

Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles



This was brought into being in order to allow the creativity of the late Bruce Viney to remain available to the world of puzzle box enthusiasts. Bruce gained a worldwide reputation as a puzzle box designer extraordinaire and the plans he created managed to breach the divide between the straightforward to the intricate and as Bruce himself might have called it, “the dastardly”.

Bruce, like many creative people, had a wide range of interests. He was an enthusiastic amateur photographer and that interest led him into film and later video making. Of course Bruce being Bruce was not satisfied with just being behind the lens; he was also the scriptwriter, sound engineer, editor and even occasional actor.

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Rock and roll music was another consuming passion and he built up quite a following in his native North East England as a sought after DJ when he could be seen in full 'Teddy Boy' drapes. What Bruce didn't know about the US and GB rock and roll scene probably wasn't worth knowing. Not that he would think that. To Bruce every bit of information was another mine to explore and it was this inquisitiveness and lateral thinking which resolved itself in his extraordinary ability to create and build the plans and puzzles so beautifully set out in this website.

It is some measure of the man that whilst being gregarious in his interests he was also modest and it is doubtful he was aware of the pleasure the enthusiasm his various interests brought to the lives of others. Never was this more evident than in Bruce's sharing, worldwide, his love of puzzle boxes, their planning and their creation. As anyone interested in puzzle boxes would testify, its one thing to have an idea but quite another to bring it to life. Bruce's puzzle box plans had a worldwide reputation as evidenced by the many tributes paid to him from all corners of the globe following his death.

The descriptions of the puzzles in this document were taken from Bruce's original website, which no longer exists. His son, Rob, now owns the plans and, while there are plans to put a new website up, this will need to suffice in the meantime.

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Notes

Many of the plans described here are T-plans. What this means is that everything is measured as a multiple of the thickness of the material you are using. When a plan says the box measures 4" x 4" when using 1/8" plywood, it will measure 8" x 8" if you use 1/4" plywood, instead. Of course, you can also use metric-sized material, but the measurements will still be some multiple of the thickness of the material.

Some of the plans say to "watch the video". These videos are on YouTube and can be found by searching for "Bruce Viney" and the name of the puzzle.

Prices are listed with each puzzle. The entire set can be purchased at one time for £300 (normally £372 total).

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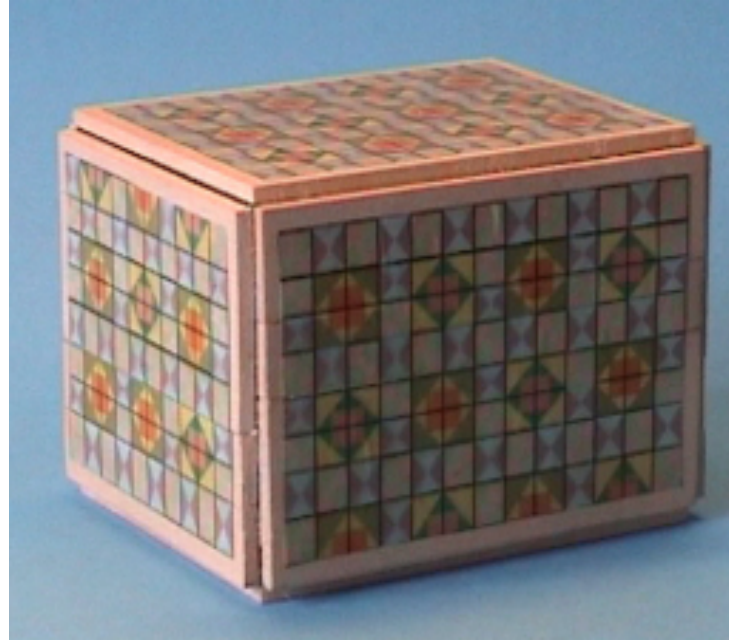
3 Sun 18 Step Box - £4

This is another nice little "Oriental" looking box, with sliders and moving panels. These don't seem to follow any order, but it takes 18 moves to open the lid.

Despite it's small size, there is a lot of precise cutting to do: tongues, notches and very small square holes.

Do not attempt this if this is your first box...

Size of the box is 3-3/4" by 2-3/4" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which means you can make this at any size.



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4 Sun 8 Step Box - £2

A realistic looking Japanese puzzle box, realistic not only in looks but also in size and operation. A "sun" is a Japanese measurement of about 1.22 inches, but is only an indication of the length of the box, not the width or height.

This is a very easy puzzle to make, as all the cuts are straight cuts, with only one inside slot. No plywood used here: the whole thing is made from 1/8" basswood. The box is not too difficult to open. This is an ideal puzzle to make as a first attempt.

The box measures 4-3/4" x 3-1/4" x 2-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are now T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size.



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4 Sun 24 Step Box - £2

This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, that looks and operates just like the genuine Japanese puzzle boxes.

A "sun" is a Japanese measurement of about 1.22 inches, but only refers to the length of the box, not the width or height.

Two sliders at each end have to be moved in order to raise one end and lower the other end, so that the top and base can be moved. Eventually the top will be released. In this version, there is a small drawer in the base panel, and the box requires 24 moves to open. It is finished off with some nice pictures of Mount Fuji.

Fairly easy to make, the size is 5" by 3-1/2" by 2-3/4", if made from 1/8" thick wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

4 Sun 48 Step Box - £4

This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, that looks and operates just like the genuine Japanese puzzle boxes.

A "sun" is a Japanese measurement of about 1.22 inches, but only refers to the length of the box, not the width or height.

Four sliders at each end have to be moved in order to raise one end and lower the other end, so that the top and base can be moved. Eventually the top will be released.

The box requires 48 moves to open, and there is a small drawer in the base panel.

But there is another secret to this box, revealed in the video. (The top panel has a sliding panel on the bottom, revealing another compartment.)

Not too hard to make, but there are a lot of pieces to it. The size is 5" by 3-3/4" by 3", if made from 1/8" thick wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

4 Sun 53 Step Box - £4

This puzzle box works very similar to the traditional Japanese puzzle box, in that all the moves are controlled by only two sliders, one at each end.

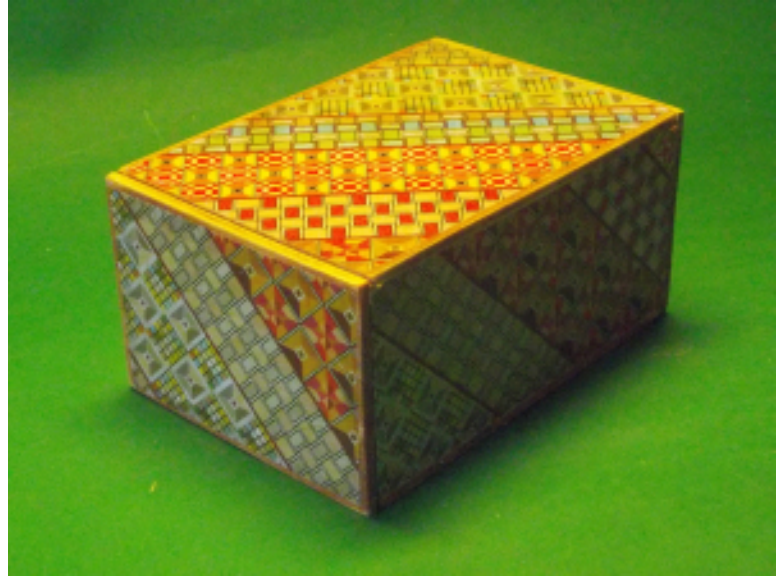
These sliders allow the end panels to move vertically, and they in turn allow the top and bottom panels to move horizontally. Eventually, the top panel will slide off sideways. That's what normally happens...

However, just when you think the lid is about to come off, the box appears to lock up. Strangely, the only way to get the lid off, is to start closing the box again...

This sounds just like "The Bridge" puzzle box, but just when you think the lid is ready to come off, the box locks again! Because you've taken the wrong path.

This box is similar to "The Bridge", but there's extras moves and an extra path put in, and now takes 53 moves to open.

Easy to make, the size is 5" by 3-1/2" by 2-1/2", if made from 1/8" thick wood, and the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size. Yoshegi patterns included.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

14-19 Box - £2

This puzzle box resembles very closely the traditional Japanese puzzle box, in that all the moves are controlled by only two sliders, one at each end. These sliders allow the end panels to move vertically, and allows the top and bottom panels to move horizontally. All the moves on this box are very similar to the customary moves on the Japanese style boxes. In this version however, you can decide to make a 14 move, or a 19 move box, the difference being only a couple of extra pieces of wood.

Box size is 4" x 2-1/2" x 2", made from 1/8" and 1/4" plywood.

Easy to make, moderately difficult to open. There is a pattern included, but you can put any kind of finish on.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

25 Move Box - £2

This is another puzzle box that resembles closely the traditional Japanese puzzle box, with all the moves are controlled by only two sliders, one at each end. These sliders allow the end panels to move vertically, and allows the top and bottom panels to move horizontally. All the moves on this box are very similar to the 14-19 box, but in this version there are four more "secret" sliders, that don't seem to do anything. To start with, they won't move at all! They only come into play at different times during the sequence of moves. Which makes it a bit irritating trying to get the box open...

Box size is 4" x 2-1/2" x 2", made from 1/8" and 1/4" plywood.

Easy to make. Difficult to open. A pattern is included in plans, but you can use your preferred finish.



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BBoxX - £4

This box came about from an idea suggested some time ago. This is a "Casket-type" puzzle box, and there are two ways to open it, a wrong way and a right way, and either way will lead to the lid being removed.

Inside there is another "Casket-type" puzzle box, but if you've opened the bigger box the wrong way, you can't get the smaller box out. You can open the bigger box in 10 moves the wrong way, but it takes 17 moves to open it the right way. The smaller box will take 11 moves to open.

The size of the bigger box is 6-1/2" by 5-1/4" by 3-3/4", and the smaller box is 3-3/4" by 2-3/4" by 2-3/4", if they're both made from 1/8" wood. The plans run to 30 pages, covering both boxes, and are T-Plans, allowing you to make these at any size.



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Better Odds - £2

This little puzzle box is a kind of hybrid; it's an easier version of Impossible Odds, together with the frustrating moves of Cul-De-Sac. One slider at each end of the box controls a peg moving in a keyway. There are four vertical slots in each keyway, and only one will eventually open the box. But if you choose the wrong slot, there's only four move or eight moves to make before you discover it's the wrong way to go. So it doesn't take long to get back to the start.

However, on this box, both end panels can move up and down, and the top and bottom panels can move left and right, so you can't tell which is front or back, left or right, or top or bottom.

There are 12 correct moves to open the lid, but there are 90 wrong moves.

The size of this box is 4" x 2-1/2" x 2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



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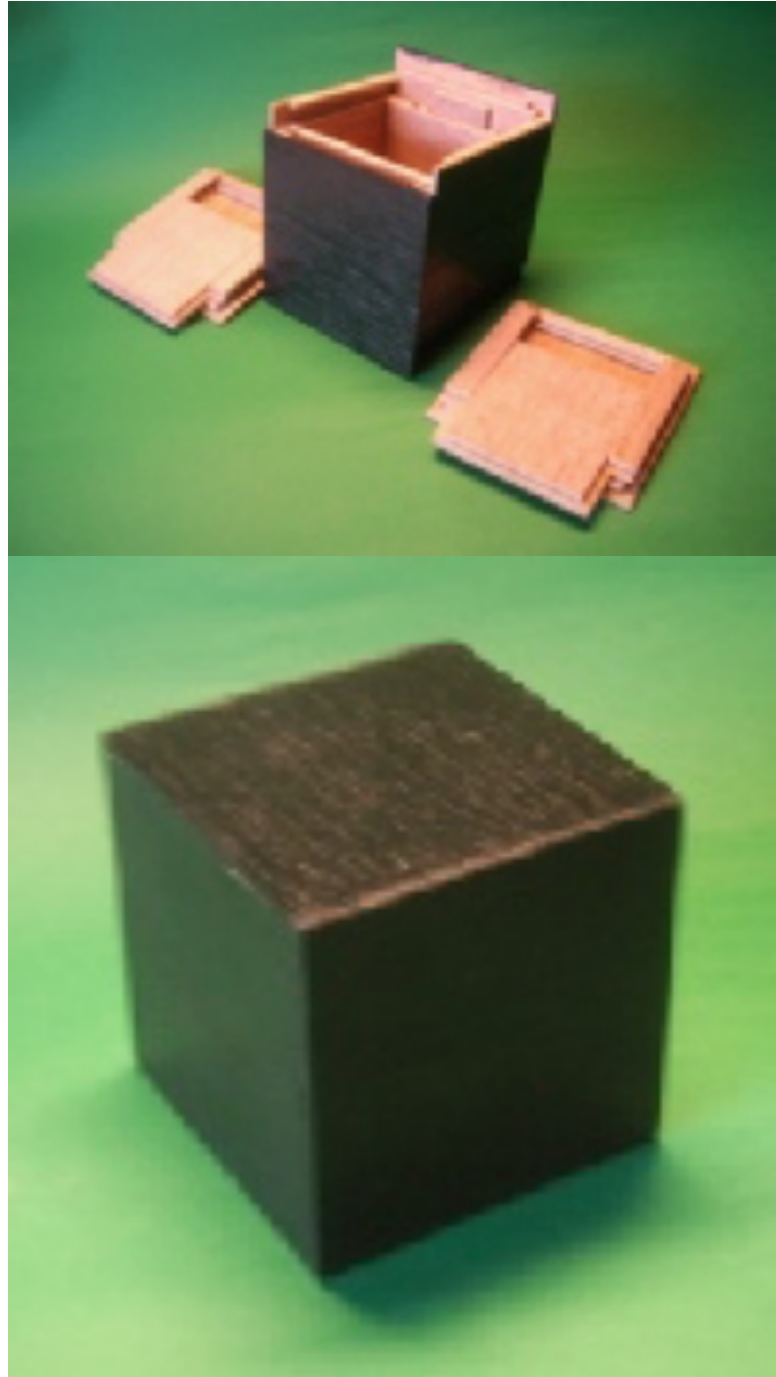
Black Box - £4

A black cube, with only two panels that look like they can be moved at the start, but only one will move. There are two sliders, one at the front and one at the back, but they cannot be moved because both ends are blocked. The first four moves are normal, then the box appears to lock up.

This is when the sliders come into play, but they are still blocked!

The two photos don't really show what happens while the box is being opened. You'll have to watch the video to see just how this box will open. Only 24 moves to open, but those moves are not easy to find.

