

SOLVING THE 8-PEICE SOMA CUBE

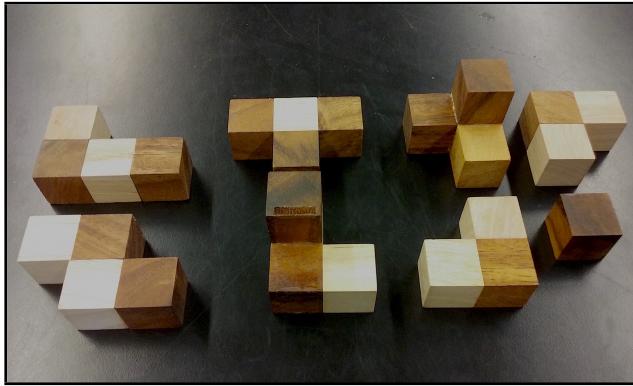
EVAN KEETON

1 Disassembly

1.1

Remove the plastic casing from the cube, and spread out the pieces. Arrange the pieces as shown in the next section.

2 Preparation



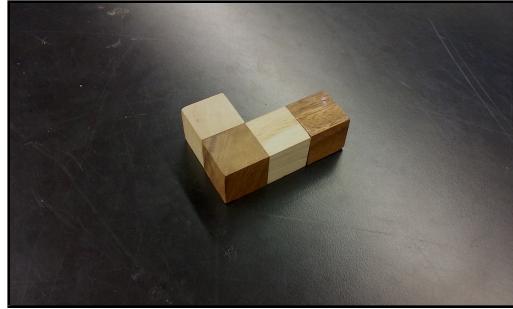
Before starting, make sure that your pieces match the pieces in the picture. This is essential for following the upcoming steps. Also, be sure that you keep track of which pieces are which. For the duration of this tutorial, the pieces will be named by their numbers; labeled from left to right, top to bottom, the pieces are as follows:

1. Piece #1 with a right angle at one end of the “spine,” forming an “L”.
2. Piece #2 with the “non-spinal” piece shifted centrally, forming a “T”.
3. Piece #3 with a 3-cube right angle and a non-coplanar cube on the central piece.
4. Piece #4 with three cubes forming a right angle.
5. Piece #5, a 2×2 square with the top row shifted to the left, forming a “snake.”
6. Piece #6, a 3-cube right angle and one non-coplanar with the shape, on a tip.
7. Piece #7, identical to Piece #4.
8. Piece #8, a single cube.

3 Solution

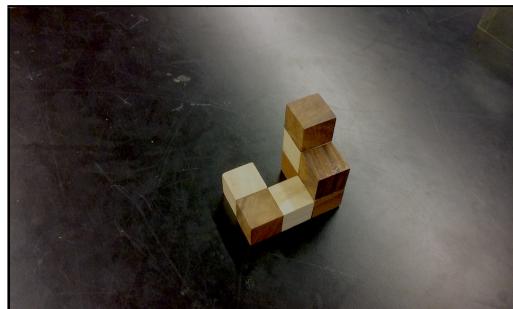
3.1

Place **Piece #1** on the table, with the long section towards you, as shown in the picture.



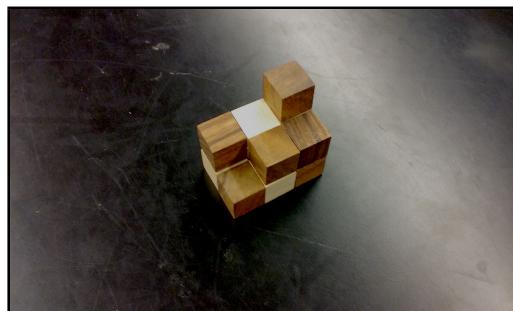
3.2

Place **Piece #2** vertically on top of **Piece #1**, as shown. The non-colinear should rest on **Piece #1**, on the cube farthest (3 cubes) from the right angle.



