Easy 1989







Designed by Minoru Abe circa 1989; this one purchased 2013. (cardboard box and wood puzzle, 4.25" x 4.25" x 7/8")

The directions show 9 problems named A - C and 1 - 6 to remove the 2x1 keeper and rearrange the pieces to read 1 2 3 4 oriented properly, starting and ending with the blank piece in the turntable in its east position. Any permutation / orientation can be achieved by a combination of cycling positions (1,3), (1,4), (2,4), (3,4) while parking a piece in position (1,1), and exchanging pieces located in positions (1,1) and (1,3) by using the turntable slot in its north position, but finding a shortest sequence is harder. We consider three rules for counting moves:

- **Rule 1**: A single move may pass through the turntable independent of initial orientation.
- **Rule 2**: A single separate move is required to use the turntable.
- **Rule 3**: Repositioning the turntable requires an additional move. For example, moving horizontally, then rotating, then moving vertically, is 3 rectilinear moves if the turntable is east before the move, or 4 rectilinear moves if it must first be rotated.

Although not the hardest, Problem 3 is arguably the most asthenic, and shown on the right above are 3 additional problems along those lines. Here are the rectilinear moves for solutions using each of Rules 1, 2, and 3 for the total of 12 problems:

Problem A 40,56,67	Problem B 46,64,76	Problem C 58,78,92	Problem 1 42,56,67	Problem 2 52,71,84	Problem 3 26,37,46
Problem 4 60,83,99	Problem 5 57,75,88	Problem 6 53,71,83	Problem 7 32,40,48	Problem 8 38,55,68	Problem 9 22,30,35

A Sample Rectilinear Solution - Problem 3

Here a 26 rectilinear moves solution using Rule 1. Solving using Rules 2 or 3 can work the same by inserting extra moves at the appropriate places to achieve 37 or 46 rectilinear moves:

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