Size of this box is 4" on each side, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Blok - £4

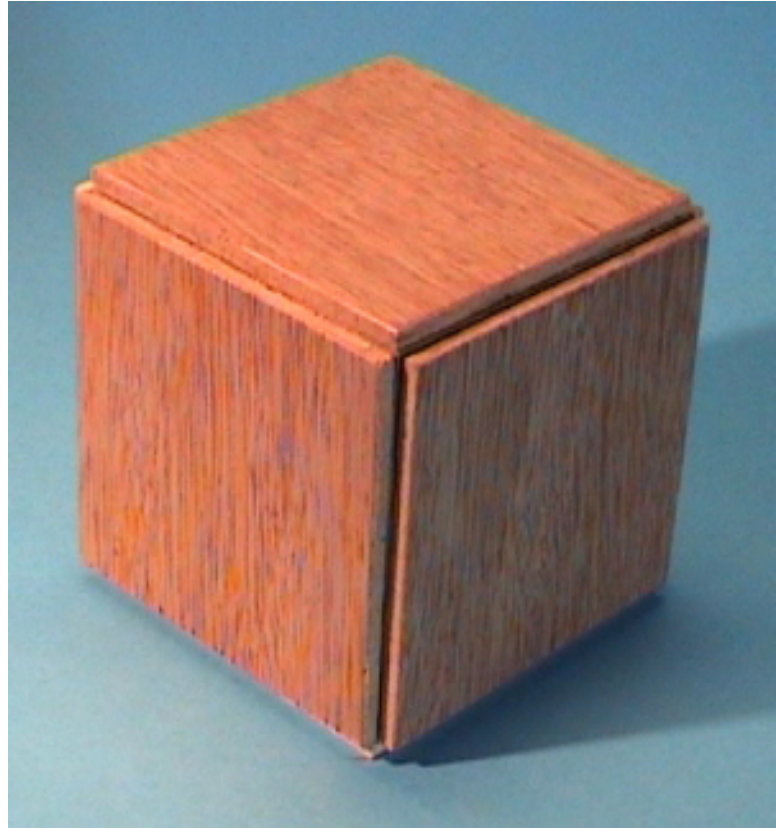
This is an unusual box in that it uses three different moves: a gravity move, sliding moves and a rotational move.

Six outer panels that have to be moved somehow, but at the start, nothing will push, pull or turn.

The box has to be stood or held in a certain position to move the first panel. Somewhere along the way, a panel will not push or pull: that one has to be turned.

Only eight moves to open the box, but very tricky trying to find that first move.

Size of this box is 3" by 3" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size.



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Boxes - £4

You may have heard of "Russian Dolls"-it's a skittle-shaped wooden doll that hides another doll inside. Inside that one is another one, then another and so on, until you have about a dozen wooden dolls. The first one is about the size of your fore-arm, the smallest about the size of your fingertip.

This is my version, but of course, they're puzzle boxes, and there's only three of them, that fit inside each other. They're all easy to make, easy to open, with only five moves each.

The largest box is 4" (10.2 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make these at any size.

If you've made the Matchbox 2 (it's in the free plans), that box will fit inside the smallest box, making a total of four boxes.



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Brick Block - £4

This looks like a model of an old-fashioned milk churn stand, being layers of bricks topped off with a concrete slab.

There are 24 "bricks", and every one has to be moved, either left, right, up or down to release the lid. Three of the sides are interlocked with each other, but the last side isn't. The bricks on the last side won't move at all until the other three sides have been unlocked. Even when they're unlocked, it seems the last side is still locked. There is a "twist" to this puzzle box that I haven't used before, revealed in the video, and there are 26 moves to open the box.

The box will take a fair bit of making, as there are about 100 pieces involved...

The size of this box is 4" square by 4-1/4" tall, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Bridge - £2

This rather nice little puzzle box, with pictures of Japanese garden bridges all around, works very similar to the traditional Japanese puzzle box, in that all the moves are controlled by only two sliders, one at each end. These sliders allow the end panels to move vertically, and they in turn allow the top and bottom panels to move horizontally. Eventually, the top panel will slide off sideways. That's what normally happens...

However, just when you think the lid is about to come off, the box appears to lock up. Strangely, the only way to get the lid off, is to start closing the box again...The pictures of bridges give a clue as to the reason why...

Very hard to open: even if you know how, it takes 44 moves to open! And 4 more to take all the panels off...

The size of this box is 4" x 2-1/2" x 2", constructed entirely from 1/8" plywood.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Byte Box - £4

The only moving panel on this box is the lid, which is held shut by eight sliders, all neatly arranged in one row. These sliders can be slid to one side or the other, but there are no halfway points: they're either "on" or "off", as it were.

If all the sliders were locking the lid, it would be easy to open: just move them all, and the lid would be released.

If just ONE slider was holding the lid, that would be easy, too: just try each one in turn, until the lid slides off.

But there's only SOME of the sliders locking the lid, and you can't tell which ones, or how many. To make it worse, there's a number showing on each side of the box, and this number is actually the solution to opening the lid!

You can make your own solution when making this box, which is very easy to build.

Size is 5" by 3" by 2-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cat Tray - £4

Don't worry-this is not as unpleasant as you're thinking: it's just another puzzle box.

More like a box within a box, with four simple moves to get the inner box (or tray) out.

Very easy to make-a couple of days should do it.

Might make a nice little present for a child. Especially with Christmas on the way...

I made this box to suit the size of my clamps, and it measures 6-1/2" by 4-1/2" by 1-3/4" when made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



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China Box - £6

Could this be this year's "Biggie Box?"
Perhaps...

Anyway, it's larger than normal, and decorated with Chinese patterns and dragons. With a disc at each end, and three more discs on the lid, together with ten pegs. Nothing on the lid will move at the start: nothing turns, pushes or pulls. So how does it open?

Watch the video to find out...



Caution: this box will take a bit of making-the box itself is fairly straight forward, it's the lid that's quite complicated. There's lots of very precise cutting and drilling to make the moving parts, and there are three layers of moving parts.

Size of this box is 7" by 6" by 4-1/2" (17.8 by 15.2 by 114.3 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size. The 31 page plans include all patterns.

Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Coffin - £4

This might be a morbid thing to make, but then there's The Knight's Tomb, Sarcophagus and Tomb.

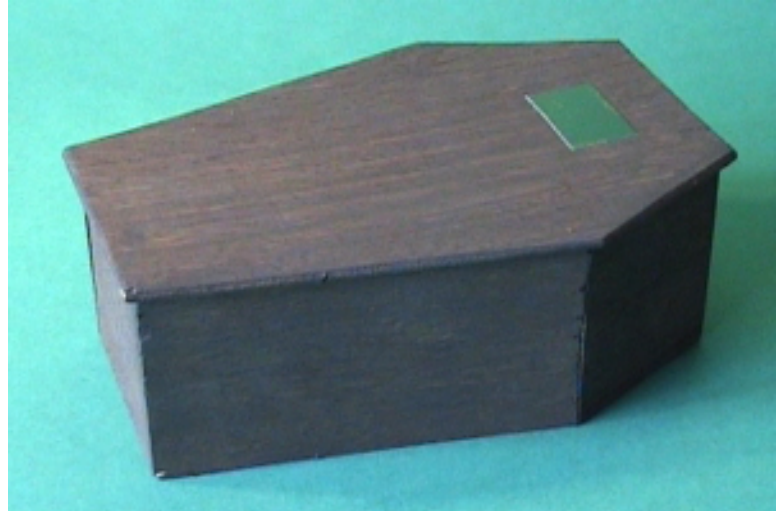
And really, it's just another puzzle box.

But this one is different in that the lid doesn't come off. You'll have to watch the video to find out how to get to the inside of the box.

There are quite a few angled edges to make, but don't worry- it's mostly filing at a slight angle.

The size of this box is 6" by 4" by 2-1/4" (15.3 cm by 10.2 cm by 5.7 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans so you can make this at any size.

This box was inspired from an idea supplied by Crypt LaVery.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Compass - £4

If you ever find yourself in the Antarctic, just hope you don't have one of these with a real compass inside, because you'll probably freeze to death before you get it open...

A "casket-type" box with a lid. On the lid is a dial marked in compass points, and a slider that has to be moved along a slot. To move the slider, the dial must be turned each way at different times.

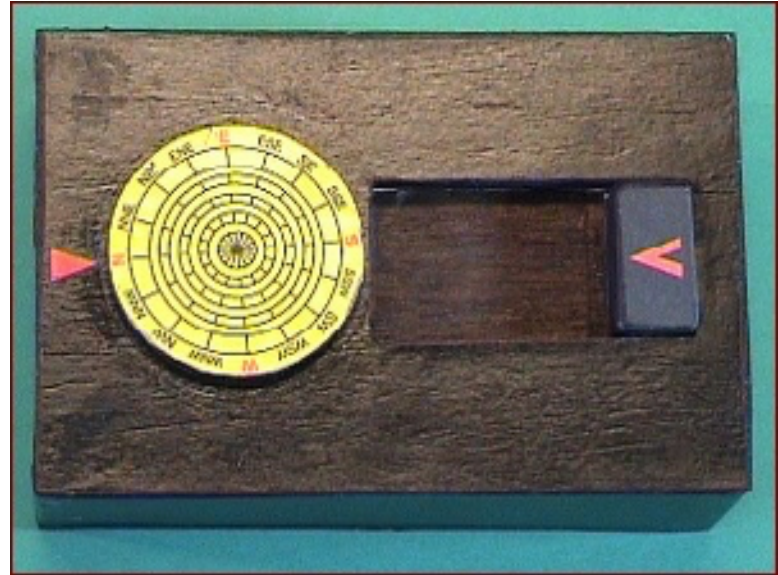
Under the dial is a circular maze, and a peg attached to the slider must travel through this maze.

Only when the peg has reached the other side of the maze can the lid be lifted off.

The lid can be re-locked, without going back through the maze.

Fairly easy to make, despite some very precise cutting.

Size of this box is 4-3/4" by 3" by 1-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Crate - £2

This looks like a model of a packing crate, but it is another "sliding panel" puzzle box.

The difference with this one is that you can see right through the whole thing, and all the workings are on the outside!

There are long sliders and short sliders criss-crossing each other over nearly all the faces, and they all have to be moved to allow the end, bottom and top panels to move, and remove the top.

It takes 18 slider moves, and 6 panel moves to open the box.

The box measures 6 by 3-1/2 by 3-1/4 inches, if made from 1-8" plywood.

Caution! This box takes a lot of making- everything is made from strips of wood, held together with glue and dowel pins.

There are 94 strips to cut, and 88 dowel pegs. You will need about 3 feet of 1/8" dowel rod to make all the pegs.

Oh yes, and there are an awful lot of holes to drill!

The plans are T-Plans, which will allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Crossed - £4

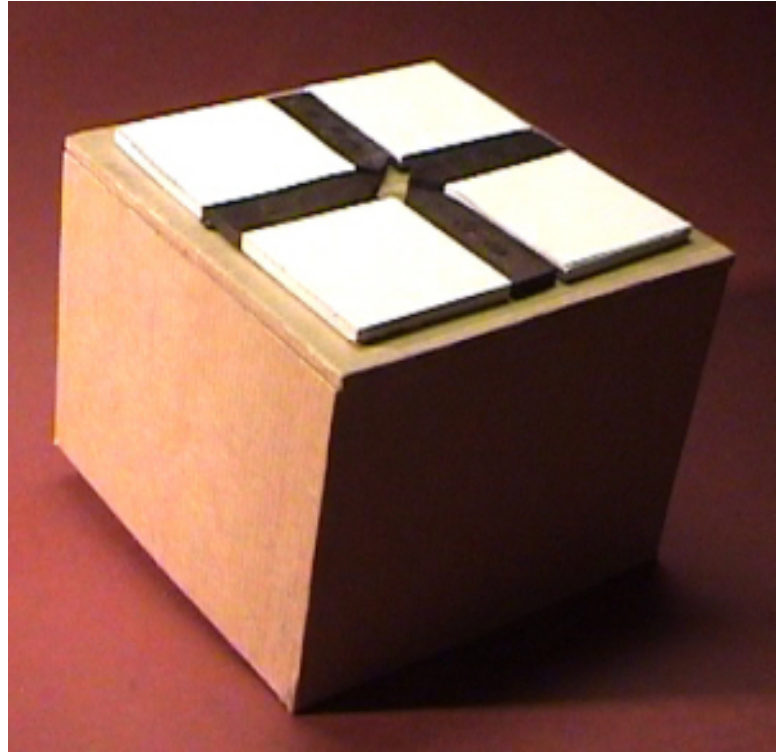
A box with no moving panels on sides, just four black pointers inside four white squares.

Nothing will push or turn, but they have to move in order to get the lid off.

Not very difficult to make, just a few precise cuts here and there.

I had to alter the plans four times to get this right, and almost rebuild the lid three times to get it working the way I wanted.

The size of this box is 4" by 4" by 3-1/4" (10.2 by 10.2 by 8.3 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this any size you wish.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Crown - £4

This one looks faintly like a crown , if a crown was square.

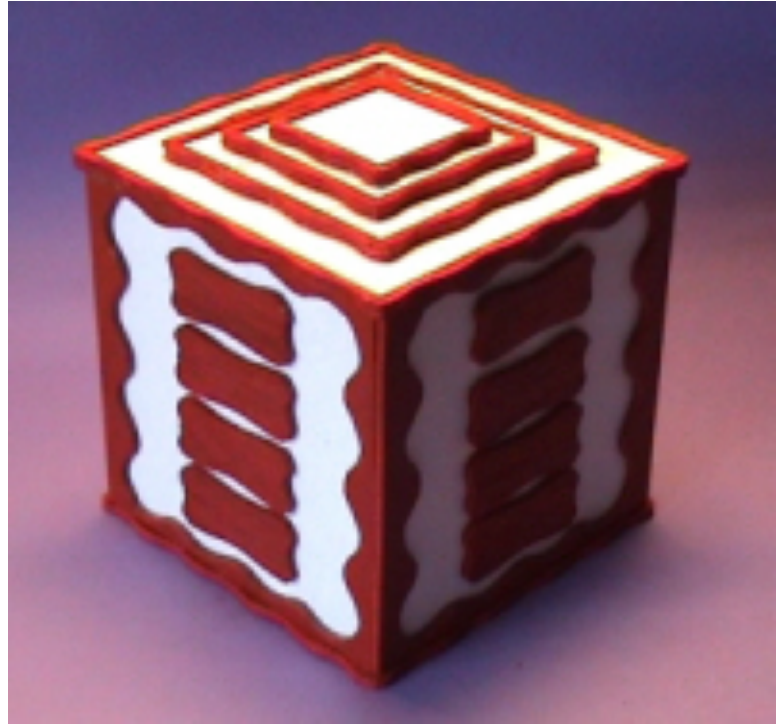
Sixteen outer panels to move on the sides to get to the lid.

They don't move in any logical order, so it's pretty hard to work out which is the next panel to move.

I had to follow the solution when making the video...

Not too hard to make, although there some precise holes and tongues to cut.

The size of this box is 5" by 5" by 5-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Crypteks - £2

You may have seen those puzzles based on a bicycle chain combination lock, where a series of rings are turned to a certain number, and the inner barrel can be pulled out. Those puzzles are bigger, usually made of wood, and the rings have letters. When the letters are turned to spell out a word, the inner cylinder can be withdrawn.

This is my version of those "Cryptex" puzzles, but mine is a box, not a tube. Each side has six sliders, and each slider has three positions, making 2187 combinations of positions per side. Every slider has to be moved to a certain position before the inner box can be withdrawn. Total number of combinations is 2187 by 2187 four times. The inner box is hollow, so you can keep stuff in it.

Without the solution (and you can make your own), you may not live long enough to get the inner box out!

Don't attempt to make this if you get bored easily-there is a lot of repetitious cutting, filing, gluing to do.

