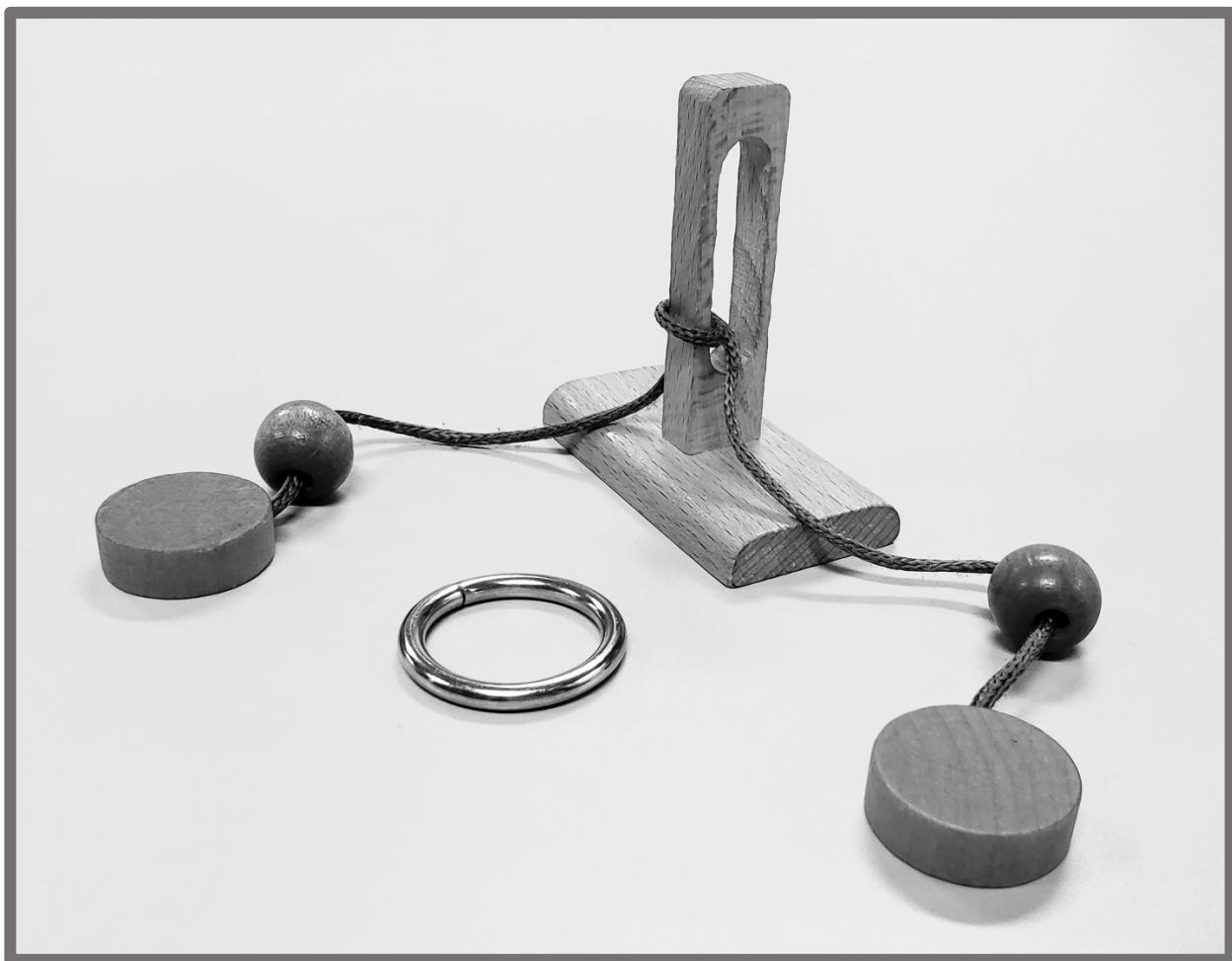


RING POST PUZZLE: TECHNICAL INSTRUCTION MANUAL



BY: CINDY HUANG

INTRODUCTION:

The ring post puzzle consists of a hollow wooden post, a rope with wooden discs and beads attached on either end, and a metal ring.

Beginning with the ring at the bottom of the post and with the rope looped through the post (as seen in figure A below), the objective of this puzzle is to remove the ring from the post then put it back on in its starting position.

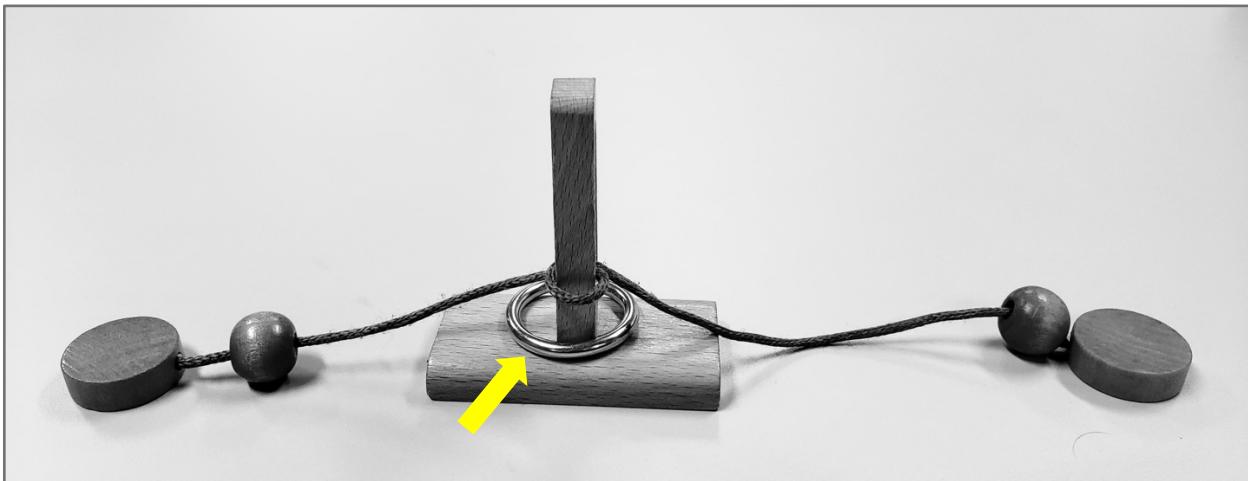


Figure A: Starting position of the ring post puzzle.

This technical manual will guide you through the solutions for:

1. removing the ring from the post
2. putting the ring back onto the post

NOTICE: The following symbols indicate tips and warnings that are useful for solving the puzzle.



WARNING – Indicates potential mistakes that prevent solving of puzzle



TIP – Indicates steps that may make solving the puzzle easier



TIP: This is a challenging puzzle! If, at any point, you are stuck and feel frustrated, feel free to take a break!

