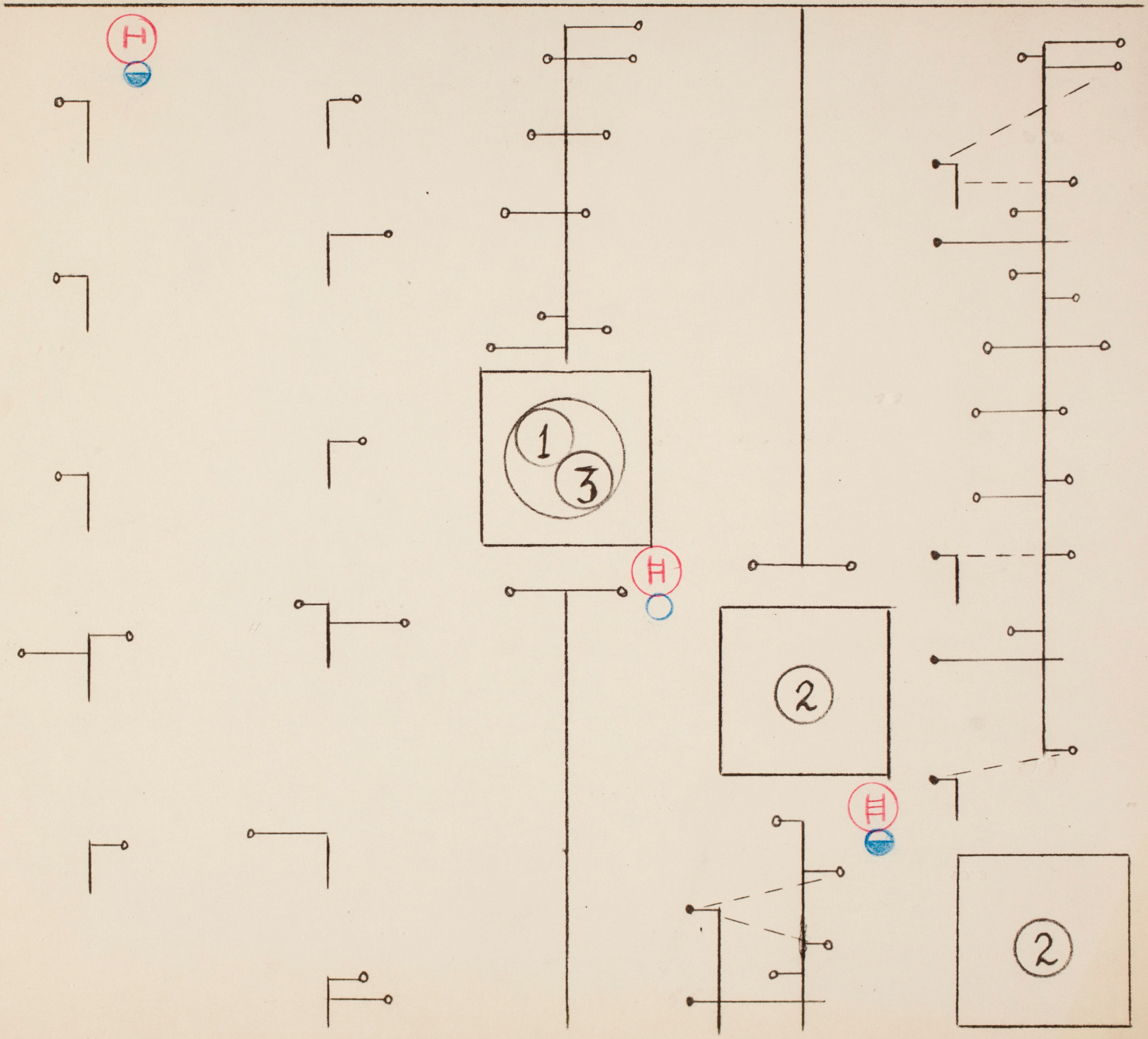

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