

Back Spin



a.k.a. Loophole

*Patented by F. Lammertink 1992, copyright 1991 Binary Arts.
(plastic, 6 inches diameter by 1.25 inches thick)*

Two discs that can rotate with respect to each other hold a total of 35 balls in six three ball slots on each side, at any time one slot is missing one ball, creating a gap into which a ball from that slot can be rolled or a ball from the other side can be pushed through if the discs are rotated appropriately. The slots on each side are arranged as three spokes and three outer slots; the three colors of the balls in the spokes are the same as the three colors of the outer slots on the opposite side. *Jaap's Page* observes that this puzzle is relatively easy to solve by first solving the inner two balls of each spoke and then the remaining balls, essentially correcting one ball at a time.

Further Reading

Jaap's Page, from: <http://www.geocities.com/jaapsch/puzzles/backspin.htm>

Lammertink Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 5,172,912