GENERAL WARNINGS:

! **WARNING:** Since this puzzle involves repeatedly pulling the rope back and forth through the post, it is very easy to create knots that make solving the puzzle impossible unless they are undone.

To prevent tangles, ensure the rope is always splayed so the halves of the rope run parallel (without overlapping) to each other through the post (as seen in figure B to the right).

Do not proceed to the next step if the rope is tangled. If the rope does become tangled, immediately undo your previous step(s) to return to the last position from before the rope was tangled.

! **WARNING:** Do not use force on any of the components to solve the puzzle. Excessive force may cause permanent damage.

The puzzle is constructed so it can be solved without force.

For example, do not force the wooden discs through the metal ring.

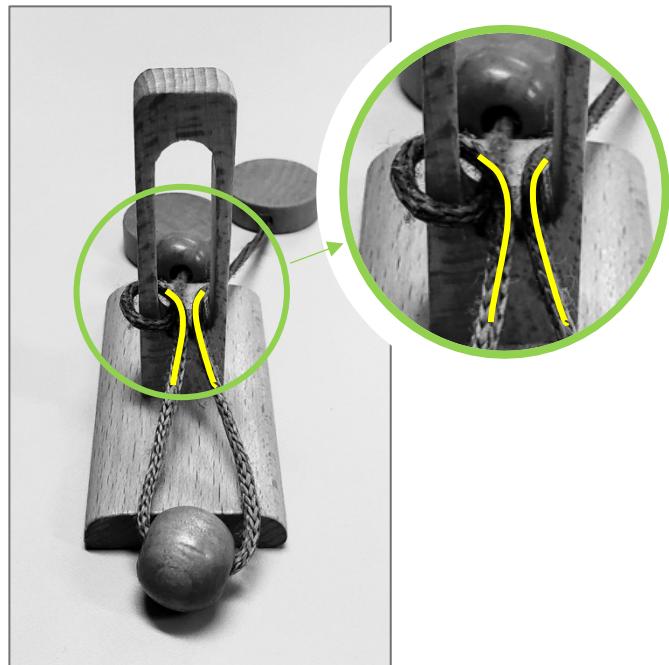


Figure B: Side view of splayed string.

! **WARNING:** Avoid moving the left side of the rope and the left disc to prevent tangles.

Although this manual refers to disc L in images, this is generally for reference. The bead and disc L do not need be manipulated.

Stage 1: Setting up the puzzle

1. Begin with the post oriented sideways in front of you with one half of the rope extended to the right and the other half extended to the left (Figure 1.0). If you ever need to rotate the stand temporarily, make sure to return to this sideways orientation by keeping track of discs 'R' and 'L'.

NOTE: This manual will refer to the discs and beads on the right and left (from the starting position) as discs R and L, respectively.

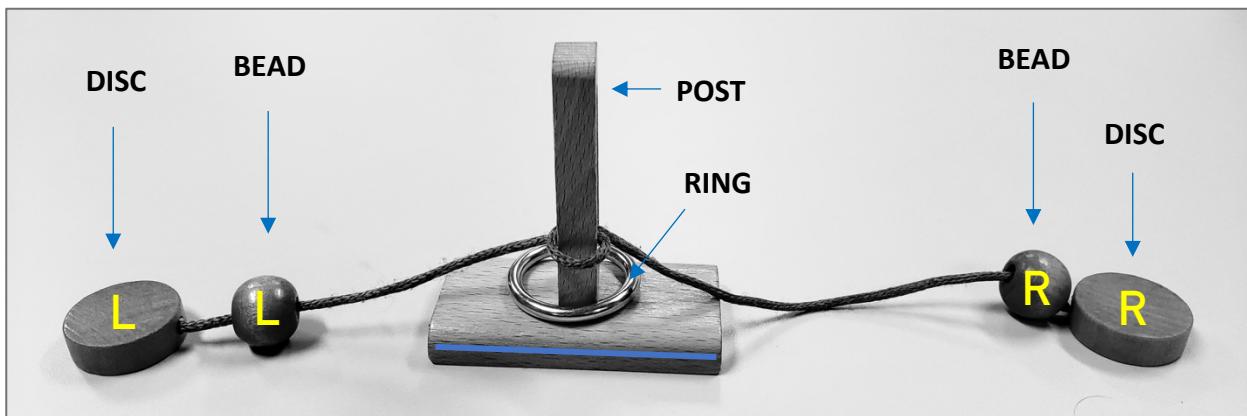


Figure 1.0: Front view of ring post puzzle. The blue line identifies the edge facing you.



TIP: Check which side of the rope is higher (from the front view). The "high side" of the rope should be on the left (Figure 1.1 shows a side view).

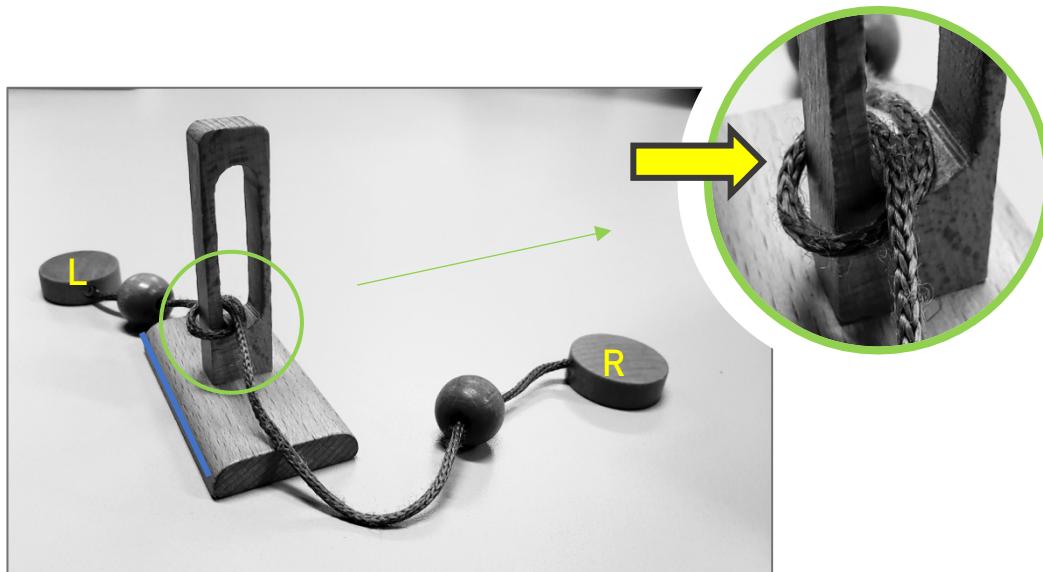


Figure 1.1: Side view of "high side on left" position



TIP: If the high side is on the right (Figure 1.2 shows a side view), the rope needs to be adjusted so the high side is on the left.