The puzzle measures 5" by 3" by 3", made from 1/8" wood, and there are 142 pieces to this puzzle.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



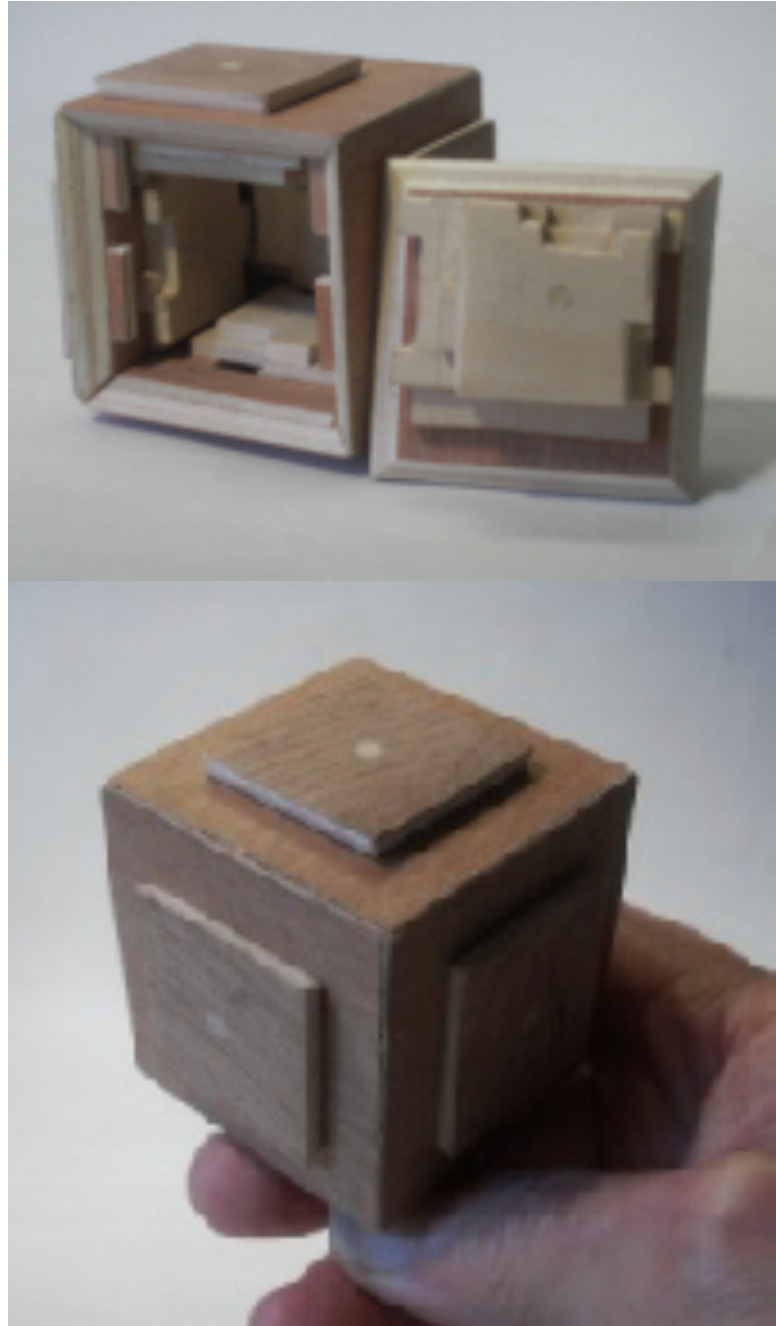
Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cubey 3 - £2

Same size as Cubey 1 and 2: 2" each way. Same appearance as Cubey 2: every side is joined to its neighbour by a bevel joint, and the grain on each side is 90° to the next side, making it impossible to tell which side you're looking at. So what's different? Now every panel now has to be moved THREE TIMES, in TWO directions in order to open the box. Now, there are 18 moves to open the box. Once you've started, there are two possible panels to move, the one you've just moved, and the next one to be moved, but because you can't tell where you are, you might go backwards instead of forwards. You might spend the rest of your life, just going backwards and forwards until the box wears out...

The box is made from 1/8" and 1/4" plywood. Easy to cut, assembly is a little tricky. Very hard to open...

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cubey 4 - £2

This has to be the the Ultimate Cubey! Slightly larger than the other Cubey puzzles, but with the same bevelled joints, and the same right-angled wood grain direction, making it very difficult to tell which side you're looking at. Instead of a sliding panel, each side has a wheel, which must be rotated and pushed in one direction to move an inner panel. Now you must do the same again with another wheel to move another panel. Unlike the earlier Cubeys, which only had one panel that would move at the start, on this box every panel can move at the start.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL WHICH PANEL TO START WITH! EXTREMELY FRUSTRATING TO OPEN!

You could open this box in just 6 moves, or it could take you up to 252 moves to open!

Be warned: this box takes a lot of making- there are lots of little holes to drill, lots of circles to cut, very precise panels to cut, and assembly is tricky. But well worth the effort...

The box is made from 1/8" and 1/4" plywood. The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cubey 5 - £6

Another fiendish Cubey. Very hard to open. It took me four tries when making the video, and that was looking at the solution...

Twenty four outer sliders to move, and it takes 24 moves to open.

Only one slider will move at the start, and it's a little hard to find.

Warning. This box will take a fair bit of making. There is a lot of precise cutting and drilling to do. Making Cubey 1, 2 and 3 was a piece of cake compared to this one.

There are 216 pieces to make to complete this box...

Size of the box is 4" by 4" by 4" (10.2 cm by 10.2 cm by 10.2 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cul-De-Sac - £2

A lot of Oriental puzzle boxes have the same method of opening: Move one end, move the top, move the other end, move the bottom, and so on until the lid comes off. This box follows a similar procedure. However, on this box, both sliders can move backwards and forwards, both end panels can move up and down, and both top and bottom panels can move left and right! As if that wasn't bad enough, there are EIGHT different "routes" to follow to open the lid. Once you've started a route, you have to carry on until you reach the end. Seven routes will lead you to a dead end, because the lid won't come off. Only one route leads to the lid coming off. The box looks the same from every angle, so you can't tell which way is up or down, back to front, end to end.

This is my favourite puzzle box, because, even though I know the correct moves, I can't get them right first time...

15 correct moves to open the lid, but there are 97 wrong moves! If you reach a dead end, you have to go back to the start.

The size of this box is 4" x 2-1/2" x 2", and is made from 1/8" wood. But the plans allow you to make this any size.

A fair amount of precise cutting involved. Patterns include with the plans.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cunning - £4

This looks like another Oriental puzzle box, and it even starts to open just like one. But then it seems to lock up.

This isn't one of those boxes where you have to go backwards and forwards to get it open.

No, this one has a move in it that I haven't seen in any Oriental puzzle box.

Only eight moves to open, if you overcome the sly, devious cunning little move in here.

See the video...

Size of this box is 4" (10.2 cm) by 3" (7.6 cm) by 2-1/2" (6.3 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Cyrus Redblock - £2

Looking rather like a solid block of wood, this is another sliding panel puzzle box. Moving three of the side panels will allow you to get the lid off, thinking that you've done the puzzle. But there is a secret drawer hidden in the bottom, and you have to move all four of the side panels to get the drawer out. There are more moves to get the drawer out than there are to release the lid, and the box is deep enough to disguise the fact that there is a drawer there at all.

The box size is 4-1/2" x 4-1/2" x 3-1/2", made of 1/8" wood, but the plans are now T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size..



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

De Vincy - £4

This is another "casket type" box, that could be very easy to open, or incredibly frustrating. If you're very lucky, you could open this box in just seven moves, but if not, it could take 359 moves!

There are six wheels around the sides, and another wheel on top, and they all have to be turned to one of six positions, and pushed in one of two directions to release the top.

Size of the box is 6-1/2" by 4-1/2" by 3-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but these plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Diablo - £6

This box doesn't pretend to imitate any of the moves of the box featured in the horror films, even though it looks a little the same. However, it's still a puzzle box with probably more moves than the other famous box.

34 moves to open this box, and the lid alone has ten moves.

Opening this box won't bring evil spirits, or open doorways to other dimensions: rather, it should put you in good spirits because you managed to get it open, and perhaps open a doorway to the world of puzzle box making...

Make no mistake: this box will take a bit of making, as there are a lot of small precise pieces to cut and drill. Not everything is very small, but there are still 148 pieces.

There is a four page Photo-Guide included with the plans. These photos were taken during the build of the box, and may help to clarify the plans a little better.

The size of this box is 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" if you make this from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size you wish.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Dials - £4

This is really the opposite version of the "Byte Box" (Gallery page 7), but it would be a bit silly to call it the "Un-Byte Box", and since it uses dials to help get it open, that's the name.

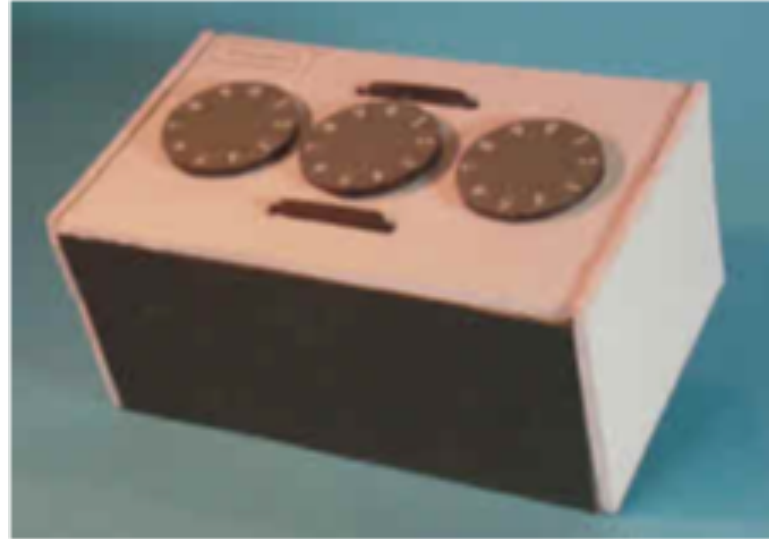
Three dials, each numbered from 0 to 9, and each one has to be pointed to a particular number to allow the box to open.

You could work through the 1000 combinations and find the right one, but the answer is showing on the top, as a line of binary code.

Work out this code, and you'll get the three correct numbers.

Very easy to make, only six discs to cut, and you can make your own combination.

Size of this box is 6" (15.3 cm) by 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) by 2-3/4" (7 cm), if cut from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Diamondback - £4

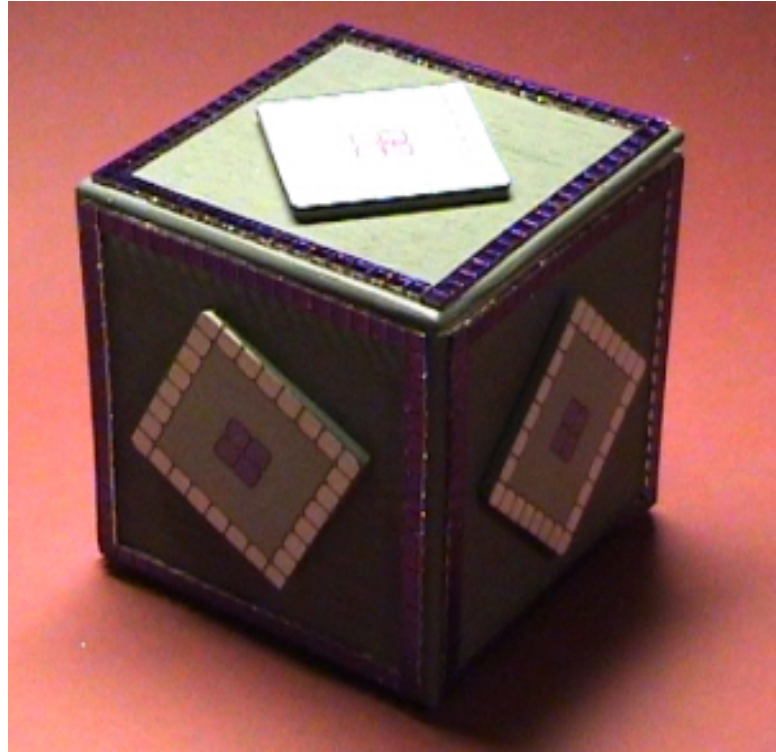
A six-sided cube, with a diamond-shaped outer panel on each side. These panels don't push in any direction: they simply turn.

All six must be turned to remove the lid, but you don't know which way to turn them, or in what order.

And yet, only ten moves to open the box...

Size of this box is 4" by 4" by 4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.

Note: There is some fairly precise cutting to do, and because of the "rotational" movements, you will probably spend some time "adjusting" the inner discs...



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Dice Box - £4

Yes, I know that it should be "Die" and not "Dice", but then "Die Box" sounds a bit creepy....

There's only one panel that will move, and it won't move when the box is closed. So how can you get it open?

One way is to use gravity, and this box does that.

So you have to turn it over and over, to move the interior sliding pieces until eventually the lid will open.

But in what order do you turn the box around?

The answer is actually on the box, staring at you.

Easy to make, and only six moves to open, if you know them.

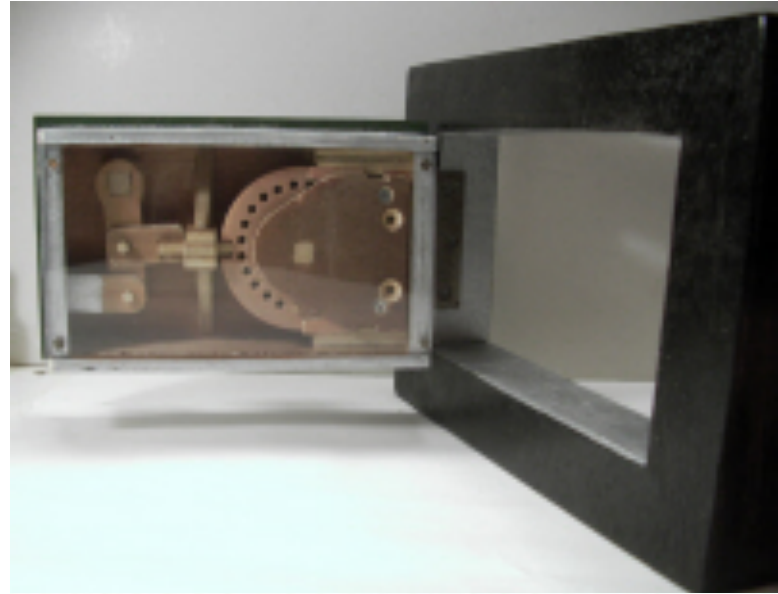
Size of this box is 3" by 3" by 3" if made from 1/8" wood, and the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Door - £2

More of a mechanical gadget than a puzzle. But I know you can't open this without the solution! This is not a trick title-it really is just a door. However, it's a safe door, controlled by a genuine combination lock-not one of those "combination locks" that require you to turn three or four wheels, but a proper combination lock, with four discs controlled by one dial-just like in the movies. You make your own combination when building this, and can change that at any time. The door has a transparent back, so that you can see the lock in operation, and is mounted on a frame. You could easily make a box instead. However, since it's made of wood, it may not be very safe...



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Double Two - £2

Looking vaguely like a die, a black box with two discs on two faces. Both sets of discs can be turned, but only one set can be turned and moved, before the other set can be moved. When all four discs have been turned and moved, then the lid can be opened. Not too difficult really. But if you weren't told anything else, would you think you've solved the puzzle?

If you think you're finished, you're wrong, because there is a secret drawer yet to open.

The box mechanism is hidden inside the side panels, so you could keep trinkets and stuff inside, and the drawer is just the right size to hide folded banknotes. You may not find it so easy to find...

