

Coffin's Puzzle Craft Books



PUZZLE CRAFT
1985 Edition

Part 1 - Mechanical and Geometrical Puzzles, Bibliography, Sources, Patents, Topological, Dissection, and Combinatorial Puzzles.
Part 2 - Burrs and Polyhedral Puzzles, Solid Dissections, Polyhedral Blocks, Design Considerations, Theory, and Suggestions.
Part 3 - Woodworking Techniques, Sawing, Drilling, and Gluing Using Special Jigs, Puzzle Making as a Home Business.
Part 4 - A Compendium of 80 New and Original Puzzle Designs - A Reference Guide for the Collector, Designer, or Maker.

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Puzzles shown on cover:
Top row - Convolution, Improved Cluster-Buster, Design No. 72, Triangular Prism, Four-Piece Pyramid.
Second row - Twelve Point, Broken Sticks, Third Stellation, Locked Nest.
Third row - Second Stellation, Scrambled Scorpius, Jupiter, Hexagonal Prism, Augmented Four Corners.
Fourth row - Prantix in modified version, Corner Block, Diagonal Cube, Unhappy Childhood, Snowflake in wooden version.
Fifth row - Star-of-David, Three Pairs, Squareface, Octahedral Cluster, a typical standard six-piece burr.
Bottom row - Hexsticks, variation of Pennyhedron, truncated Minihedron, Garnet, Split Star, Queer Gear.

These are representative samples of some of the 100-odd puzzles described in Puzzle Craft.

PUZZLE CRAFT
Preface to 1985 Edition

Puzzle Craft was begun in 1974 as a newsletter of very limited circulation having to do with mechanical and geometrical puzzles, especially those which could be made in the classroom or shop. It was intended for persons who like to design them, make them, collect them, or just do them. It started out as an adjunct to my cottage industry of designing and making wooden puzzles, and its purpose was as much to collect information as to disseminate it. In 1978 the back issues were revised and assembled into a 24-page booklet. Booklet No. 2 "Polyhedral Puzzles," which described my own puzzle design efforts, was first published in 1981. In 1982, Booklet No. 3 "Woodworking Techniques" was added. In 1984, all of these together with a new Part 4 "Wooden Puzzles" were assembled into one book. In this 1985 edition, the first three parts have been considerably revised, a few new designs have been added in Part 4, and the cover and binding improved.

We have these sheets run off at the local copy center a few hundred at a time, and do the binding right here in my shop as orders trickle in. The advantage of doing it this way is that revisions and additions are always coming to light, and this allows them to be incorporated almost immediately. With this edition, a "Contents" page has been added and the page numbering made consecutive throughout; but because of subsequent insertions there may be some anomalies in page numbers. Suggestions, corrections, and contributions are always welcome.

Among those who have contributed information for Puzzle Craft or helped in some other way are the following, listed in no particular order: David and Joel Perola, Horton Starr, Jerry Slocum, Hans Havermaun, Joseph Lemire, Ed Hordern, William Siggsom, Bill Cutler, David Barge, Mike Beeler, Martin Gardner, Kathy Jones, Woodrow Carpenter, John Eshman, Tom Rodgers, Louis Rosenblum, Will Shortz. Assisting in shop and office have been my wife Jane and our three girls - Abbie, Tannis, and Margaret.

Preface to the 1992 Edition

Puzzle Craft was begun in 1974 as a newsletter of very limited circulation having to do with mechanical and geometrical puzzles, especially those which could be made in the classroom or shop. It started out as an adjunct to my cottage industry (presently discontinued) of designing and making wooden puzzles. It first appeared in rough book form in 1984, with an improved edition in 1985.

In 1990, a sequel to Puzzle Craft titled The Puzzling World of Polyhedral Dissections was published by Oxford University Press. There was considerable duplication of puzzles between the two books. In this entirely new edition of Puzzle Craft, I have attempted to correct that situation by including many new designs never before published. In cases where the same puzzle is described in both books, the emphasis in this book is on woodworking, whereas the companion Oxford book has more to do with geometrical recreations.

Furthermore, this new edition is slanted more towards puzzles that are relatively easy to make, some even without power tools. By the same token, most of these puzzles have few pieces and are not fiendishly difficult to solve, as I have always maintained that it is the simpler puzzles which have the greater appeal. Some are so simple that assembly directions are unnecessary. Some have multiple solutions, with one solution being shown and the others left for the reader to discover. Included also are a few more difficult puzzles - *with* solutions!

Some leftover 1985 covers are being used to bind this edition also, while they last. This edition, like the previous ones, is produced by duplicating the pages at our local copy center and binding them right here in my shop as orders trickle in. This allows changes and additions to be made quickly and easily, as new ideas or long forgotten old ones continue coming to light in the dim and dusty recesses of my workshop. All puzzles described in this edition are my own original designs unless indicated otherwise.

Thanks to Margie, who assisted in the preparation and typesetting of this edition, and to the many others who contributed in some way or other.

Puzzle Craft
by Stewart Coffin
(published by Stewart Coffin 1985 - 100 pages and 1992 - 80 pages, soft cover)

The 1992 edition used the same cover as the 1985 edition; the inside of this cover is shown above, along with the prefaces to both editions. These are predecessors to the Oxford U. Press *Coffin Book*, and electronic versions are available on the CD version of that book.

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