String puzzles can be great for a coffee table because what is essentially the same puzzle can have great cosmetic variety, and most of these puzzles have most of the advantage of a manipulation puzzle. True, the object is often to remove a ring or something, but it is usually much easier to put it back than to remove it, and if you get tired, you can usually untie a knot, put the ring back on, and put the puzzle back on the coffee table (without needing a bag to hold multiple pieces). Wire puzzles usually involve two pieces that must be taken apart. Like, string puzzles, wire puzzles can be great for a coffee table because what is essentially the same puzzle can have great cosmetic variety, and for most of these puzzles it is much easier to put the pieces back together than to take them apart (so you can put it back on the coffee table).