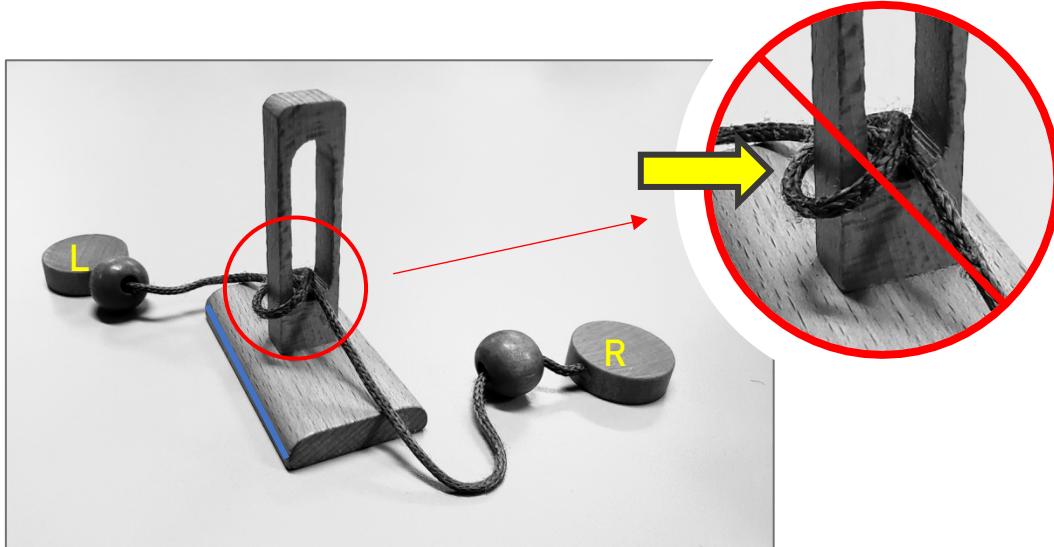
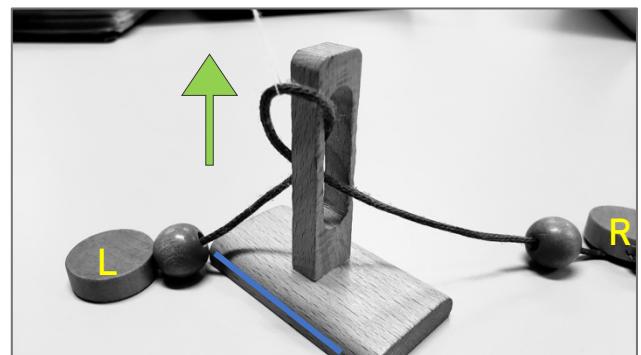


Figure 1.2: Side view of incorrect "high side on right" position.

Switching High Side Positions

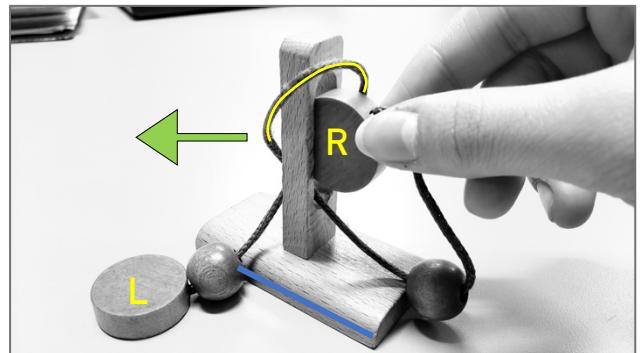
To switch the rope so the higher side is on the left (from the front view):

1. Lift the rope and widen the loop enough for a wooden disc to fit through.

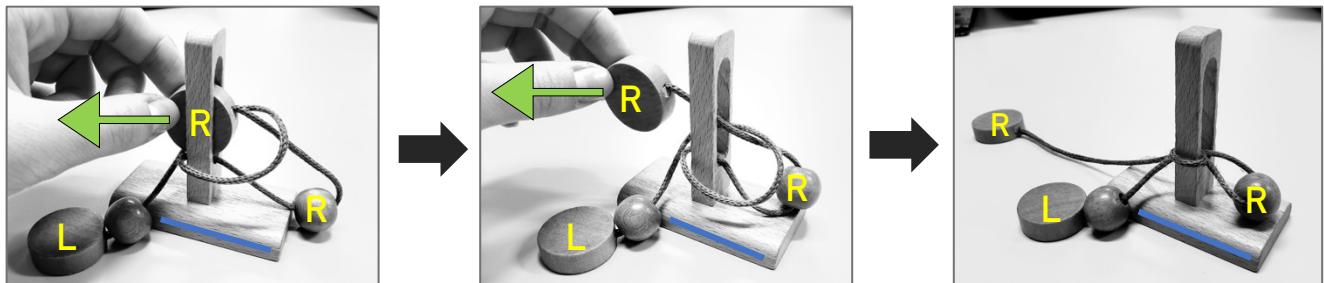


2. Pick up disc R and slot it through the post.

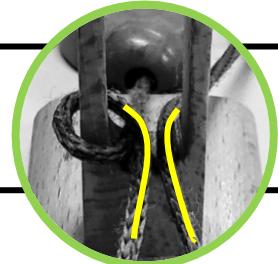
! **WARNING:** Make sure to pull the disc through the loop created by the rope.



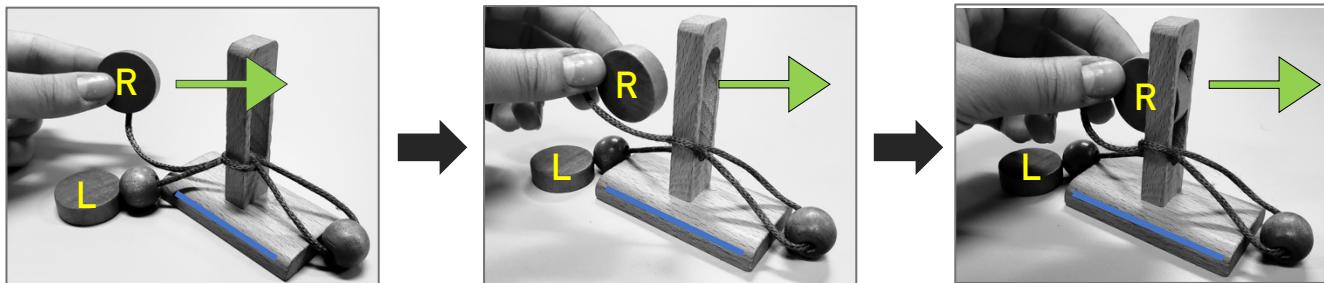
3. Pull disc R through the post and the loop towards the left. Bead R should be pulled through the loop (but not the post).



