Kev's Snake Cubes

a.k.a. Snake Cubes, Serpent Cubes, Cubra Cubes
(bloodwood, 2.8 inches assembled)

Twenty seven cubes are threaded together with an elastic cord (in a pattern that is determined by whether the cord passes straight through opposite faces of a cube or goes through at 90 degrees). The result is a "snake" that can be folded up by rotating adjacent cubes with respect to each other. The object is to form a 3 by 3 by 3 cube (where none of the elastic cord shows).

Many puzzles are possible by threading different patterns. The Dreyer 1965 patent address puzzles of this kind. If you imagine the cubes alternately colored red, black, red, ..., then the solved 3x3x3 cube will have red cubes at the corners and the face centers. The Kev pattern is has a unique solution where the snake ends are face centers.

Further reading:
Mark Weston's Page, from: http://www.cs.uvic.ca/~mweston/snakes.html
Eryk Vershen's Page, from: http://cantaforda.com/cfcl/eryk/puzzles/chain_cube.html
Dreyer Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 3,222,072

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