The box measures 4" x 4" x 3", made entirely from 1/8" plywood.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Dragon Chest - £4

This is a very Chinese-looking puzzle box, with dragon icons on the end tiles, dragon pictures on the front and back and Chinese numerals from 1 to 5 on the lid tiles. The lid tiles have to be moved in a certain order, that doesn't follow the numbers, to release the end tiles. These have to be moved three times each to release the sliding lid. The box has a false bottom, that can only be removed when the lid is off. The end tiles have to be moved again to free this false bottom, to reveal a secret compartment big enough to hold unfolded banknotes.

Not too hard to make. Size of the box is 3-3/14" high by 4" wide by 8" long, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Drawers - £4

This is a set of six little drawers that fit into a box. None of the drawers will move, but there is a slight difference in one of the box faces.

Find this difference, and you can start removing the drawers.

Even then, it's not quite clear how some of them will come out.

Of course, it's quite easy if you've made this...

...and it's easy to make.

Size of the box is 5-1/4" (13.4 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood.

The plans are T-Plans, so you can make this any size.

The patterns are included.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Duets - £4

On all six sides of this box, there is an outer panel, with a narrow strip in the middle. This strip is a slider, and is usually the first thing to be moved.

This box is different in that sometimes the whole panel has to be moved first, then the slider.

And sometimes the whole panel has to be moved up or down and sideways.

22 moves to open the box, and all sides look the same.

More than one piece will move at the start, but unless you move the correct piece first, you won't get through the opening sequence.

The size of this box is 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" by 3-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

E-Book - £4

This is not something that you can read on your E-Reader, but rather another puzzle box in the shape of a book.

So what has the letter E got to do with it?

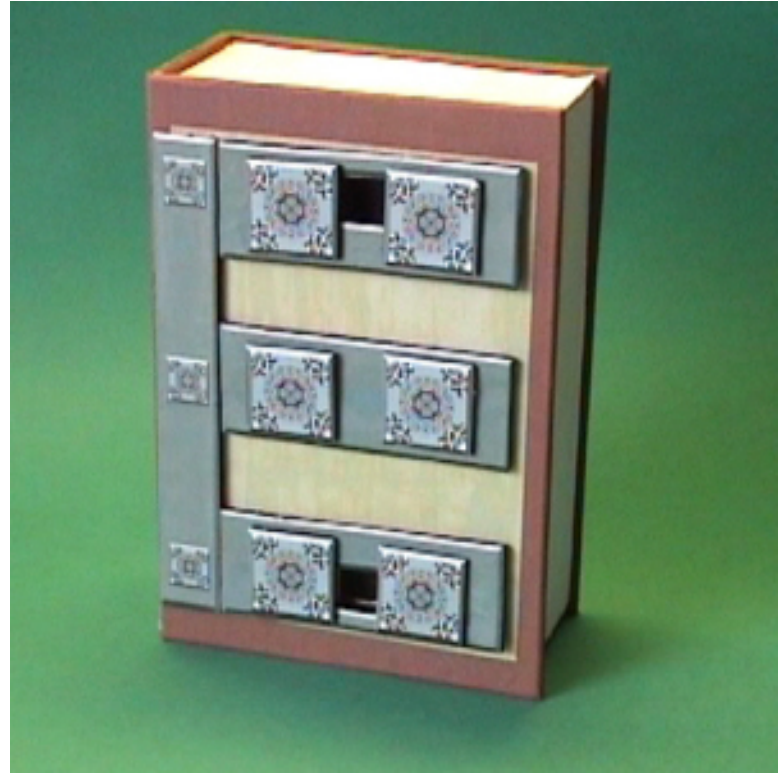
That's because parts of the letter have to be moved to open the cover (which is the lid).

Only 10 moves to open, but some of those moves have to be made together, else it could be frustrating trying to open.

Easy to make, since all the moving parts are in the lid.

The size of this box is 4-1/2" by 6-1/2" by 2" deep, if you make this from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, and it can even hide a couple of paperbacks.

The plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size you wish.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Fingers - £4

Most of my boxes contain an "inner box", which hold all the moving parts together. This inner box is usually held together by "finger joints", which not only keep the box square, but make the inside stronger.

If you've made a few of these boxes, you'll be getting quite good at cutting finger joints.

Which is a pity, because they're on the inside and not seen.

This box has finger joints all over the place- inside and out. But if all the outside edges are finger joints, how can you get box open? Nine moves to open the box.

Fairly easy to make, although as you might guess, there is a lot of precise cutting along the edges to make all these finger joints.

The size of this box is 4" by 3-1/4" by 2-3/4" (10.2 cm by 8.2 cm by 7 cm) if made from 1/8" (3mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this any size.



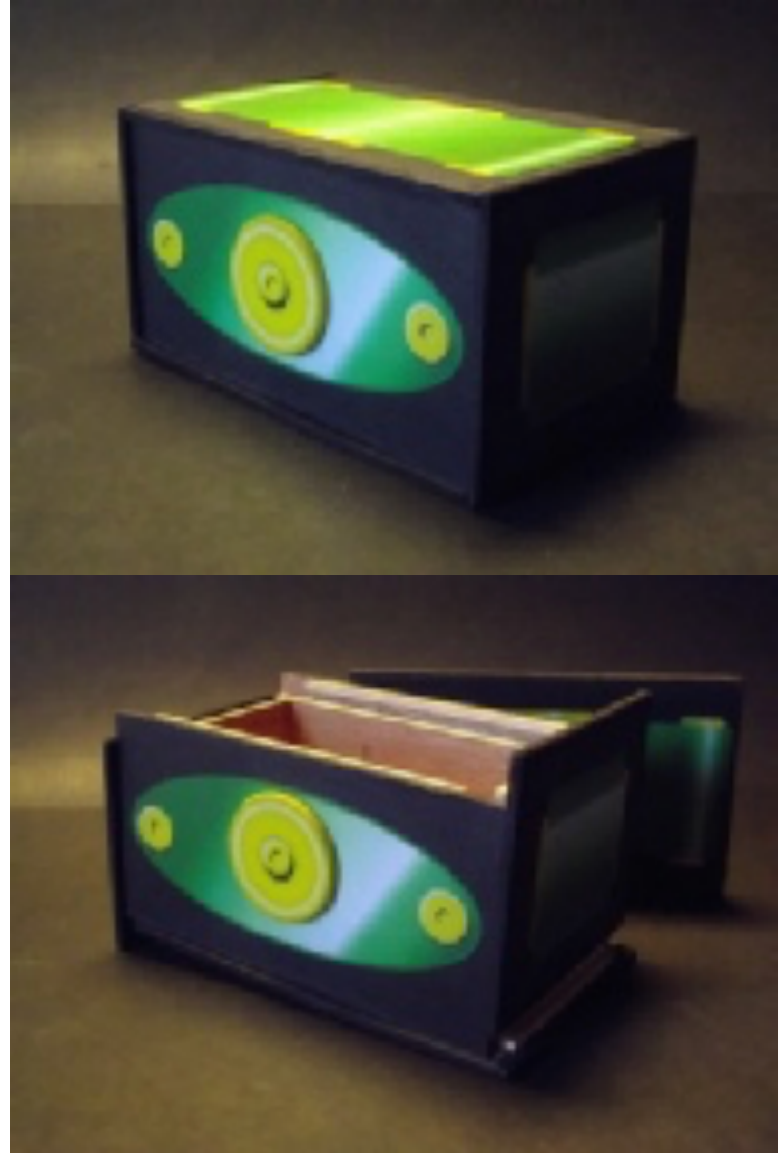
Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Flip-Flop - £4

This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, that opens in the normal way. However, none of the panels will move to start with. There is a disc on the front and back that that doesn't turn. It will only push upwards, but the panels still won't move. The box has to be "flipped" to one end, to allow the other end panel to open, and vice-versa. So the box has to be flipped from one end to the other, to get the box opened.

Fairly easy to build, but assembly is a little tricky, as there are two independent pieces that rely on gravity to move, and you can't see these in action.

Size of the box is 6" by 3-1/2" by 3" if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Flowerly - £4

This box looks like a block of soil, or earth, covered with leaves and flowers. No square panels on this. But of course, the leaves are panels, and the flowers are wheels, and everything has to be manipulated in order to remove the lid.

None of the leaves will move at the start, but some flowers will turn. That doesn't do anything unless it's the right time to turn that flower.

When it's the right time, the leaves beneath it can be moved, and eventually, the lid lifted off.

23 moves needed to do that.

Quite a lot of precise cutting to do, along with twenty discs, and nearly as many holes to cut.

Size of this box is about 6" by 4" by 3", if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

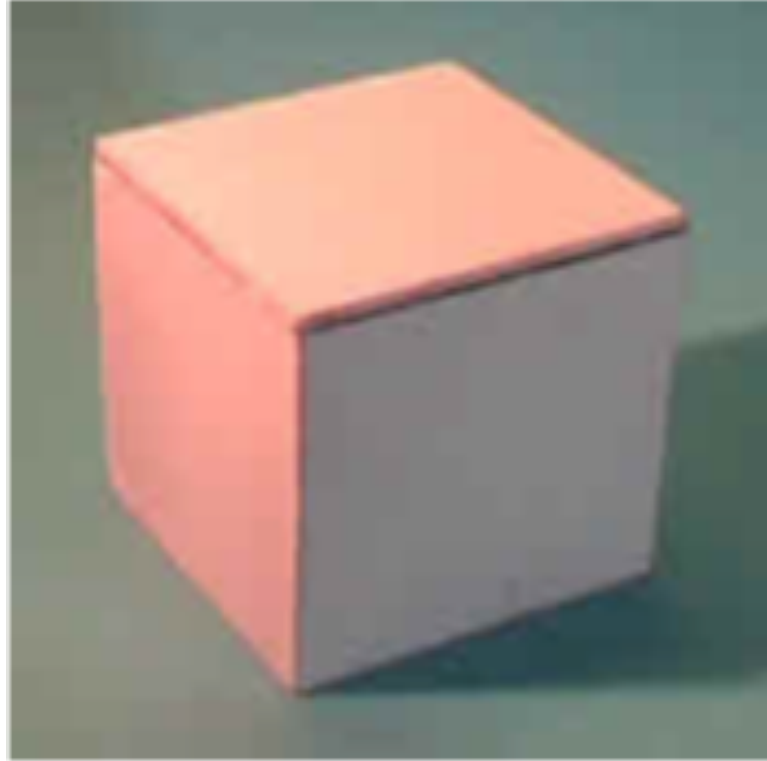
Four - £4

A box without any outer moving panels, so it must rely on some other motive power to move things inside: centrifugal, gravity, magnetism-any of them would do.

This one is gravity, so the box must be tilted some way. There's only four moves, and it's up to you to find them. The trouble with that is, parts might go back if tilted the wrong way...

All the moving parts are in the lid, and there is some fairly precise cutting to do (which usually means lots of filing).

The size of this box is 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" or 8.9 cm by 8.9 cm by 8.9 cm, if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Gear Lever - £4

This little box looks just like the "pre-selector" gear lever box fitted to the old Atlantean double-decker, rear-engined buses.

It was fitted to the steering column, and you could literally change gear with one finger without letting go of the steering wheel. It was called a "pre-selector" because you chose the gear you wanted before you actually needed it.

This is not so much a puzzle box, but more of a mechanical novelty. You still have to move the gear lever to all six slots in order to remove the lid, but the lever seems to be stuck in the middle. Overcome this, and the rest is just a matter of "changing gears".

Size is 4" (10.2 cm) by 3" (7.6 cm) by 2-1/2" (64 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans so you can make this at any size.



Gearly - £6

First of all, how is the name pronounced? It's pronounced as in "clearly", "dearly", "nearly" or "yearly", but NOT as in "pearly"...

How are you at making gear wheels? This box will help you decide. It's all about gear wheels-there's some on each side and a few more inside the lid. All the workings can be seen through holes in the outer panels.

To open the lid, you'll need two keys hidden away somewhere. One key will unlock the gear mechanism and the other key will operate all the gears in the lid.

See the video to understand how this works...

Caution! This box will take a lot of work to make: There are 13 gear wheels and four quarter gear wheels to make, as well as other fairly precise pieces.

The size of this box is 6" by 4-1/2" by 4-1/2" (15.2 by 11.4 by 11.4 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



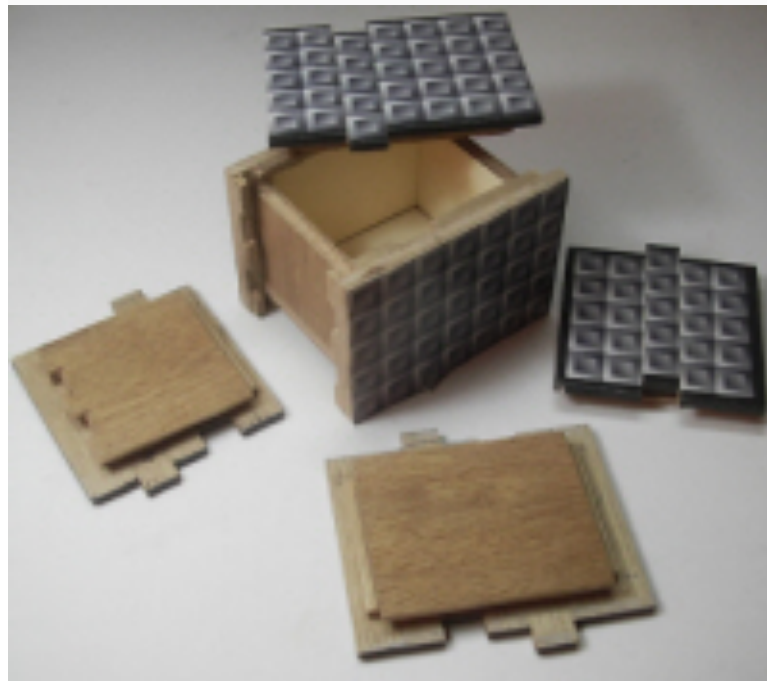
Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Grey Squares - £2

My first sliding panel box. Four of the panels have one or two "secret" sliders that must be moved before that panel will move. That will unlock another panel, eventually coming to the last panel. But that also seems to be locked! With what?

The answer is there, if you think backwards. Fairly easy to make, using 1/8" and 1/4" plywood. Covered in paper, the grey squares printed from computer. Grey squares pattern included in plans.

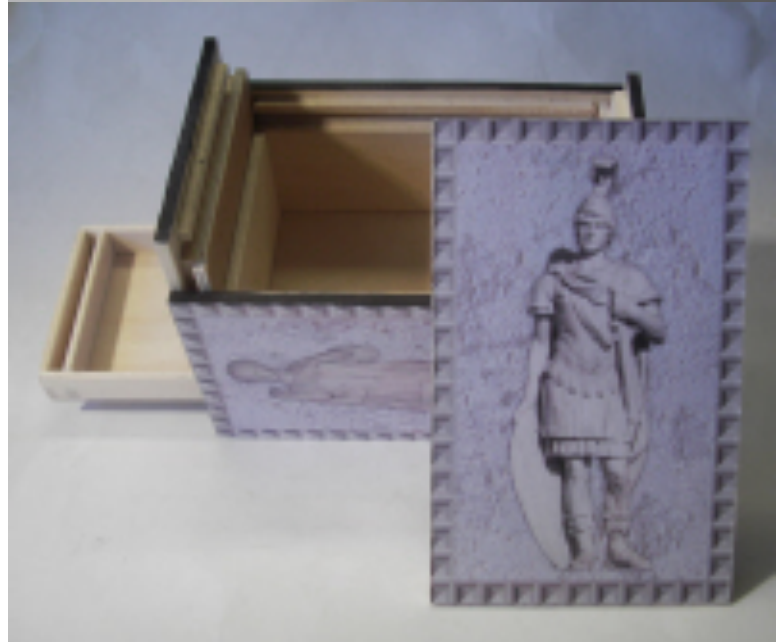
Difficult to solve; minimum 13 moves.