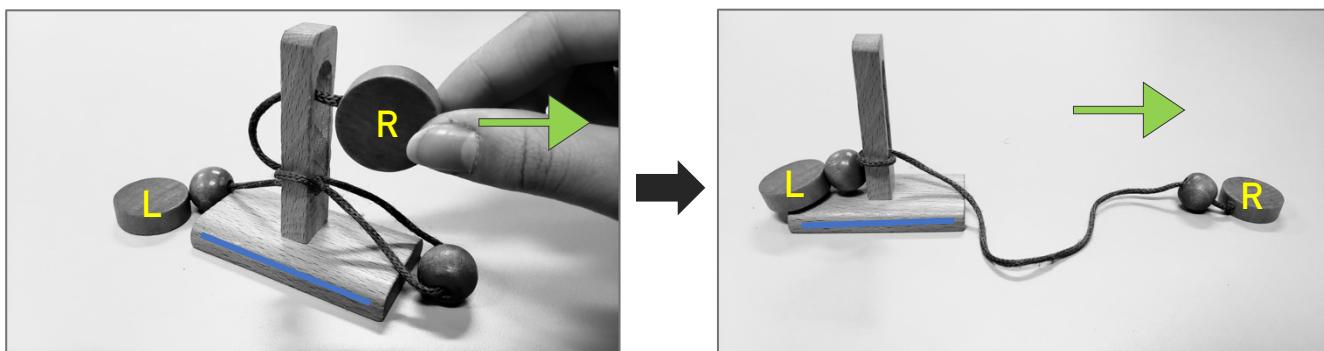
WARNING: Make sure the rope is splayed before proceeding to the next step.



4. Pick up disc R and slot it through the post (over the rope) towards the right.

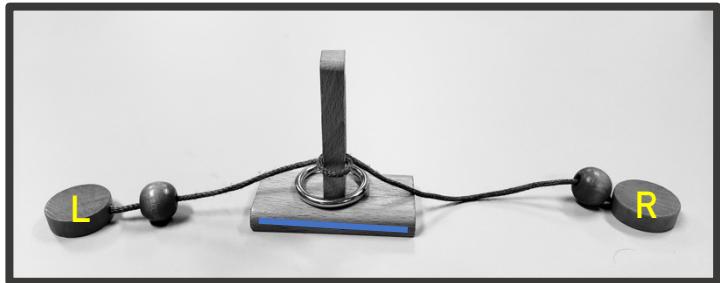


5. Pull disc R through the post so there is as much rope on the right side of the post as possible.



The puzzle is now set up for solving!

Stage 2: Removing the ring from the post

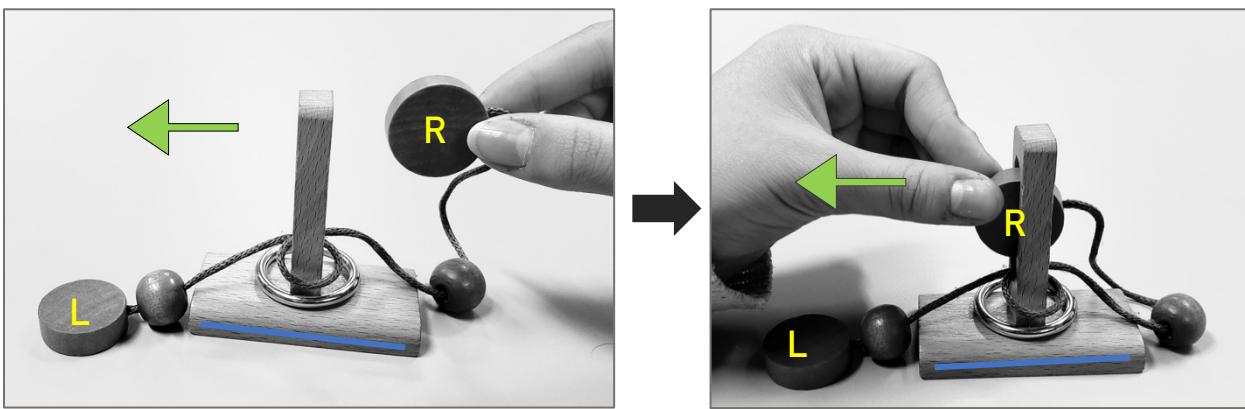
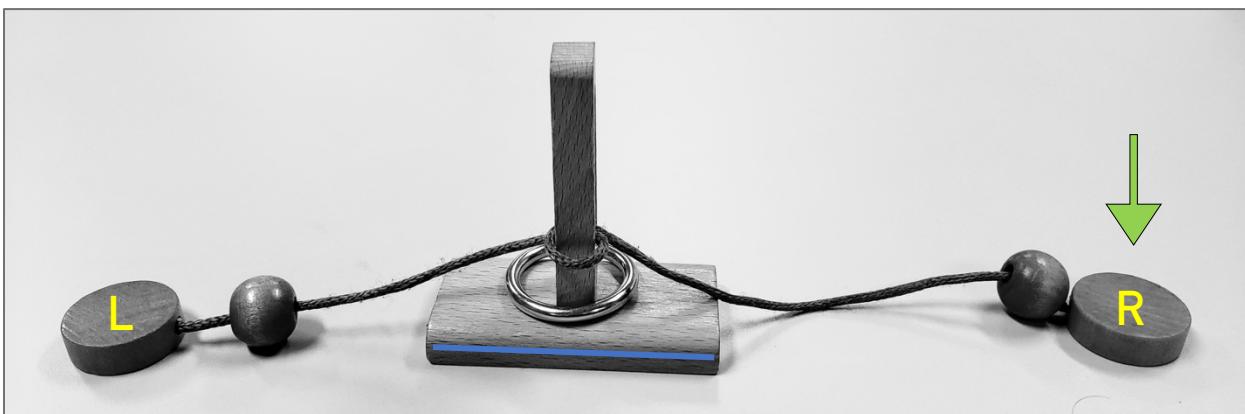