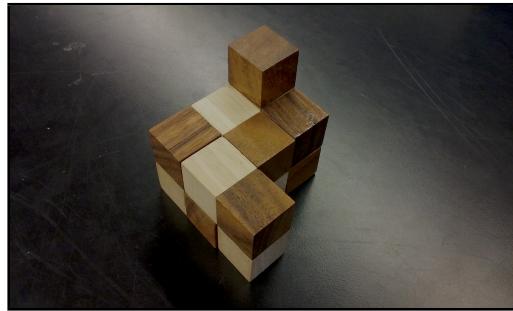
3.3

Place **Piece #3** so that one of its non-central cubes fills the hole between the “L-tip” of **Piece #1** and the spine of **Piece #2**. The other two non-central cubes should rest on two of the cubes remaining in **Piece #1**, not touching the cube at the angle of the shape, as shown in the picture.



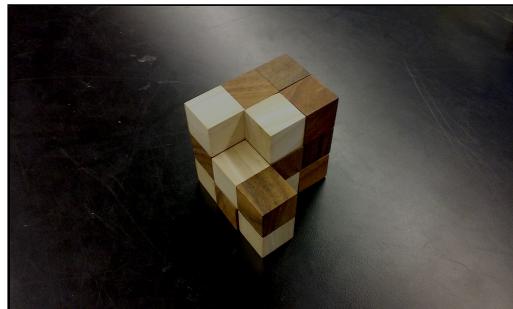
3.4

Place one of the exterior cubes of Piece #4 on top of the remaining cube of Piece #1 as shown in the picture. The central and third cube of Piece #4 should be towards you, and the third cube should be next to the cube in Piece #1.



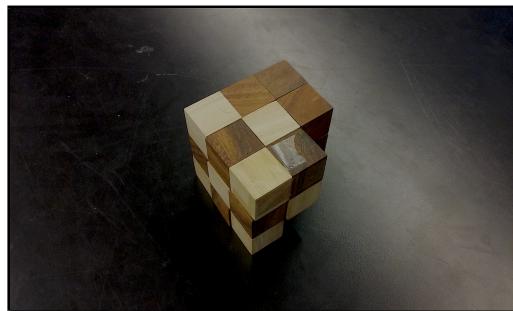
3.5

Place Piece #5 into the shape with the single cube in the third layer of Piece #2 in the hole of the upper-right-hand corner of Piece #5, the place where a cube would be if Piece #5 was a perfect square. Use the picture as a reference.



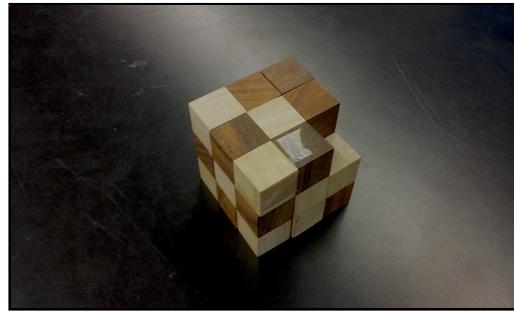
3.6

Place Piece #6 into the shape with two of its pieces on top of Piece #5. The other two pieces should hang down on the right of Piece #5. Your shape should match the shape in the image.



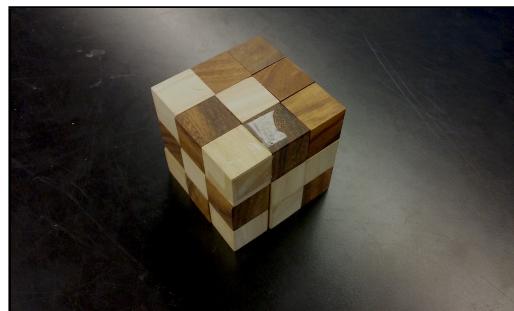
3.7

Place **Piece #7** vertically—as shown in the image—with one cube underneath the section of **Piece #6** extending downwards. The other two cubes of **Piece #7** should extend up next to the aforementioned section of **Piece #6**.



3.8

Place the remaining piece—**Piece #8**—into the singular remaining hole in the shape. This piece should be on top of the vertical section of **Piece #7**. If done correctly, your cube should match the cube shown in the following picture.



3.9

Celebrate! You've completed your cube!