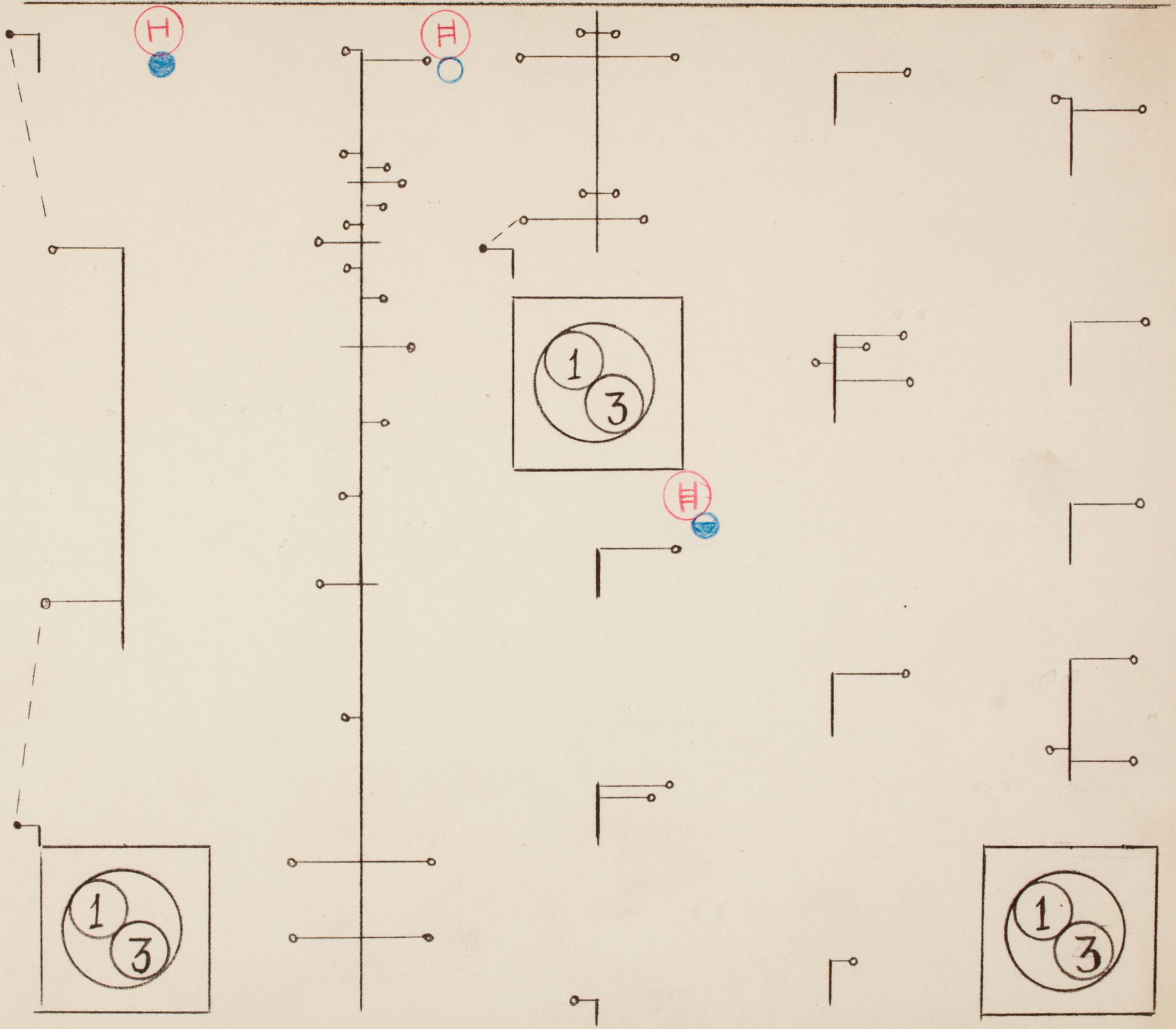

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