Proof without words:

A $2 \times 2$ determinant is the area of a parallelogram

\[
\begin{vmatrix}
  a & b \\
  c & d \\
\end{vmatrix} = ad - bc = \begin{vmatrix}
  \text{rectangle} \\
  \text{triangle} \\
\end{vmatrix} = \text{parallelogram}
\]

—SOLOMON W. GOLOMB
University of Southern California

Editor’s note: This proof is for the case $0 < b < d, 0 < c < a$. Professor Golomb has found dissections for the other cases as well, which the reader may seek to rediscover.