Hadrian's Box - £2

Another sliding panel puzzle box, with pictures of Roman statues all around it. Only three panels can move, and they don't have any "secret" sliders. But they must be moved around to get the lid off. There's no sign of a secret drawer, but there is one, the full length and width of the box, hidden away in the base. Only when the lid is removed, and another four steps made, can the drawer be revealed and taken out. Like Cyrus Redblock, this one takes eleven moves to get the lid off, but is much easier to make.

The size of this box is 4-1/2" by 3" by 2-1/2", but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Half and Half - £2

This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, with a slider on all four sides. The front and both end panels must be lowered to reveal the lid. But the lid won't come off. This is the only time when the fourth slider can be used, to lower the back panel, revealing all four sides of the lid. But the lid still can't be pushed off!

What's going on here? You can see all four edges of the lid, but you still can't push it off in either direction!

The answer is in the name of the box... The lid is in two halves, and each half must be pulled off.

The box measures 4" by 2-1/2" by 2-1/4", and will require 1/8" wood to make it at that size, but the plans are T-Plans, which will allow you to make it any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Helter Skelter - £2

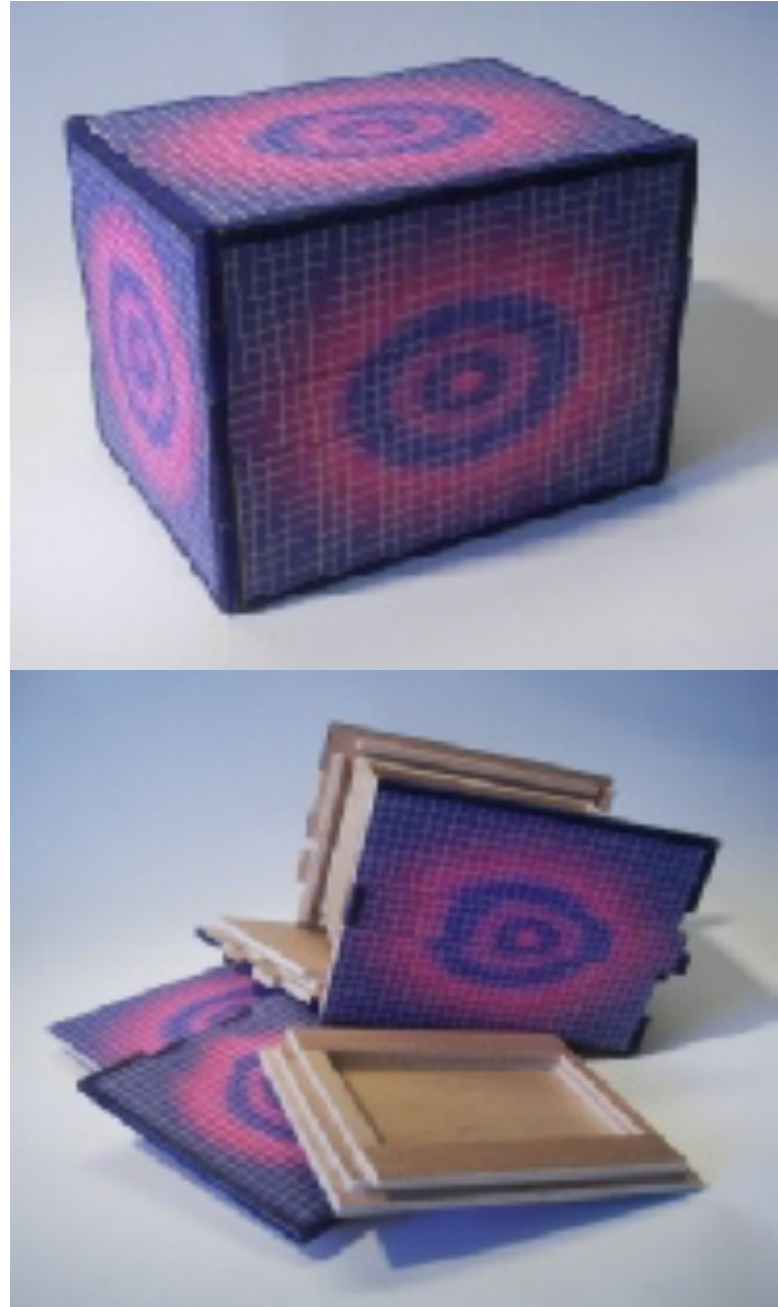
This is a fairly strange puzzle box-none of the vertical corners are the same. There are seven sliders around the sides, but very few are in line with each other.

You have to start at the top, and work around and down the box to get it open. It takes only 17 "progressive" moves to open: that is, you find the first slider to move, then find the next slider that will move, and it will be the right one. Then another one that will move, and that will also be the right one. When all the sliders have been moved, then the end, top and bottom panels can be moved to open the box.

Very easy to make-no inside cuts, circles, curves or keyways.

Also easy to open, after a couple of attempts.

The size of this box is 3" by 3" by 4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

HI - £4

The HI Box, so called because each side has a capital "H", or is it an "I"? These letters are made up of three sliders each, so there are eighteen sliders all around the box. Not only do all these sliders have to be moved, but they're also interlocked with each other. Six sliders are interlocked with two other sliders, eight sliders are interlocked with three other sliders, and four sliders are interlocked with five other sliders!

Quite difficult to open, it takes 48 moves to take lid off.

This is a fairly complicated box to make, with lots of parts, involving some precise cutting.

The size of the box is 4 inches each way, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

House - £2

This looks like a model of a house, but it's another puzzle box. The windows and the door have to be moved around, and when open, the whole front of the house will slide forward, rather like a drawer. Not difficult to open, and if a coin slot was cut in the roof, it would serve as a money box.

The house measures about 5" x 4-1/2" x 3", and is made from 1/8" ply, but you can make this any size you wish.

Some of the inside parts are a little fiddly, but straight forward.

The brick, tile and windows patterns are included with the plans.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Illogical - £4

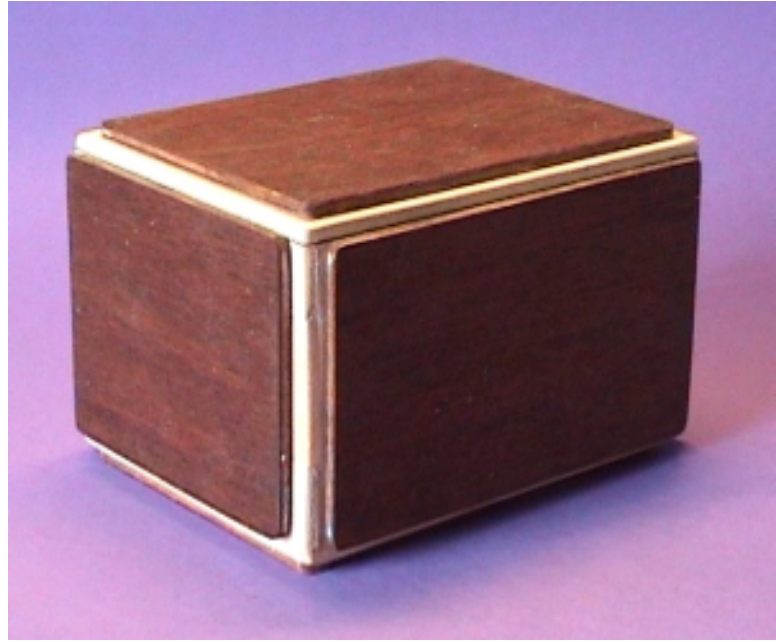
This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, where only one panel will move to start with. That will leave a slight gap at one end, which seems to indicate which is the next panel to be moved.

But that next panel won't move.

The next panel to be moved doesn't seem to have any relationship to the first panel. How odd...

And so it goes on, right round the box, and do the same thing again, until after twelve moves, the lid will come off.

Size of this box is 4-1/2" by 3-1/2" by 3" if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

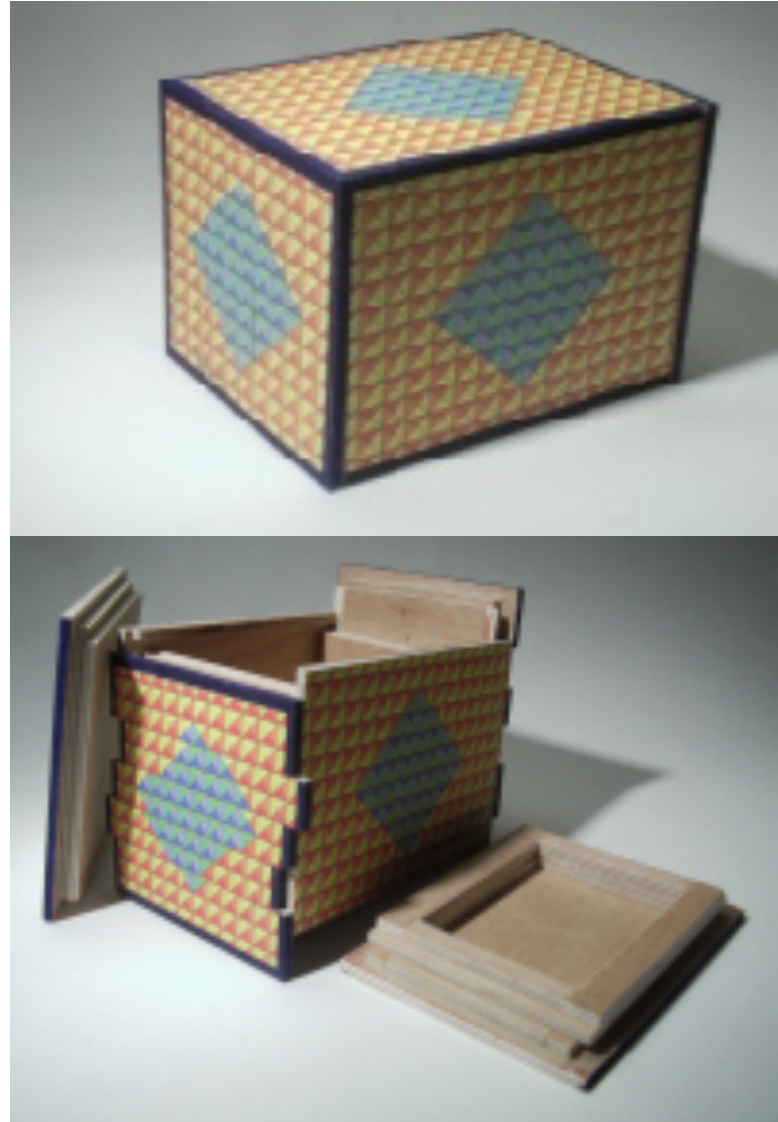
Impossible Odds - £2

This is another sliding panel puzzle box, that looks very similar to most of the other puzzle boxes. But this one works differently to those. Two sliders at each end are connected to dowels which run in "keyways" in the end panels. These dowels must be in a certain position at the right time to allow those panels to move up and down, which allow the top and bottom panels to move. After 16 moves, the top can be taken off. After another 8 moves, the bottom can be slid out to reveal a little recess in the bottom panel.

None of this sounds very difficult does it? But (there's always a "but"), one slider has 12 wrong moves and the other three have 13 wrong moves. Since the four sliders are independent, these wrong moves can be multiplied together. In all, there's about 26,000 wrong moves!

No doubt there's a few repeated moves in there, but that's still impossible odds....

The size of this box is 3" by 3" by 4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

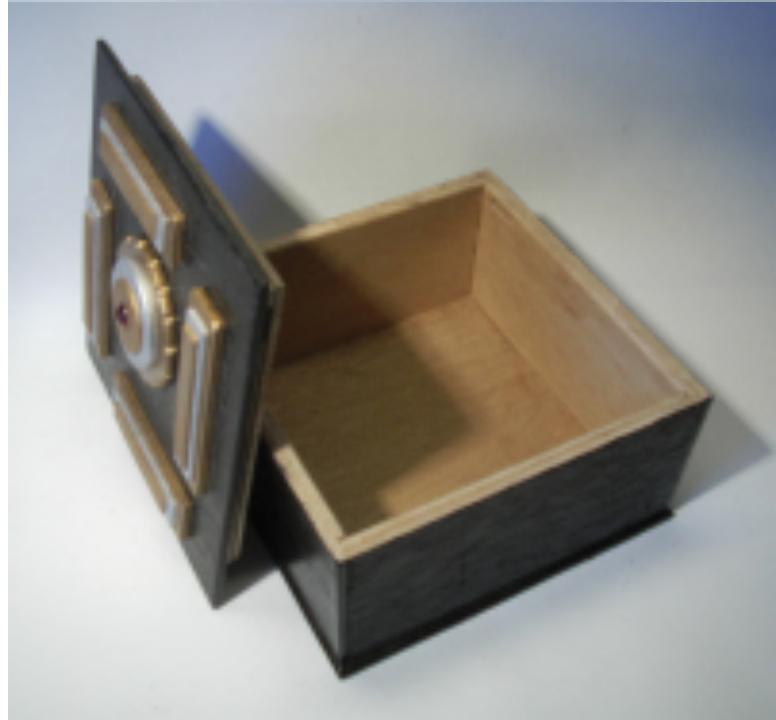
Inca - £2

A black box, with four stepped sliders arranged around a central knurled wheel, also stepped. The lid is held in place by four latches, one in each side. So, how does it open?

The wheel has to be turned to a certain position, and pushed in one direction, which will allow the release two of the four latches holding the lid in place. Then the wheel has to be turned to another position, and pushed in another direction to allow the release the last two latches. Now the lid can be lifted off.

The second two latches cannot be released until the first two, even if you find the second wheel position before the first. All the moving parts are contained within the lid.

The box measures 5-1/4" by 5-1/4" by 2-3/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Inside Out - £4

You may of heard about objects and people going through Star Trek's early transporter, and coming back inside out.

Not good, and messy.

"Transporter malfunction" or not, this box is certainly inside out. Most of the working panels are on the outside. You can see all the tongues and notches that stop the panels from moving.

If only it were that easy...

There are some more hidden working panels inside, and you have to work out which outer ones to move first...

Only 12 moves to open the box, 13 if you lift the lid off...