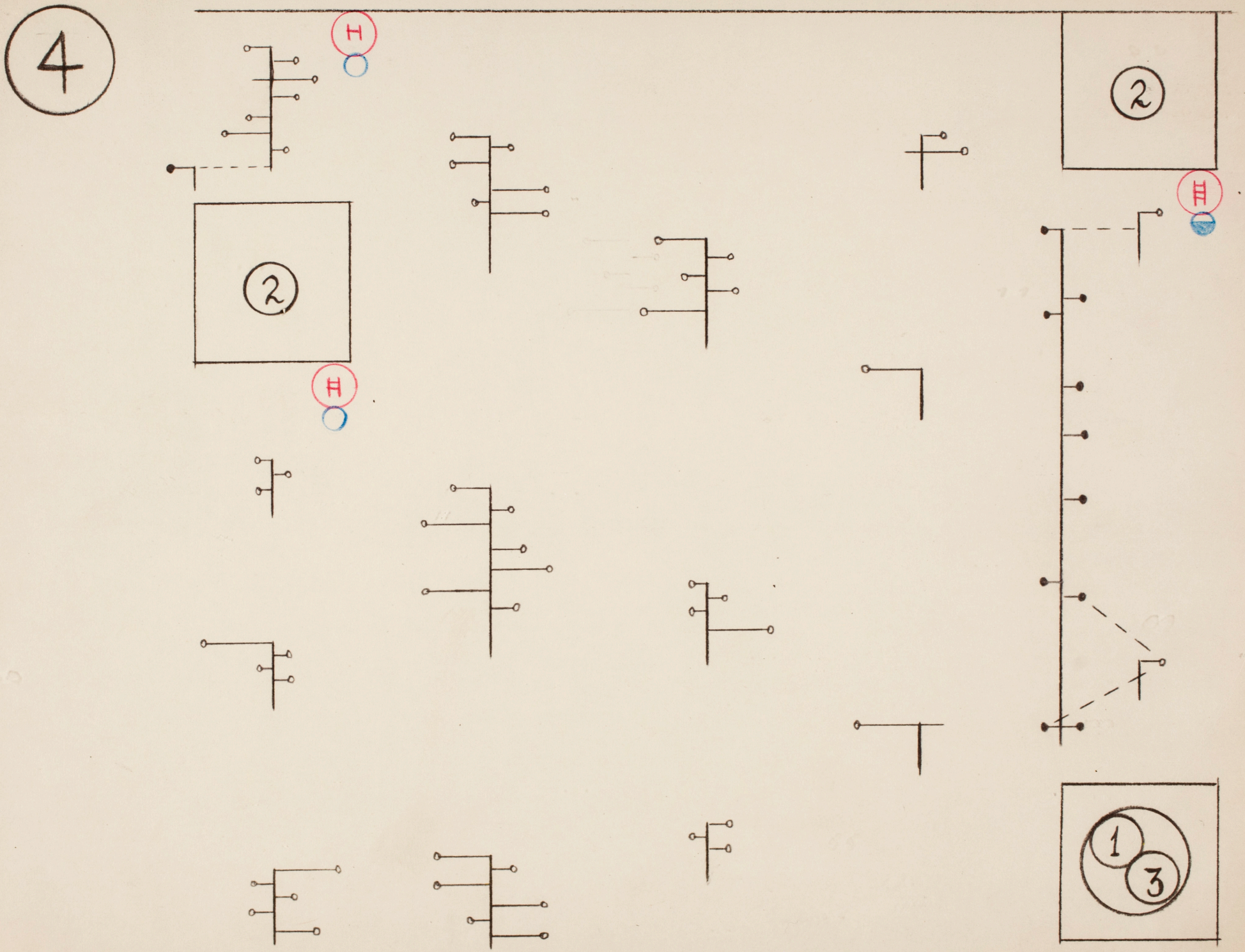