Starting Position

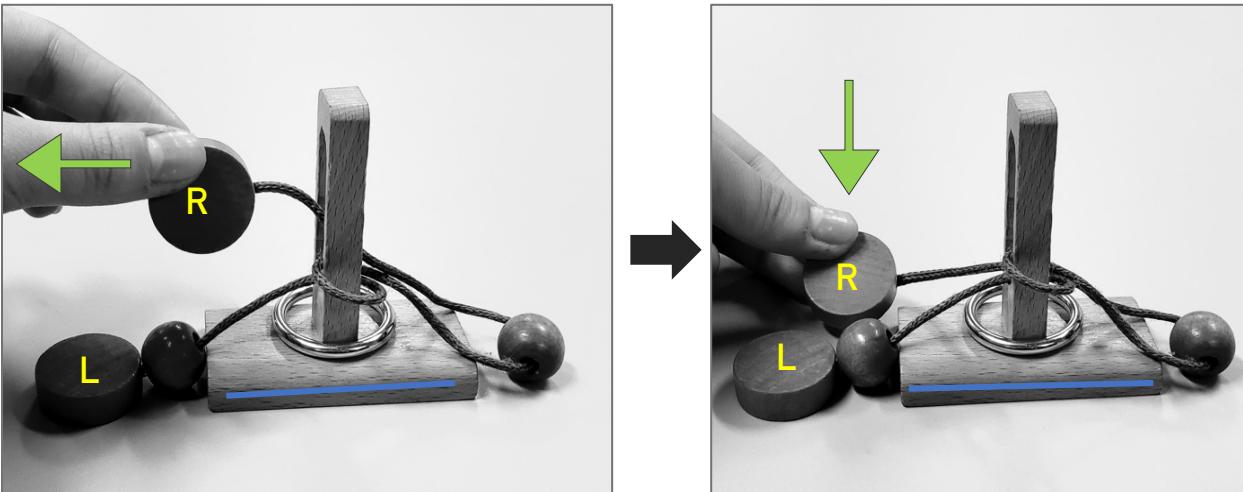


Final Position

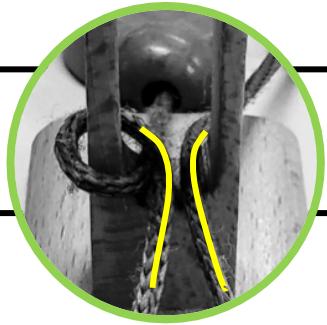
1. After ensuring the high side of the rope is on the left, lift disc R and slot it through the post towards the left (over the rope).



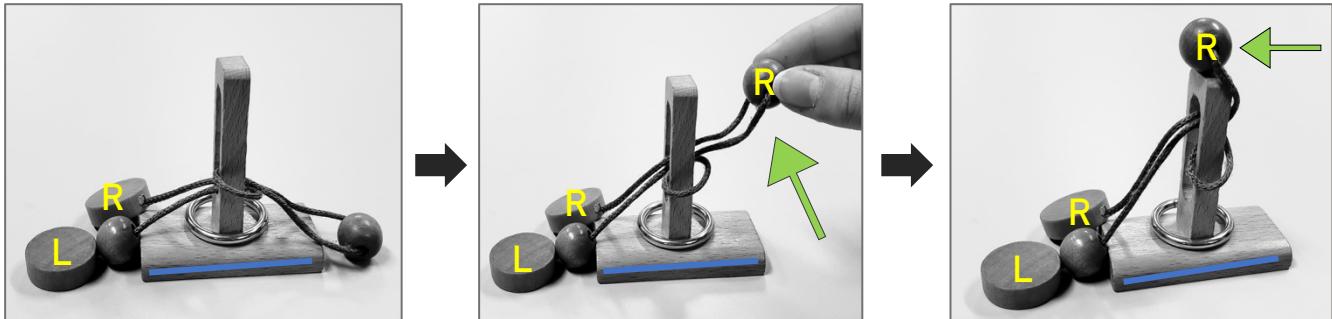
2. Pull disc R through the post towards the left, keeping the strings splayed.



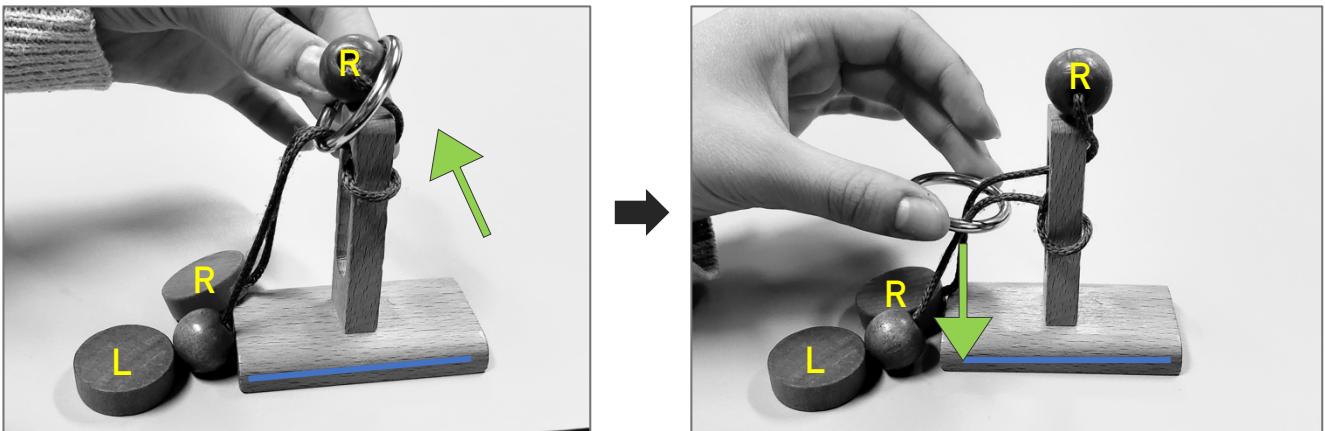
WARNING: Make sure the rope is splayed before proceeding to the next step.