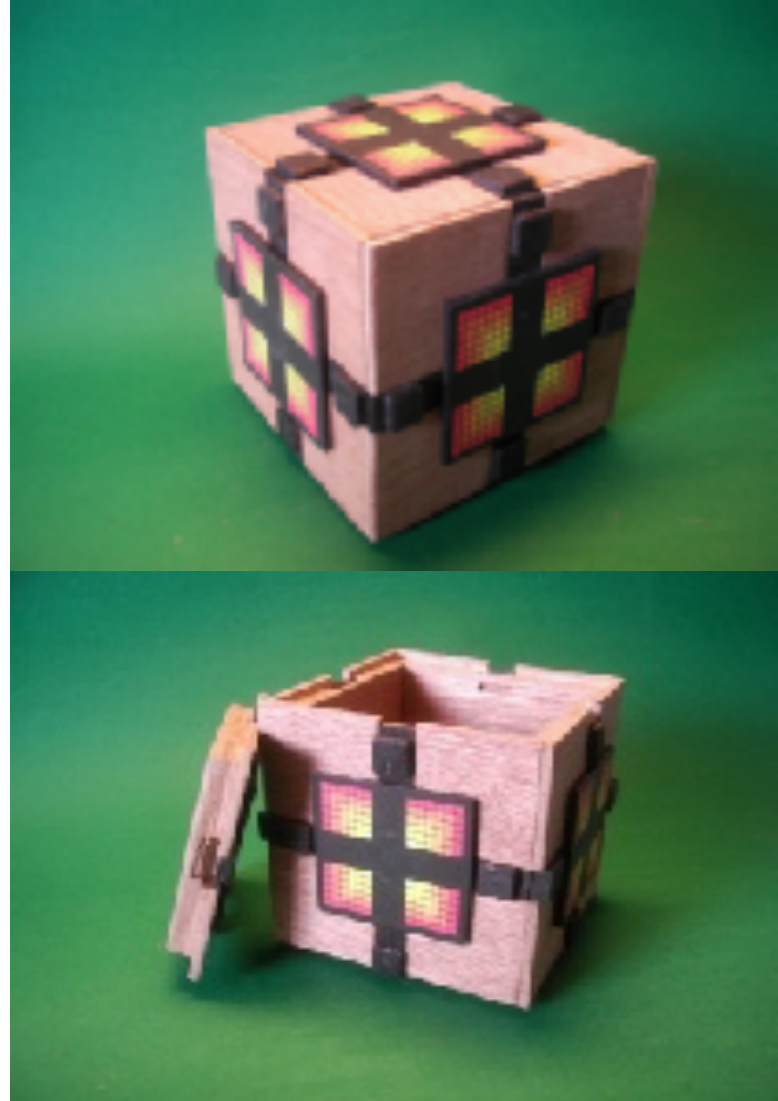
The size of this box is 3-1/2" by 3-1/2" by 3-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this box at any size.



Interlink - £4

This is a box with not just one or two sliders, but 24 sliders, four on each side. Not hidden sliders, not only quite visible, but with another piece sticking out, to help you move them. Four of the sides are overlapped at one end, so, are these four the top, bottom, front and back, or the front, back, left and right, or the top, bottom, left and right? No way of telling. Just about every slider must be moved, either inwards or outwards to open the box, but there's only one that will move to start with. There are a couple of sliders that don't really do anything, but how do you tell which is which? 22 moves to open the box, but hard to find those moves.

The size of the box is 4 inches each way, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Jail Cell - £2

This little box looks like a model of a jail cell. It isn't just a model; this is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, where the aim is to open the cell door. This is one of those puzzles where you have to think "outside the box", as it were.

The box measures 5" x 3-3/8" x 3-5/8", and is made from 1/8" plywood and 1/8" dowel rods. Easy to make.

Fairly difficult to open, using four sliders to release the cell door.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Jenny - £4

At first appearance, this is just another Oriental-looking box.

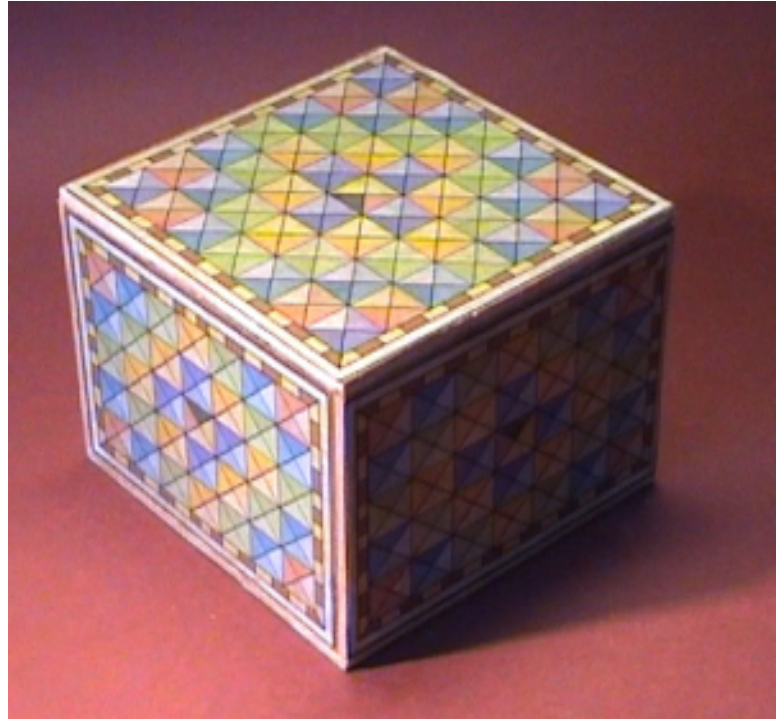
But there are no "hidden" sliders, and none of the outer panels will push, pull or turn.

In fact, nothing moves, so how can this box be opened?

Well, the name is a clue. That and a little bit of knowledge about the early days of the wool industry. A "Jenny" was used to spin bits of fleece to make wool, and this box opens by...

Well, you can guess the rest.

The size of this box is 4" by 4" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Keys - £4

Another "casket-type" box, but with only a few sliding panels.

Opening the box is done with keys-five keys in all. You need to move panels to get the first two keys, these will release two more keys, which will release the last key. This key will release the lid.

There are a lot of circles with slots to cut, so if you're not all that good at cutting circles, give this a miss.

Size of this box is 6" (15.2 cm) by 5" (12.7 cm) by 3-1/4" (8.3 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this box at any size.



Keysafe - £4

A Keysafe is a metal box, fixed to the outside of a house, which holds the keys to that house.

You open it by pressing several buttons and turning a knob. This box works in the same way, except you don't push the buttons in, you push them upwards. This is because the friction of wood is so much greater than that of metal. So, to open this box, you must push a number of buttons up, and turn the knob. But you don't know which buttons, or how many to move. Any wrong button will lock the knob. There is a reset bar which resets all the buttons so you can have another try. And another. And another...

Why would you make this, when it's so much easier to buy a real keysafe (they're quite cheap), and it's nowhere near as strong?

The fun is in actually making it and finding out how it works, and you can make your own combination.

CAUTION: This box will take some making as there are lots of very precise cuts to make, and quite a lot of fine-tuning. Not something for beginners...

The size of this box is 4" by 5-1/4" by 2-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Knight's Tomb - £2

Verily I say unto thee good person, do not be tempted to touch this, for Ôtis the work of the Devil himself, may the saints preserve us. It is but a tomb, worthy of good King Richard himself, indeed, his shield and cross adorn all around. These shields have to be moved to open the fiendish thing. Aye, some shields be going up and down, and some be going side to side, but they all have to be moved before the lid can be slid off. Forsooth, I say again, do not be tempted by the this toy of Satan, for thee will doomed to spend the rest of thy life trying to open this terrible, devilish thing.

Looking like the Medieval Casket, this puzzle box works quite differently, and is much easier to make. The box size is 5-1/2" x 3" x 3", made of 1/8" and 1/4" plywood. It looks just as good without the knight's figure: it's up to you. 16 moves to open, if you know them. Otherwise, very difficult to open. Cutting list supplied by Ron Locke.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Ladder - £4

A box covered in brick patterned paper, with a ladder on top. The only parts that will move are the ladder rungs and they have to be moved one way or the other.

But how far do they move?

They all have to be in the right place for the sides of the ladder to move.

But then, how does the box open?

See the video to find out...

Size of this box is 5-3/4" (14.6 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) by 3" (7.6 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Liquorice - £4

Sometimes a box is named after the way it looks. But of course, there are many different ways to decorate it, from complex fretwork patterns, right down to ordinary paper.

This puzzle box looks rather like a giant liquorice all-sort, with yellow sides, and a black top and bottom.

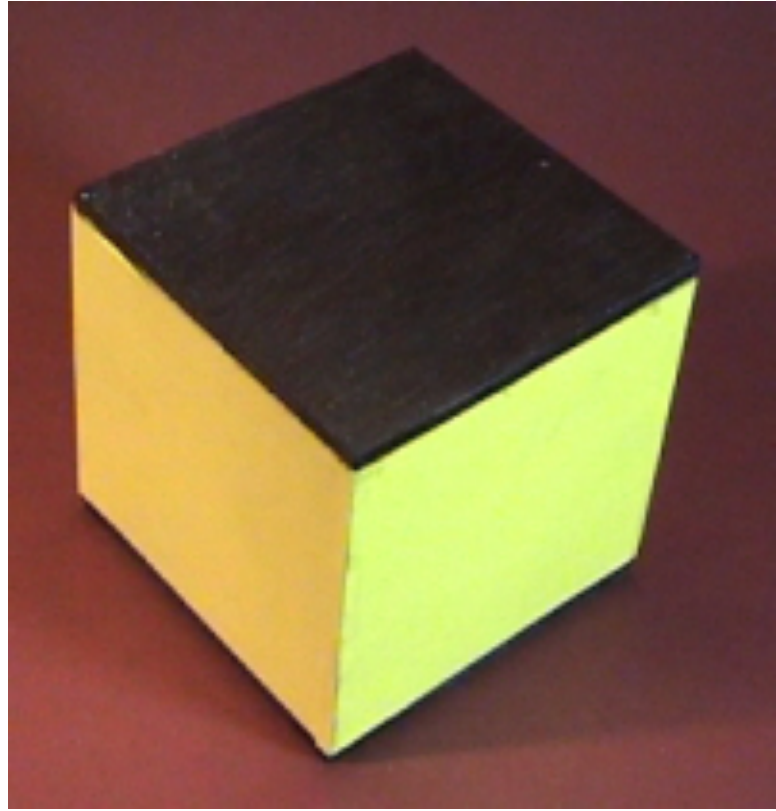
Nothing moves on the sides, so the only parts that look as if they can move are the top and bottom.

The bottom doesn't move at all, so that leaves the top. But that won't turn, push, pull or lift.

There's only THREE moves to open this box, and you're not really sure if you've done the first move until you try the second one...

This is a fairly simple box to make: a couple of days should do.

The size of this box is 3" by 3" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Marble - £4

The Gothic box was going to be a highly ornate, very decorative casket-type box. But I would have to spend more time cutting out the very intricate borders and the ends of some of the moving pieces, than the time actually taken to make the working box. So I've decided to not make all the fiddly bits, which cuts down the time to make the box.

This looks a bit like a 1930's "Art Decor" jewelry or cigarette box made from marble slabs, with gold-coloured columns on each corner. Five panels on the lid and another outer panel on each of the four sides. None of these panels will move at first. So how do you open the box?



If you have a look at the Photo Guide, you may be able to work it out.

Or watch the video to see how to start opening this box.

Size of the box is 5-1/4" by 5-1/4" by 3-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood.

The plans are T-Plans, which enable you to make this at any size.

Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Maze - £4

Just a normal looking box, with a lowered lid. Inside the lid are 25 little coloured pegs, each sitting on a black tile.

Where do you start?

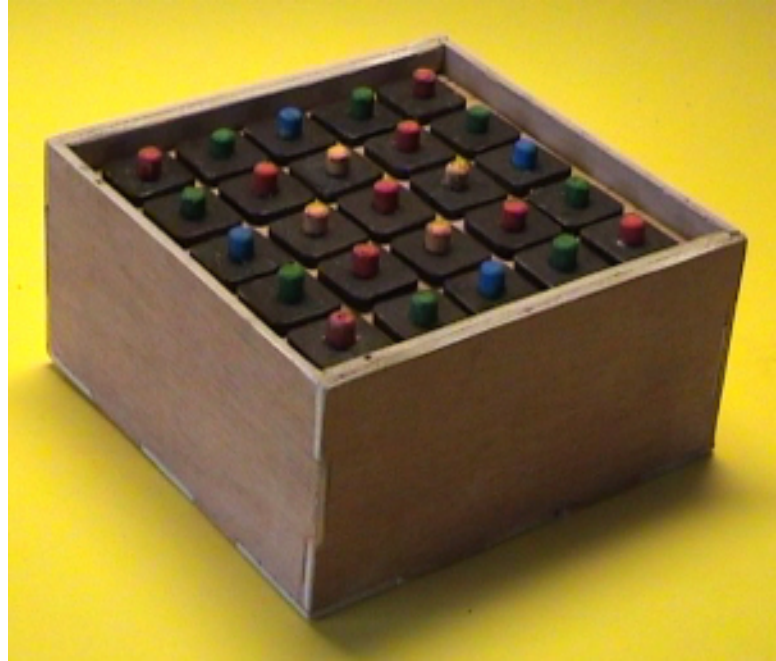
That's a guess. Unless you know...

Which pegs do you move? Just a few, or all of them? Every single peg has to be moved to open the lid.

Luckily, the moves are progressive-that is, once you've found the first move, the next is right beside it. And so on, and so on. After the 25th peg, the lid can be slid off.

Despite some fairly precise cutting, this box is easy to make.

Size of the box is 5" by 5" by 2-1/2" (12.7cm by 12.7cm by 6.4cm) if made from 1/8" (3mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Medieval Casket - £2

This puzzle box is a miniature version of a 16th century linen chest-those very dark heavy wood chests, about two or three feet long, with overhanging lids and usually heavily, sometimes roughly, carved faces. Some had iron bands with stout padlocks, to hold valuables. This little box could hold smaller "valuables", but it doesn't have carved faces. Instead, it has fretwork panels on the front, back and side faces, and lion head "reliefs" in the centre of these panels. These lion heads actually move, and form the locking mechanism that holds the lid shut. These moves are made in a certain order, to release the lid. Apart from the lion heads, there are no moving parts visible. If you know how, takes only 14 moves to open.

If you don't know , it's fairly difficult!

The box size is 6" x 4" x 2-1/2", made from 1/8" plywood and 1/4" stripwood. Fretwork pattern and lion head images are included in the plans.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Merlin's Casket - £4

Extracts from manuscripts found in the ruins of Tintagel Castle, Cornwall, in 1725. Translated into modern English.

"Sir Lancelot, one of the Knights of the Round Table, had his eyes set on Guinevere, wife of King Arthur, but she wasn't too struck on him. So he went to see Merlin, the King's magician, and asked him to make a love potion, but didn't say who it was for. Wise old Merlin guessed Lancelot's intentions, and made the love potion, but placed it in a casket. He gave the casket to Lancelot, and told him if he could open the box, the love potion was inside. Lancelot, being more brawn than brain, couldn't open the casket, so went off looking for another lady. Merlin gave the casket to King Arthur, who had no trouble at all in opening the box, including a secret drawer where the potion was hidden, and used the love potion on Guinevere."

This is a rather nice looking "casket type" box, with decorative strips all around it.

There are fourteen sliding panels around this box, and by moving eleven of these panels, it takes twelve moves to open the lid. There is a secret drawer, hidden in the base, and it takes five more moves of the outer sliding panels to release that drawer.

Make no mistake: this box takes a lot of making. You won't be able to knock this out in a couple of days.