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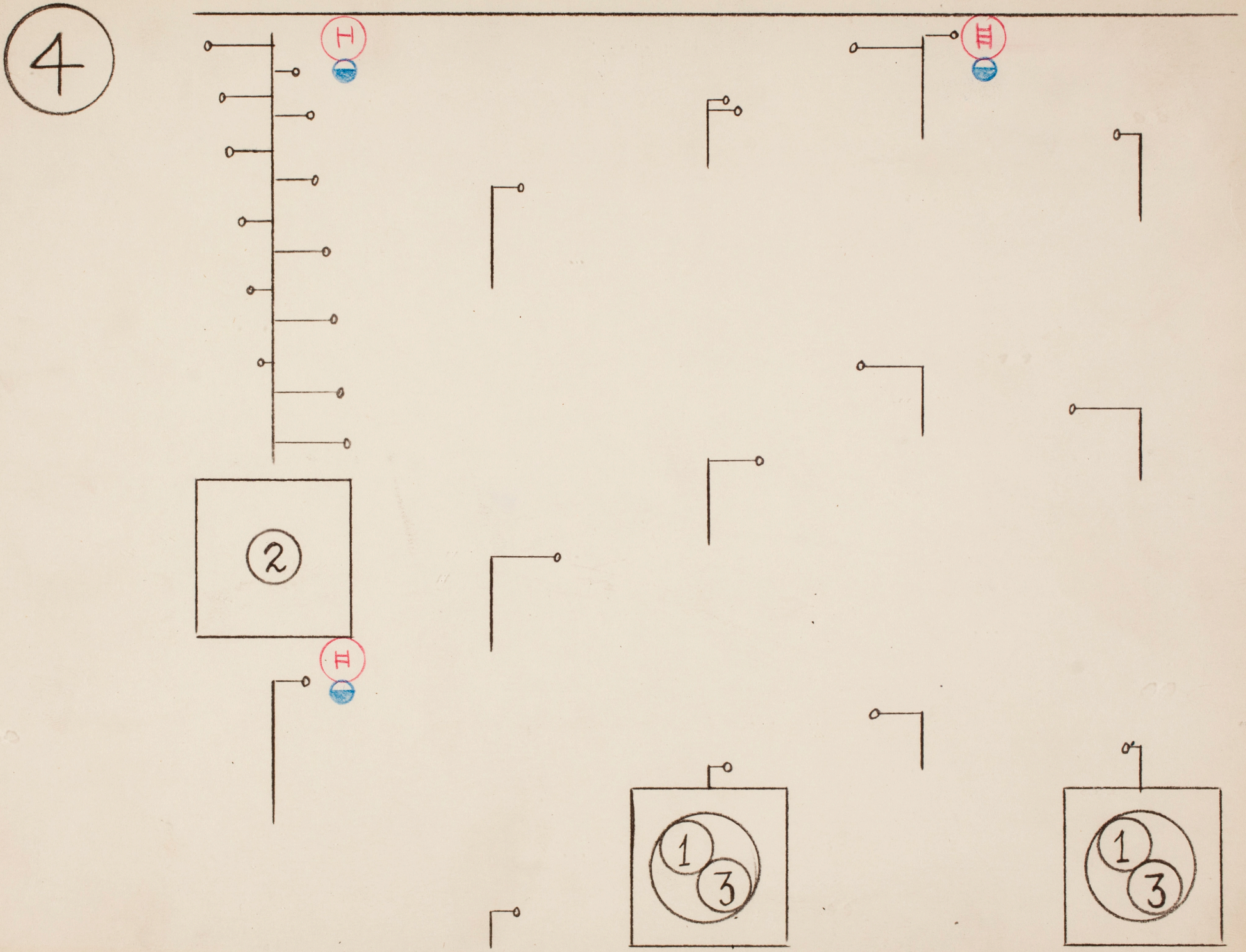