3. Lift bead R and place it on top of the post, keeping the strings splayed.



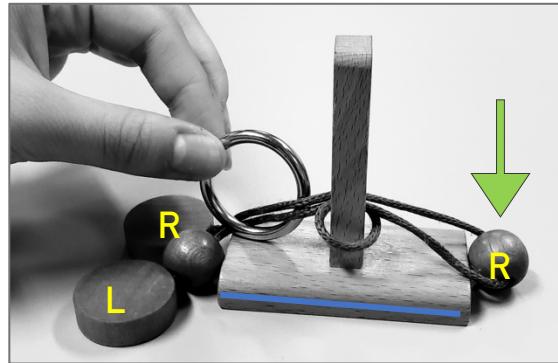
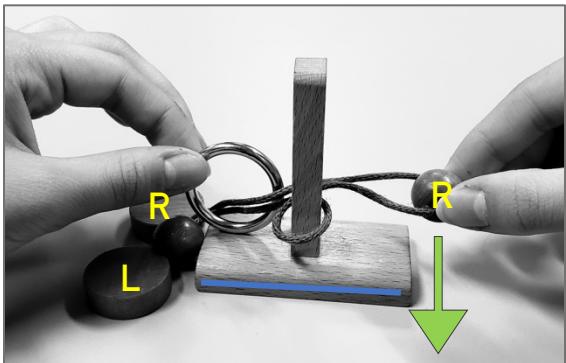
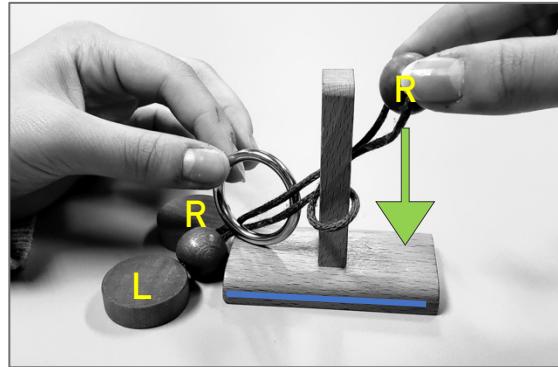
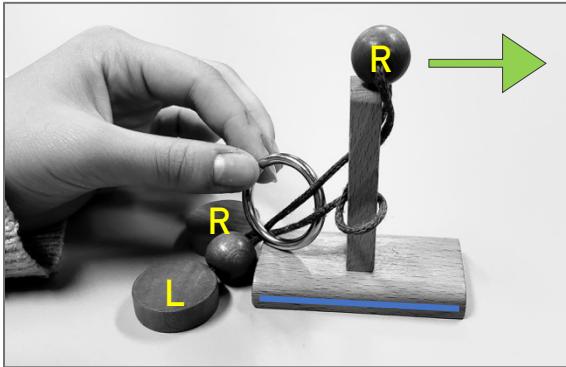
4. Lift the ring over bead R on top of the pole and lower it to the left of the post.



5. While holding the ring upright so the bottom is resting on the base, remove bead R from the top of the post and place it to the right of the post.



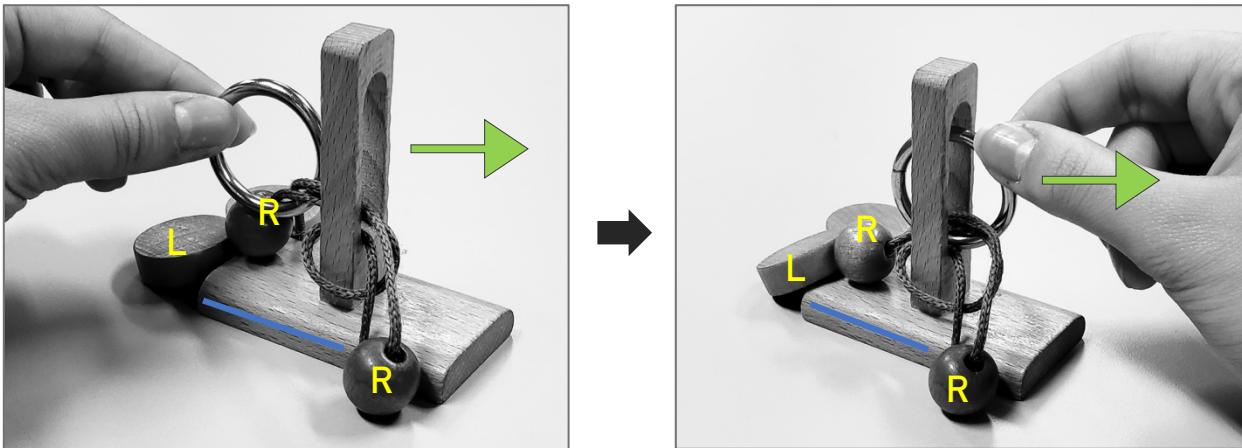
TIP: You may put the ring down temporarily but ensure that the rope does not cross itself when picking it up again for the next step.



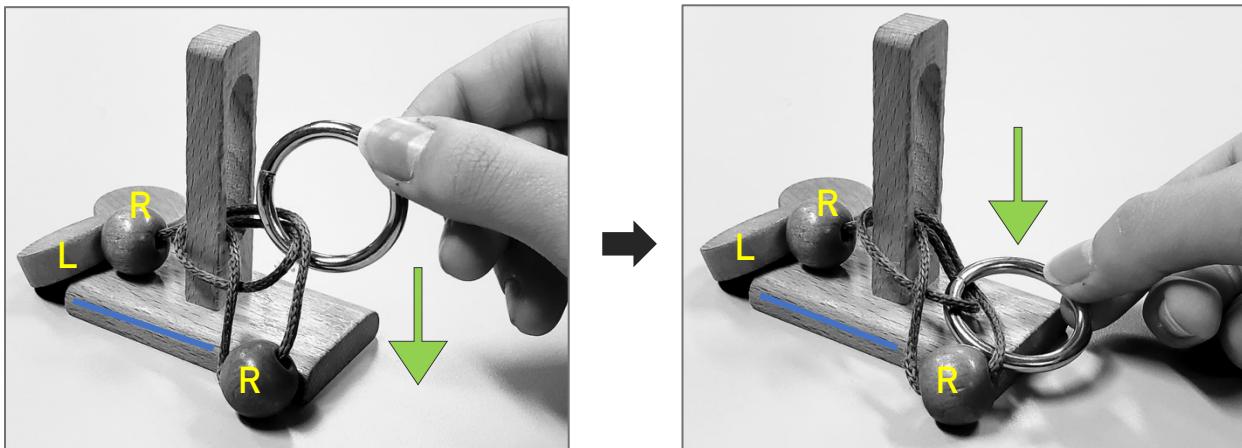
! WARNING: Make sure the rope runs parallel to itself through the ring proceeding to the next step.



6. Lift the metal ring and slot it through the post, pulling it towards the right.



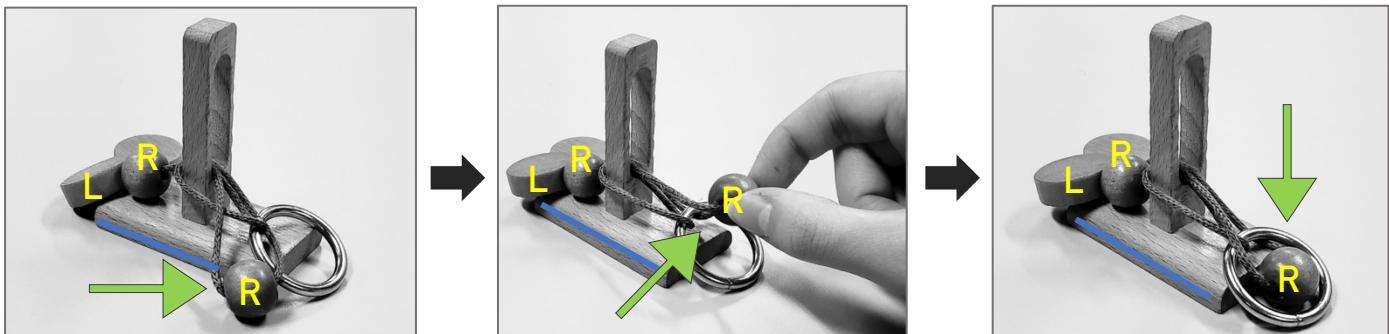
7. Put the ring down to the right of the post.