There are about 160 pieces required to make this box, and the size is 6-3/4" by 5" by 3-3/4", if made from 1/8" wood, and you will need about four square feet of wood for this size, but these plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Metallibox - £4

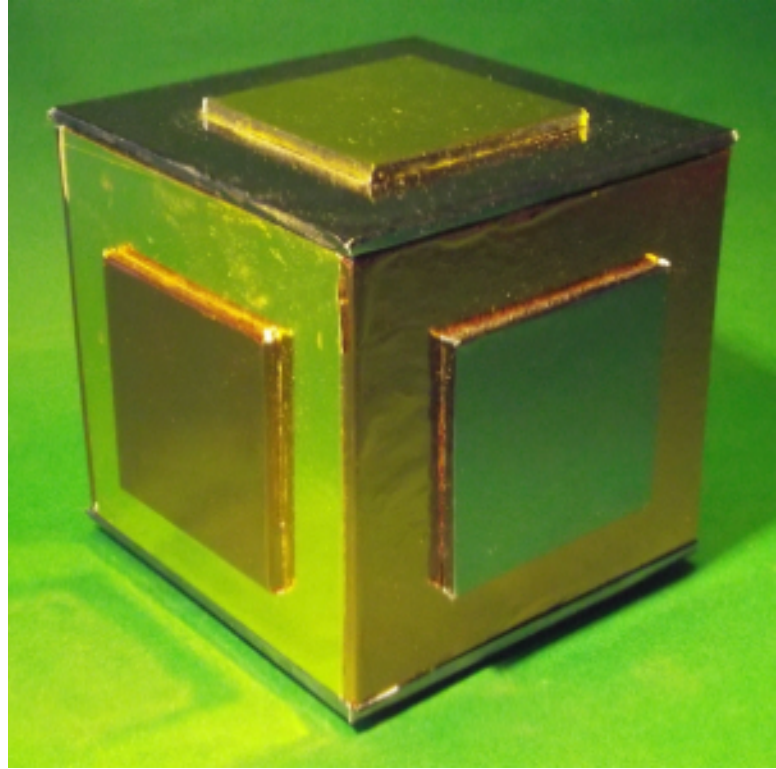
Apart from the "metallic" look, this box has the appearance of Diamondback, having an outer panel on each side. But this box opens very differently to that one. It has the traditional opening moves of an Oriental box, with a few of my own moves.

Instead of having sliders and moving panels, a single outer panel on each side combines those moves together.

The metallic look was done by covering the sides and panels with gold, silver and copper metallic paper.

21 moves to open this box.

Size of this box is 4" by 4" by 4" if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Money Box - £4

You may have seen the advert on TV, where a little girl is given a puzzle box with a coin inside, by her grandpa. She can't get the coin out, so she takes it to her dad. He can't open the box either, so she goes back to grandpa. He shows her how to open the box.

Is this that box?

It looks the same, and opens the same way, so it could be...

Very easy to make, not so easy to open, even if you've seen the TV advert. Only four moves to open the box.

Size of this box is 3" by 3" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, and the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Numbers Box - £4

You may have heard of the "Fifteen Tile Sliding Puzzle", where numbered tiles have to be slid around to get them into order.

This puzzle box is based on that puzzle, but it's a little easier in that only the front and back rows have to be in the right order.

The middle row of four tiles can be in any order. Only when the tiles are in the correct order can the lid be removed.

Even though only ten tiles must be in their correct places, it's still pretty hard to open.

There is some fairly precise cutting on the interlocking parts, but the rest is easy to make.

The size of this box is 5" by 5-1/2" by 3" if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Peggy - £4

This is another "casket-type" puzzle box, with three panels on top of the lid. None of the panels will move at first, so

how does the box open?

All the moving parts are held together with pegs, and operate using more pegs. Hence the name "Peggy".

Fairly easy to make, and the size of this box is 5" by 5" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood. You will need about 6" (150 mm) of 1/8" (3 mm) diameter dowel rod at that size of the box.



The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size.

Pencil Case - £4

This could be a useful box, because it really can hold pens and pencils. The lid has a lock at each end, and the box has a lock at each end, but the locks on the lid are independent of the box. Even so, all four locks must be opened to slide the lid off. The locks on the box must be opened by the correct end first: opening the wrong lock first means you can't open the other end. The same applies to the lid. If this sounds too complicated, you can make the lid without its locks, and the box would still work. Eight moves to open the box locks, and six moves to open the lid locks. The size of the box is 8-1/2" by 3-1/4" by 2-3/8", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Pendulum - £4

A tall box, with a pendulum on each side, a little slider at the bottom of each side, and four sliders on the lid.

If you tilt the box, the pendulums will all swing to and fro. The top sliders won't move, but the small sliders on each face can move upwards.

If all the pendulums are free to swing, the lid cannot be opened, but each of the little sliders will lock it's own pendulum. The question is, how many pendulums need to be locked so that the lid can be opened-one, two, three or all of them?

To make it worse, the sliders on the lid can only be moved in a certain order, and each is locked in place by a pendulum. Move the four lid sliders, and the lid will lift off.

Size of this box is 4" (10.2 cm) by 4" (10.2 cm) by 6" (15.3 cm) if cut from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Pillar - £4

This is really the opposite version of the "Byte Box", but it would be a bit silly to call it the "Un-Byte Box", and since it uses dials to help get it open, that's the name.

Three dials, each numbered from 0 to 9, and each one has to be pointed to a particular number to allow the box to open.

You could work through the 1000 combinations and find the right one, but the answer is showing on the top, as a line of binary code.

Work out this code, and you'll get the three correct numbers.

Very easy to make, only six discs to cut, and you can make your own combination.

Size of this box is 6" (15.3 cm) by 3-1/2" (8.9 cm) by 2-3/4" (7 cm), if cut from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Plain Old Box - £2

Just a plain looking, ordinary box, 4" x 2-1/2" x 2" in size, and is another "sliding panel" puzzle box. But wait! Where are the "hidden" sliders? There are NO sliders! Every outer panel is a complete, whole piece of wood! That means the the panels themselves must be moved. Right, so it's fairly easy then. Wrong. It starts easy enough, but halfway through becomes harder, because every sliding panel can now move in two directions...

It takes 18 moves to open the lid, and quite a few more to remove every panel.

Very easy to make, with only a few tongues and notches to cut out. Assembly is a little tricky, but not too hard.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Pyramid - £6

Imagine asking your friends if they can think of a four-sided, fully enclosed box, then after they've given up, produce this box.

Twelve outer panels to move before one side can be removed. 15 moves in all.

The size of this box- each edge measures 7-3/8", but the plans are T-Plans, to allow you to make this at any size.

WARNING: this box is VERY hard to make.

Nearly all the cuts are at 30 degrees, and you will have to make some extra items simply to hold it while gluing it together. The extra items are a gluing jig, and three "frames". Full instructions are given to make these items, and the plans include photos taken during the construction, and instructions to actually put the box together. The plans run to 40 pages (41 if you count the patterns).

This is NOT a box for the novice or beginner!



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Ringlex - £4

This is another "casket-type" box, but there are no sliders to move about.

Instead, there are four flat rings with two pegs on each ring on top of the lid. There are sixteen numbers around the rings, and these rings have to be turned to point to certain numbers in order to open the lid. Since there are sixteen numbers, and four rings, you can see that the combinations are 16 by 16 by 16 by 16-about 65536 combinations.

To make it worse, there are two pegs on each ring, and only one peg is the right peg to point to that number. The other peg, even if it's pointing to the right number, won't allow the lid to be opened. So the number of combinations is doubled!

There are sixteen rings to cut, so if you're not much good at cutting curves, give this one a miss.

The size of this box is 6" by 5" by 3", if cut from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size.



Roman Casket - £4

"I wouldn't like to have lived in Roman times-

I might have been a slave."

"Even the Romans wouldn't have you as a slave-you're too thick..."

A rich Roman Senator was given a birthday present-a casket made by his 14 year old grandson. The Senator treasured the box, keeping his personal valuables in it. Twenty years later, on his deathbed, the Senator decreed that his will, naming his heir, was in the casket, and whoever discovered the will, would succeed him. Many family members tried to find the will. Some failed to open the casket, those that did, found it empty. Just before the old man died, someone appeared with the opened casket and the will. The old man smiled as he passed away, for he knew who it would be.

This is another "casket-type" puzzle box, where the aim is to remove the lid, by moving panels around the box. Previous "casket-type" boxes usually have eight moving panels around the base part, and in the case of "Merlin's Casket", a further six on the lid. Despite the number of moving panels, they only need about fourteen moves to open. This casket has only five moving panels on the whole box, yet requires twenty moves just to get the lid off, and a further ten moves of the four remaining panels to release the secret drawer hidden in the base. Not too difficult to make, despite some fairly precise cutting. The size of this box is about 6-1/4" by 4-1/4" by 3-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Safe - £6

It looks like a safe, it works a bit like a safe, and if it were made of metal, it could be a safe.

The wheel with the handles will unlock the door, but it's still held in place by the front outside bars.

To open these, all the other outside stuff must be moved around, then the door can be pulled out.

27 moves needed to open the door.

Despite it's size, this box is not too hard to make as there are no little fiddly bits to mess around with.

The size of this box is 7-1/2" by 6" by 6", if made from 1/8" wood, (19 by 15 by 15 cm, 3mm thick), and at this size, you will need about two feet by two feet of 1/8" wood, and about 26 inches of 1/4" dowel rod.

That's about 60 by 60 cm of 3mm wood, and about 90 cm of 6mm dowel rod.

The plans are T-Plans (40 pages), so you can make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Sarcophagus - £6

This is another "casket-type" puzzle box, but it must be the grand-daddy of the casket boxes. Fifteen double-locked outer sliding panels, two separate keys and a removable base with another compartment.

One key must be used to open the lid, and if you want to go far enough, both keys must be used to release the box from the base.

Thirty moves to open the lid, and a further fifteen moves to free the box from the base.

The size of this box is 9" by 6" by 5" if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.

Please note: this box will take a fair bit of making: there's more than 100 pieces in it, the T-Plans run to 30 pages (32 if you count the pictures), and you'll need about five or six square feet of 1/8" wood...



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Shutter - £4

This little puzzle box works like it says: it opens like a shutter on a shop front.

But not quite as easy as that: there are various things that need to be done before the shutter will open.

Despite it's fairly simple operation, there are more things inside than you might expect. To start with, there are three boxes altogether...

Fairly easy to make, although there are some circles to cut.

Size of this box is 6" (15.3cm) by 4" (10.2cm) by 2" (5.1cm) if made from 1/8" (3mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Skeptic Knots - £4

A puzzle box with an outer moving panel on each face. Each outer panel, or tile, has a nice little picture of a Celtic Knot. But none of these panels will move, so how do you open this box? Some puzzle boxes have "secret" sliders, and some boxes have outer moving panels, one of which will always move at first, to start the opening sequence. This box has both sliders and outer tiles. Since the tiles won't move, you'll have to find the slider that will start the opening sequence. The decoration on this box is designed to pretty well hide the sliders. It takes only ten moves to open, if you know the way to open this box.

There is quite a bit of very precise cutting involved in making this.

The size of this box is 3" by 3" by 2-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood.

The plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Sliding - £4

The way I've decorated this box, it looks like a 1930's cigarette box, with only a single lid to open.

But it's another puzzle box with a slight difference: there are no outer panels or sliders to move about.

The lid is locked, so how do you open it? Since there are no outer moving parts, it must be gravity...

There are eleven weighted parts to slide around inside the lid, so the box has to be tilted in all directions.

You can hear the blocks moving around inside, but if you don't know the moves, you'll be at it for quite a while...

The size of this box is 5-1/2" by 3-1/4" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Spider - £4

We know that spiders have eight legs, but this box, despite resembling a spider, has twelve.

The top and bottom look the same, so you can't tell which way is up or down. The lid is on the top, but whether that top is actually the bottom or not, you can see that because the legs overlap the top and bottom edges, there's no way to slide the lid, or lift it off.

The lid does come off, in a way that I've never used before, and it takes seventeen moves to get it off.

Fairly easy to cut, assembly is a little tricky, because parts of the box have to be painted before completely assembling it.

The size of this box is 5" by 5" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Splits - £4

This is an unusual box in that it doesn't have a lid.

No lid?

So can it be opened?

Oh yes, it will open.

Watch the video to find out how.

Although the name might give a clue...

Fairly easy to make, no curves nor circles, all straight cuts.

Size of this box is 4-1/4" by 2-3/4" by 2-3/4" (10.8 cm by 7 cm by 7 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Springy - £4

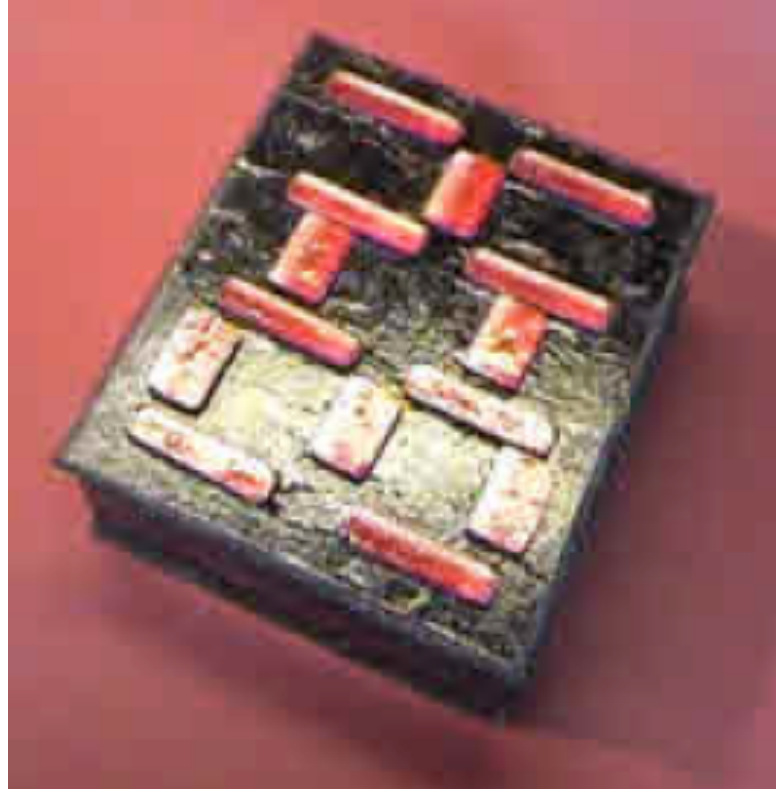
Just another "casket-type" box, with 14 sliders on the lid.

But you only have to make eight moves-the other six are spring-loaded.

Of course, only one piece will move to start with, then it's just a matter of finding the rest of the moves.

Not so hard to open: probably harder to re-lock the lid.

Size of this box is 6" (15.3 cm) by 5-1/8" (13 cm) by 2" (5.1 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Stripey - £4

An outer panel on each of the sides, and the long panels have six black cross-sliders. Some of these sliders have to be moved to move the long panel: sometimes two, sometimes just one, but NEVER all three. Some sliders must NOT be moved.

So that's six combinations for each long panel, and when they've been moved, the short panels can be moved.