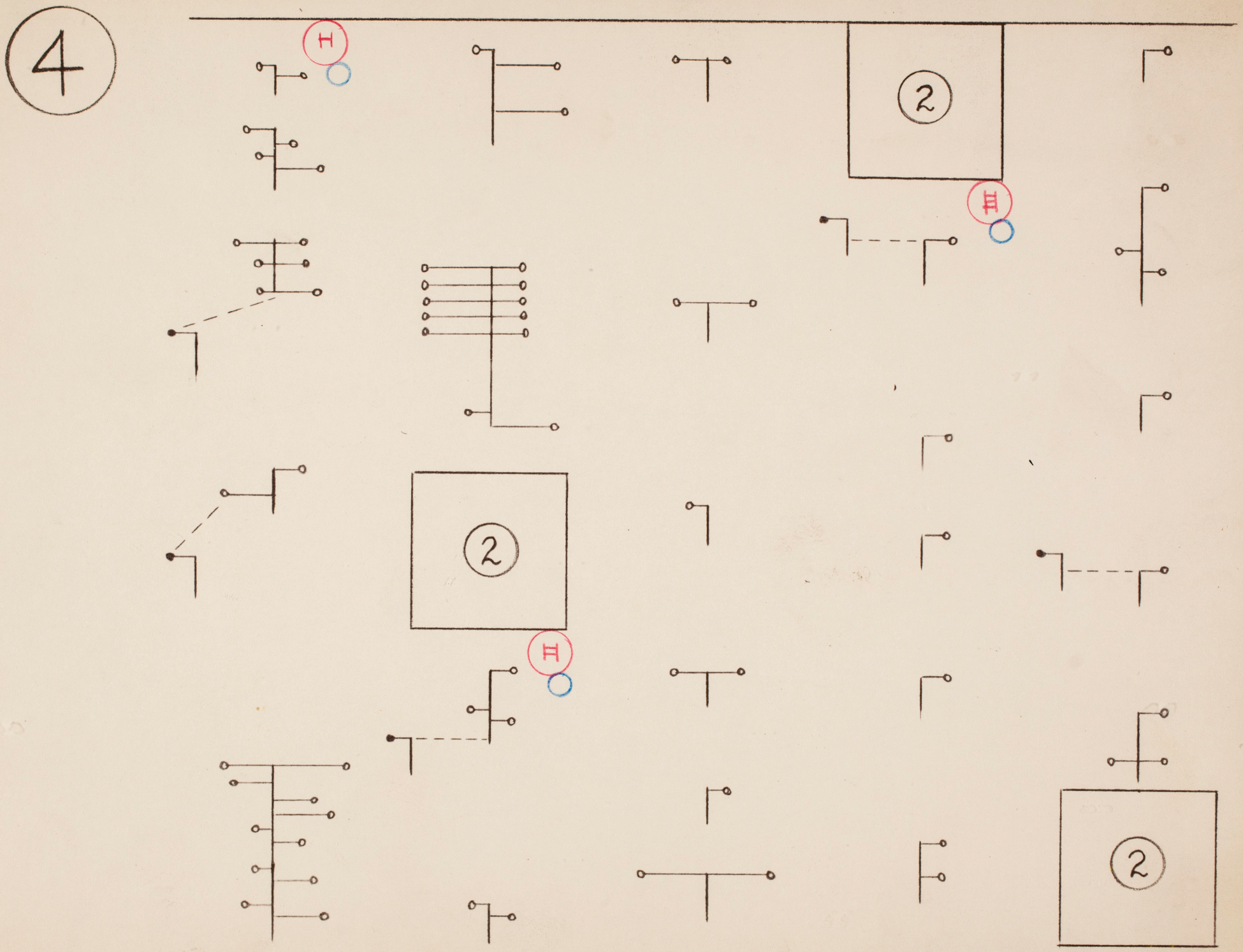
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