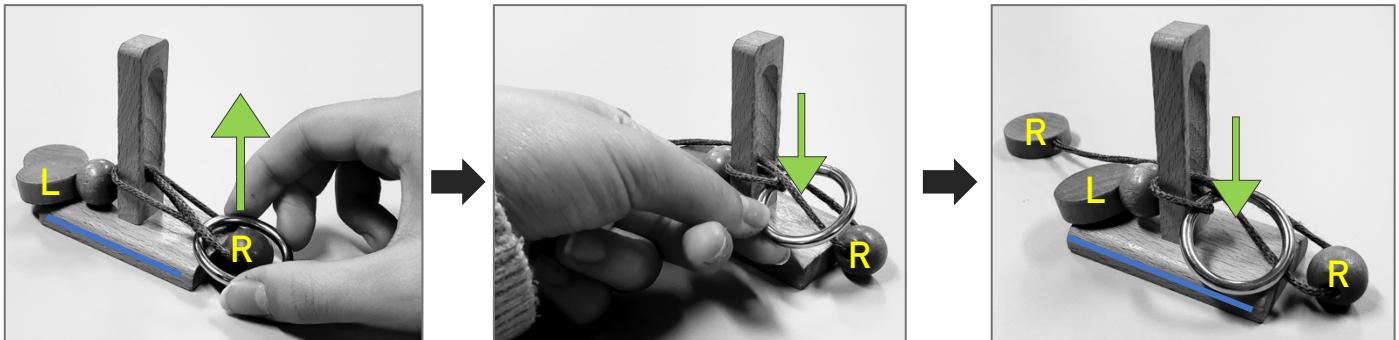
WARNING: Make sure the rope runs over the side of the metal ring as shown.



8. Pick up bead R from the left side of the ring and place it in the ring.



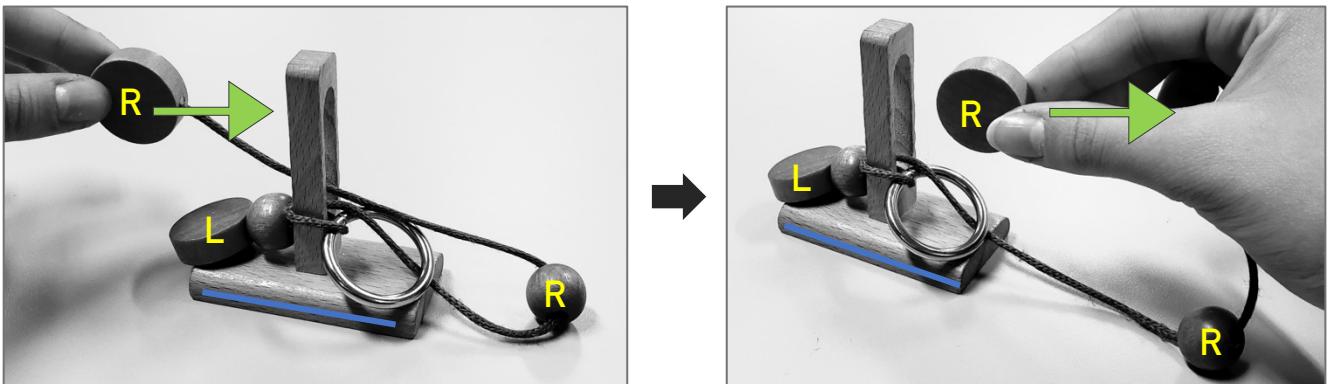
9. Lift the ring up so bead R goes through the ring and place the ring to the left.



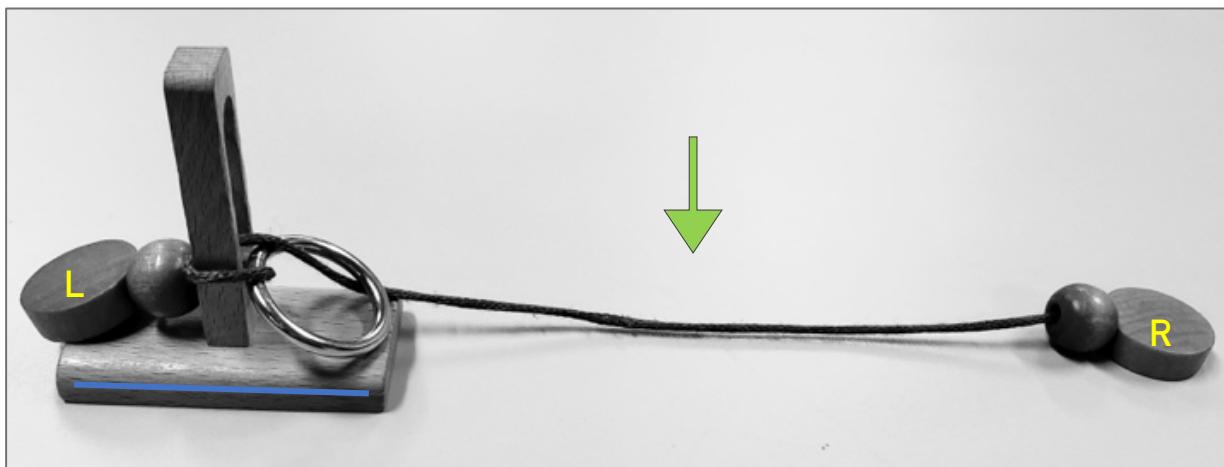
WARNING: Make sure the rope runs under the ring as shown.



10. Slot disc R through the post (over the rope) and pull it towards the right.



11. Pull disc R to the right so there is as much rope as possible on the right side of the post.





WARNING: The rope should be under the ring as shown in Figure 2.0.
If the rope is over the ring (Figure 2.1), flip it over towards the right.

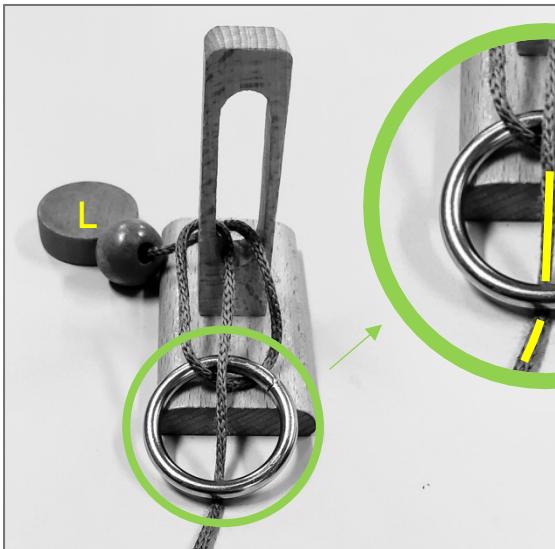


Figure 2.0: Correct position of ring - ring on top of rope.