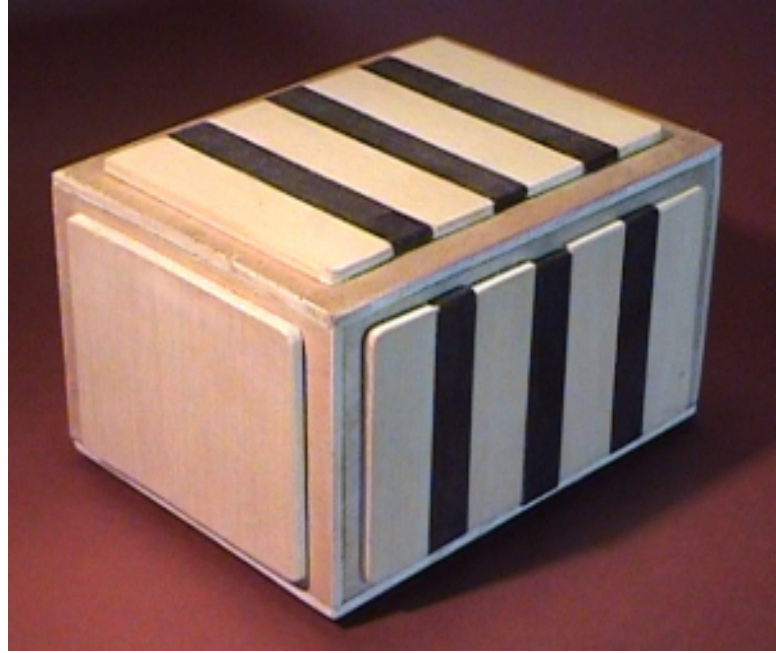
But when everything has been moved, how do you actually open the box?

This box opens in a way that none of my previous boxes open.

Just see the video to find out how.

If you know the moves, it could take just 16 moves to open this box: if you don't, it could take 1305 moves...

The size of this box is 5-1/2" by 4-1/4" by 3-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Tea Caddy - £4

Since tea was first discovered and brought to England, we Brits love our cup of tea. But for a very long time, tea very expensive, and only the middle and upper classes could afford to buy it. The middle and upper classes also had lots of servants, but it was thought that the lower classes shouldn't be allowed to drink tea-it was much too posh for them.

So tea was kept in an ornate wooden box with a lock and key. If the Master of the house wanted a cup of tea, he summoned a maid to bring an empty tea-pot. Then he unlocked the tea caddy, and carefully doled out two spoon fulls of tea. The maid went off down to the kitchen to fill the tea-pot with boiling water, while the Master locked away the tea caddy.

This box could be used as a proper Tea Caddy if you were mean, but it doesn't have a key. Instead, strips around the outside have to be manipulated to release the two tea boxes.

Size of this box is 6" by 4-1/4" by 4", (15.3 cm by 10.2 cm by 10.2 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Tic-Tak-Tok - £2

This rather nice looking puzzle box with nine squares on the lid faintly resembles a "tic-tac-toe" board, or as we call it a "Noughts-and-Crosses" board.

But this is no "tic-tac-toe" game: it's another "sliding panel" puzzle box, and the sliding panels in this case are the nine squares on the lid, and they all have to be moved around to take the lid off.

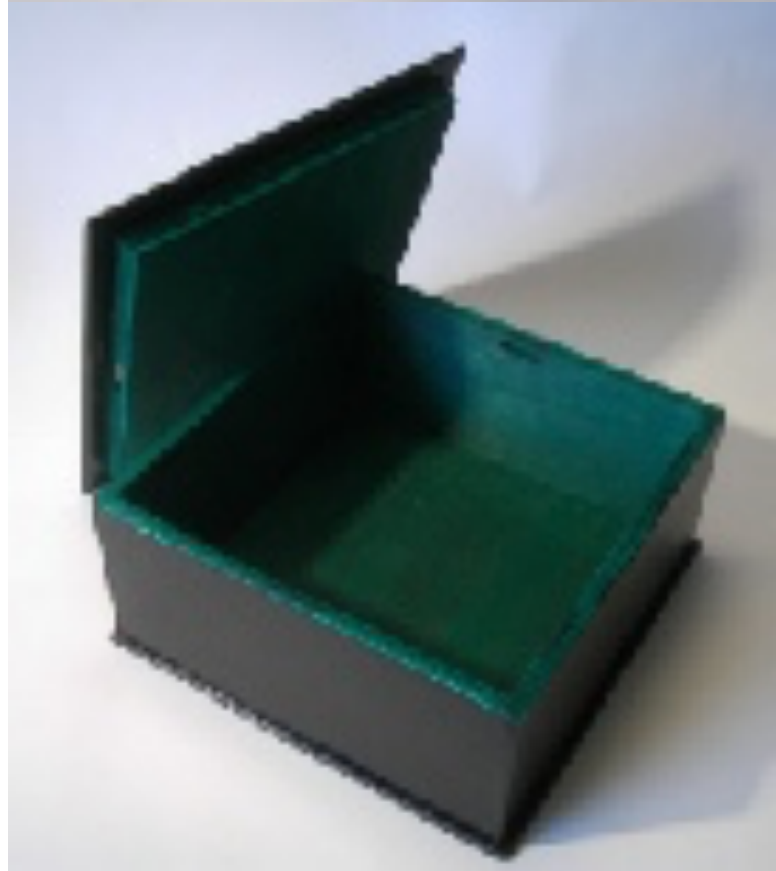
Twenty moves are required to open the lid.

The only moving parts are in the lid, and they are very precise pieces.

The rest of it is just an ordinary box.

The size of this box is 6" x 6" x 3", and to make it at that size will require 1/8" thick wood.

The plans are T-Plans which will allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Tilt - £4

This is a fairly simply little box to make. There are only three moving panels, but none of them will move at first.

The box has to be tilted before the lid can be moved, and tilted a few more times, back and front, to get the lid off.

You could easily build this in a couple of days, but if you didn't know about the tilting action, it could be frustrating trying to get it open.

The size of the box is 4" by 3" by 2-1/2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Tomb - £4

What's in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

From Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, 1600.

As William says, it's only a name. You could call this by any name.

But what gloomy decoration.

But you could paint this in nursery colours, and decorate it with pictures of kittens and cuddly rabbits.

It's still just another puzzle box.

All the "slabs" have to be moved to open the lid, and it takes 17 moves to do this.

Size of this box is 5-3/4" by 3-3/4" by 3-1/4" (13.3 cm by 9.5 cm by 8.2 cm), if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Torikki - £4

Another "Oriental-looking" puzzle box. This one has only four outer panels, but it takes 18 moves to open the box. You could be watching the tv while you try to open this.

Caution! There is quite a lot of precise cutting to do. This is not an easy box to make, unless you have experience of making puzzle boxes.

The size of this box is 3" (7.6 cm) by 3" (7.6 cm) by 2-3/4" (7 cm) if made from 1/8" (3 mm) wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this at any size.

The "Yoshegi" patterns are included with the plans.

Torikki is Japanese for "Tricky"



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Triangley - £2

This is an unusually shaped puzzle box, being triangular at the front and back, and having only three side panels.

The side panels have to be moved in order to open the box, and it takes nine easy moves to do this.

It is easy to make, despite most of the cutting being at 30 degrees, and the assembly is also very easy.

The box is covered in Oriental-style patterns, and varnished, which makes it look rather pretty.....

There are no small parts, which means it is suitable for a child.

You could make this in a couple of days quite easily.

The sides measure 4 inches each, if made from 1/8" wood.

The plans are T-Plans, which allow you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Unhinged - £2

The other side of the box is identical to this side. Just a box, measuring three inches each way, with a lid held on by a hinge. But wait! There's a hinge on each side! What's the point of four hinges? Surely it can't open properly if it's held on by four hinges? Well, yes it can...

Not so much a puzzle box, more of a mechanical magic trick. The lid is held on by one hinge, but close it, and it opens by another hinge! In fact, it can open by ANY of the hinges. They are just ordinary hinges, available from any hardware store.

The photos don't really show what this box is like. You have to see the video to get the full effect of this box in action.

Caution! For all its simple appearance, and apparently simple operation, this box will take a lot of making. Using hinges that measure $7/8$ " by $1-1/2$ ", the box is made from $1/8$ " plywood. And the sides must be plywood, unless you're very good with small chisels.



Up'n'Down - £2

This is a somewhat dinky little puzzle box, but that shouldn't fool you. It looks like a traditional Oriental puzzle box, with one slider at each end, allowing the end panels to move up and down. But both end panels move up and down, and the top and bottom panels move from end to end. There doesn't seem to be any kind of a "sequence" to the moves: they seem to be random. There are no "false moves", or "dead ends"; every move is progressive. That means you find a piece that will move, and it's the correct piece. The trouble is, in finding that next move... There are one or two different ways to open the box, but the least number of moves required are nineteen.



The box measures 2" by 2-1/2" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this box at any size.

Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Victoria - £4

Based on a Victorian Writing Box, this is a smaller version, with some of my own "additions". It's another "casket-type" puzzle box, where the aim is to remove the lid.

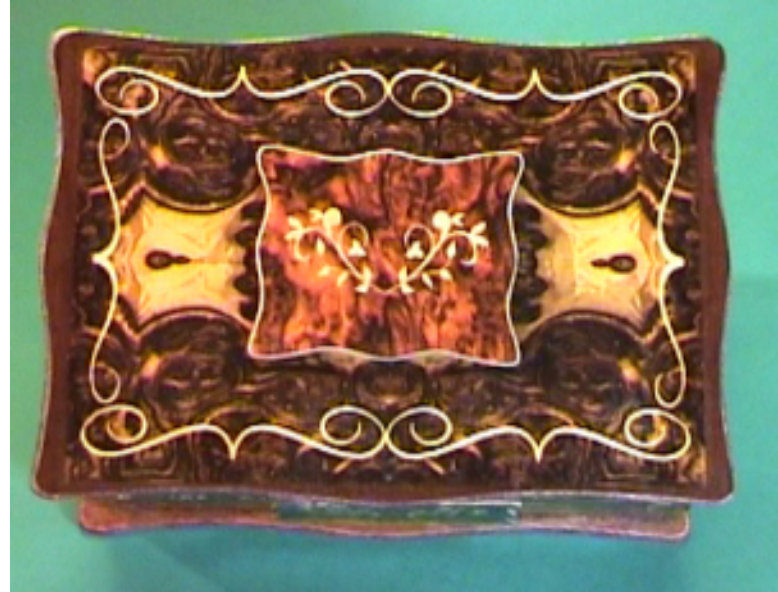
There are five decorative small panels around the box that have to be manipulated in order to open the lid.

But the panels don't move: they won't push or pull left or right, they don't turn, they won't go in or pull out-they simply will not move at all.

Only ten moves to remove the lid, but finding that first move is quite tricky.

Not too difficult to make, despite some fairly precise cutting.

The size of this box is about 6-1/4" by 4-1/4" by 3-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but these plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Wee Giftie - £4

Some say that there is a rumour going round Glen Strathfarrar, in the Scottish Highlands, thirty miles west of Inverness, about a Scottish Laird who lived thereabouts a long time ago. This Laird was very wealthy, and he wanted somewhere to keep his valuables, so he asked a local carpenter to make him something strong for this purpose, but wouldn't have a key. The carpenter came up with a stout wooden chest about the size of a small bed, which didn't have a key. A series of panels had to be moved and turned to get the lid off. The Laird called it his "Wee Giftie" box.



Now whether this is true or not, this is my smaller version of what I think the "Wee Giftie" box would be like.

Four little panels on the lid with a disc above them.

Nothing can be pushed or turned, so how does the box open?

Size of this box is 5-1/4" by 4-1/4" by 3", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you make this at any size.

Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Wheelie Bin - £4

This is another "casket" type box, but it has no sliders nor moving panels, just two wheels on the lid.

You might think it looks a bit like The Door, but this is much easier to make, and only requires two numbers to open.

However, both wheels have 24 numbers, and only one number on each wheel will open the lid. If you're lucky, you could get this in only two moves, but if you're not, there's 576 combinations to try out...

But the lid hasn't got a handle. If it hasn't got a handle, how does the lid open?

This is fairly easy to make, as all the mechanical stuff is in the lid.

Size is 5-1/4" square by 2-1/2" high, if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Whimsey - £4

What a strange puzzle box. There are so many parts that don't need making. The ornate fretwork around the sides-you don't need to do that. The sides could be solid-it makes no difference.

There's a whole section that doesn't need to be made. It's full of mechanical moving parts, and has absolutely no effect on opening the box-it's just there to add a bit of atmosphere.

Without all this extra stuff, you could make this box in a day. With the extra stuff, it would take a bit longer.

And yet, this is one box that I thoroughly enjoyed making. It took longer to work out the mechanical parts than to actually make, and worked first time...

The size of this box is 4" by 4" by 3" or 3-1/2" (depending on how much you make of it), if made from 1/8" wood. That's roughly 10 by 10 by 7.5 or 9 cm by 3mm thick wood.

The plans are T-Plans, so you can make as much of this box as you want, at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Window Box - £4

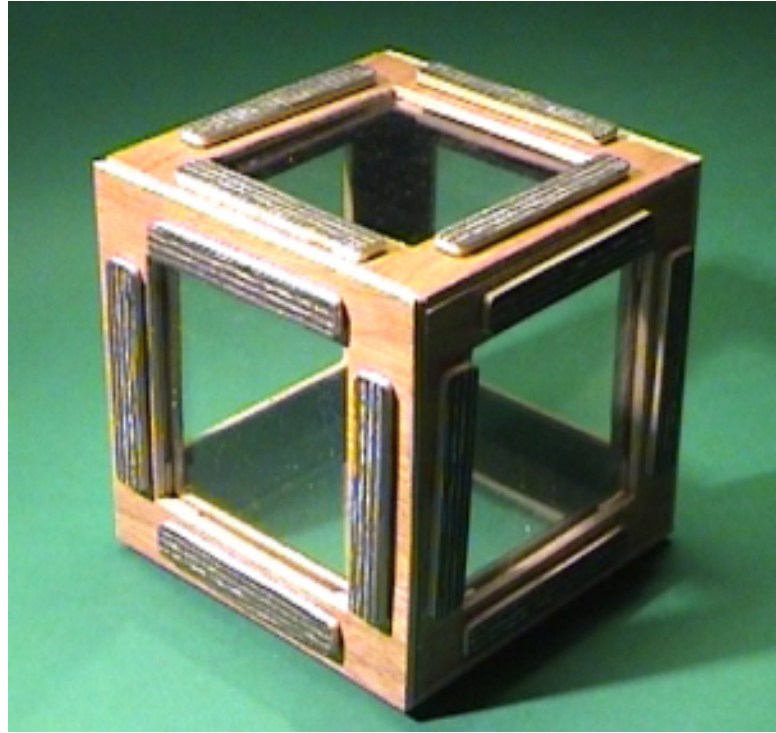
Not something you would put plants in, unless you really wanted to.

Only another puzzle box, with a window on each side, so you can see right through the whole thing.

Despite its simple appearance, the edges hide a series of narrow, complicated interlocking strips, which all have to be moved to open the box, and there are 26 moves required to remove the lid.

This is not an easy box to make, involving a lot of very precise cutting. The ends of the strips are only 1/4" (6 mm) wide, yet they have tongues and notches cut into them...

Size of this box is 4-1/4" by 4-1/4" by 4-1/4", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, so you can make this box at any size.



Bruce Viney Pay Puzzles

Zig-Zag - £2

This is another "sliding panel" puzzle box, but one of the "sliding panels" is the whole top half of the box.

The other two "sliding panels" are only half a panel each. So in a way, this is not really another "sliding panel" box...

Part of the end panels have to be moved to allow the top half of the box to be moved, sliding along the bottom half lengthwise.

Not really too hard to open, although there are a couple of "dead ends", just to make it a bit awkward to open.

Fairly easy to make, and although the keyways are very precise, there is an easy way to cut and assemble these.

Size of the box is 4-3/8" by 2-1/2" by 2", if made from 1/8" wood, but the plans are T-Plans, allowing you to make this at any size.

