Ma's Puzzle

a.k.a. *Spirit of '76, Wooden Puzzle, Rectangle Puzzle*

*Patented by C. L. A. Diamond, 1927.*

(orange cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1/2 inch)

Starting with the position shown below, slide the pieces so that the two L's form a 3 high by 2 wide rectangle in the upper right corner. Described on pages 16-17 of the 1942 *Filipiak book* (which presents a 56 move solution). *Hordern's book* presents a 23 rectilinear moves (26 straight-line moves) solution and two variations: make a rectangle from the two L's anywhere (19 rectilinear moves / 22 straight-line moves) and make a 2 high by 3 wide rectangle in the upper right corner (37 rectilinear moves / 41 straight-line moves).

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The Solution That Came with Ma's Puzzle

SOLUTION TO MA'S PUZZLE

Ill to left; Homesick down; Trouble down; Worry to extreme right; My Boy to extreme right; Ill to the left and up; Homesick to left; Trouble down; Worry down; Broke down; Ma down; No Work to right; Danger up; Ill to extreme top; My Boy to extreme left; Broke to left and up; Worry left, up and again to the left; Ma down; Broke to right; Worry up; My Boy to the right; joining Ma and My Boy to make a rectangle whose longest side is from left to right; Ill to extreme down; Worry to the left and down; Broke to left; Ma up; My Boy to right joining Ma; Broke to right; Worry to right; Ill up; Homesick up; Trouble to left; My Boy down; Ma down; Broke to right; Worry up; Homesick up; Trouble up; My Boy to left; Ma down; Homesick to right; Trouble down; Ill down; Worry to left and down; Broke to left; Homesick up; Ma up; My Boy to right; Ill to right and down to bottom; Trouble up; Ill to left; My Boy to left and up; Ill to right; Trouble down and to the right; Worry down to bottom; Broke all the way down; Danger all the way down; No work to left; Homesick to left; Ma to top, My Boy to right and up, which solves the puzzle.

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The Harlekin Version Of Ma's Puzzle

Made by Harlekin, Germany, circa 2000?
(cardboard box, wood tray, and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1 inch)

The booklet that comes with this puzzle gives the simpler problem that is also addressed in Hordern's book, of making a rectangle from the two L's anywhere (19 rectilinear moves corresponding to 22 straight-line moves); here is the solution given:

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Other Versions Of Ma's Puzzle

"MANUFACTURED BY THE STANDARD TRAILER CO. CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA."
(blue / light blue / red / orange cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4" x 4" x 1/2")

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Other Versions of Ma's Puzzle Continued

The Standard Trailer versions of Ma's Puzzle on the previous page have various things written in the box. Inside the box lid the red and orange ones have a solution, whereas the blue and light blue ones invite you to send ten cents for one. Also, on the bottom, under the pieces, the blue and light blue ones advertise *The Flying Puzzle* and *Dad's Puzzle*:

![Solution to Ma's Puzzle](image)

*Worked it did you? Now try *The Flying Puzzle* and *Dad’s Puzzle.*

*If you fail to solve this puzzle send ten cents in stamps or coin to the Standard Trailer Co., Cambridge Springs, Pa., and an easily understood solution will be sent by return mail.*

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Other Versions of Ma's Puzzle Continued

"DISTRIBUTOR BONA FIDE BROOM & NOVELTY CO. PACOMIMA, CALIF."
(blue / light blue cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1/2 inches)

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Try It During Your Leisure Moments

The Bona Fide Broom version of Ma's Puzzle on the previous page (blue box) has this label on the inside of the top cover:

Further Reading

*Diamond Patent*, from: [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) - patent no. 1,633,397

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