In the second version of my building block, I came to the understanding that the block should actually be buildable and that the term 'building block' was also relatively literal. So, I decided to continue with a block that fits 'me'. In my first iteration I created different designs for a chess knights. I decided to leave this for now but wanted to continue with a chess related building block. My idea was to have some form of stackable chess block. First of all, I started with some initial plan. This can both be seen as a very first prototype as well as a backup plan. I created the image below which was supposed to be printed and pasted to a piece of cardboard folded as a box.

Quickly afterwards, I decided to make a better design, so I decided to try out the template maker Canva [1] for the first time.

Using Canva I created the following design for a box.
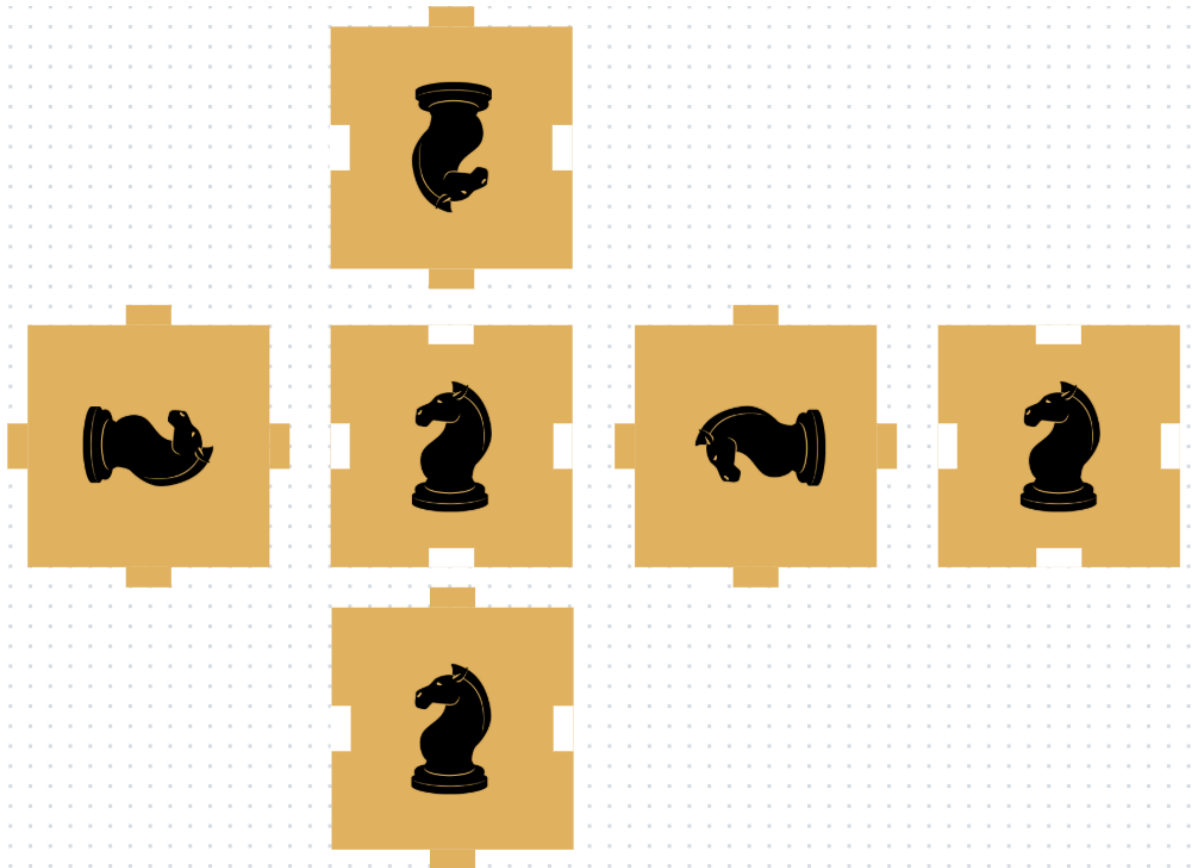
I deemed this design for a box a little bit too easy for this assignment, so I continued thinking how I could extend on this design. I came up with the idea to make easily stackable chess boxes. This would make a chess variant possible that I thought of. My idea for this chessvariant (as to be expected) was not unique. After a bit of research I found the name 'absorption chess'. In this variant a piece gains (absorbs) the movement of the piece it captures. With normal chess pieces it would be impossible to keep track of which piece took which one. With these box shaped pieces, you can place them on top of each other to easily keep track of which piece took which one. The current box however is stackable, but I wanted a design that slides into each other with pegs. This resulted in the following version.
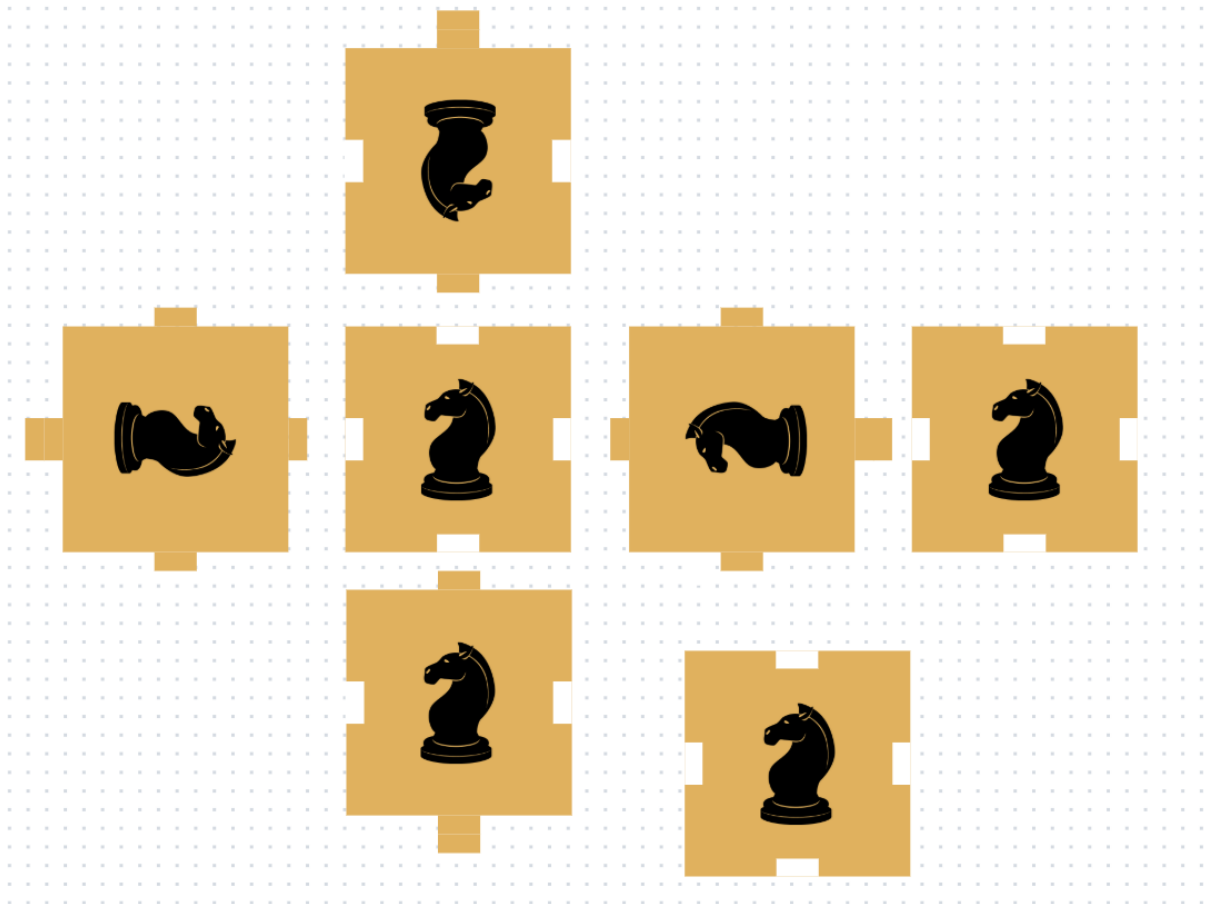
In this design, four pegs have been made longer. There also is an extra bottom piece. This bottom piece would be glued on top of the other bottom piece in order to make it possible to vertically stack pieces. I was still not fully satisfied with this idea. I wanted to be able to stack pieces in all directions. This is not needed for the variant, but it seemed cool to me an it would also make it somewhat possible to lock all pieces together in a big box shaped figure. I wasn't sure how to implement this. I could add an extra piece to all sides, but the pegs don't easily fit together, and the box would be twice as thick. I did not like this added thickness and opted for a smoother design. This design can be seen in the building block assignment of next week.

References

1. *Gehred, A. P. (2020). Canva. Journal of the Medical Library Association: JMLA, 108(2), 338.*