Grooved Three Piece Board Burr

Designed by Kouki Kusumi, Made by Eric Fuller 2022.
(Zebrawood, Wenge, and Maple, each piece 3" x 1.75" x 1/2")

Three identical pieces make a more difficult puzzle than a traditional Wood Knot. Each piece has a groove on its long edge and a pin on the inside. The pins slide nicely in the grooves and it is natural to assume that the solved puzzle has all three pins in a groove.

The key to solving is that only 2 of the three pins end up in a groove, where the third pin ends up in a piece gap. Begin with the pieces in their solution orientation as shown in the first photo below (the left piece pin is at the bottom, the middle piece pin is at the back, and the right piece pin is at the right). Then sliding the pieces together comes naturally:

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