

Smart Alex



a.k.a. *Alpa-2-Go*

Patented by D. A. Pop 1992, made by 2MUCHFUN, Bellevue, WA.

(plastic, 3 by 3 by 1.8 inches;
was also sold with a white body)

This puzzle was sold in a box where the front has a photo of the inventor and the back has a letter from the inventor and directions for use (an owners manual was also included).

Each of the four hexagons, formed from six triangles, can rotate; in addition, the upper and lower halves of the body can rotate (the puzzle works in a way similar to the *Hungarian UFO* and *Tricky Disky*, but has six triangles per hexagon rather than four quadrants per peg). When solved (as shown above), each hexagon face is one of the colors *red*, *white*, *blue*, or *yellow*, and when looking perpendicular to a face, you see the same color on the face, the top and bottom edges of the square, and the two diagonal edges of the two adjacent hexagons. This puzzle was also made with a white body and in promotional versions.

Jaap's Page presents a solution where, by reserving one hexagon for temporary use, one can solve the other three hexagons in six steps that consist of simple cycling triangles into the upper or lower half of a hexagon; then specific transformations are presented for fixing the final hexagon without disturbing the already solved three.

Further Reading

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

Pop Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 5,116,052