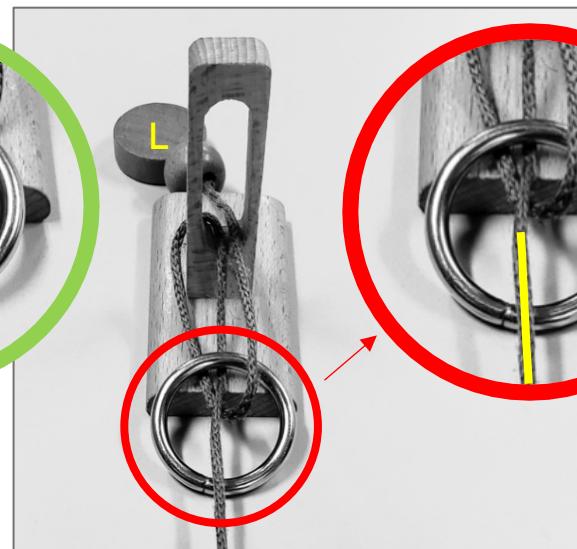
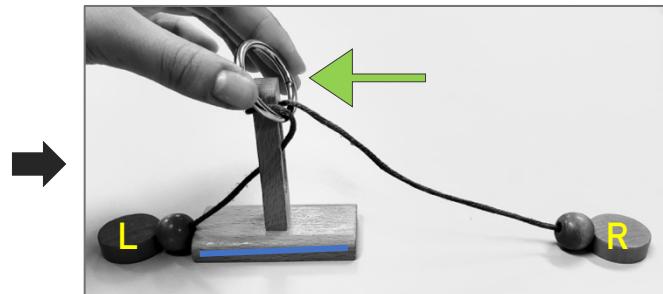
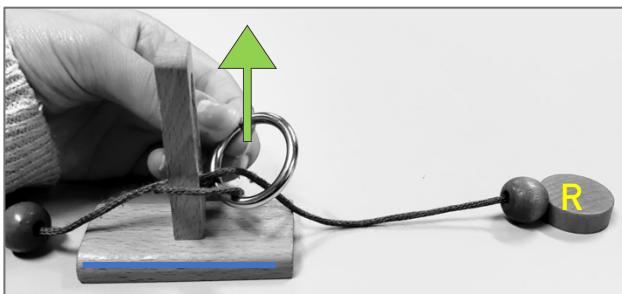
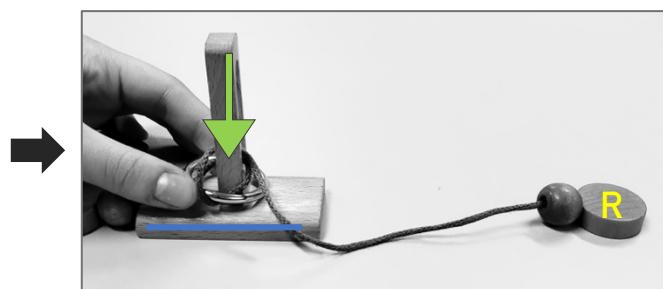
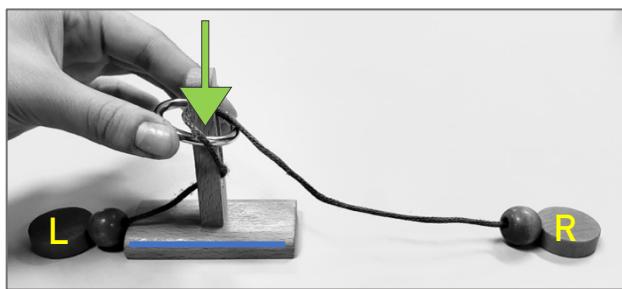


Figure 2.1: Incorrect position of ring - ring under rope.

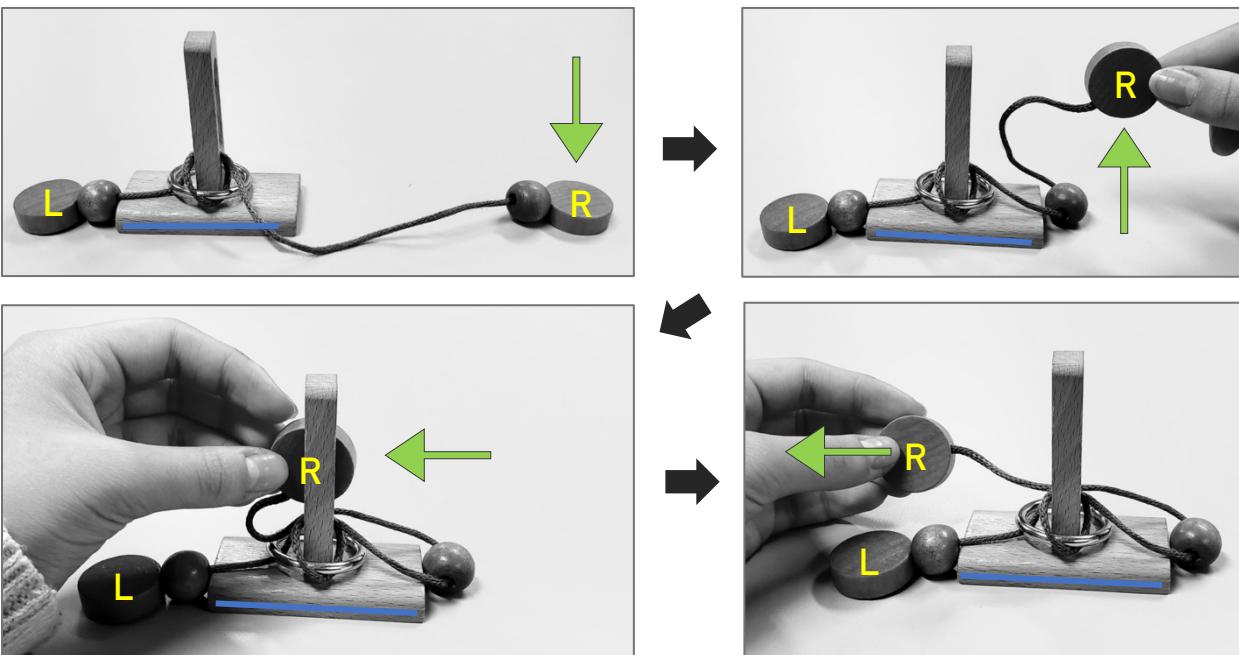
12. Lift the ring up and flip it onto the post towards the left.



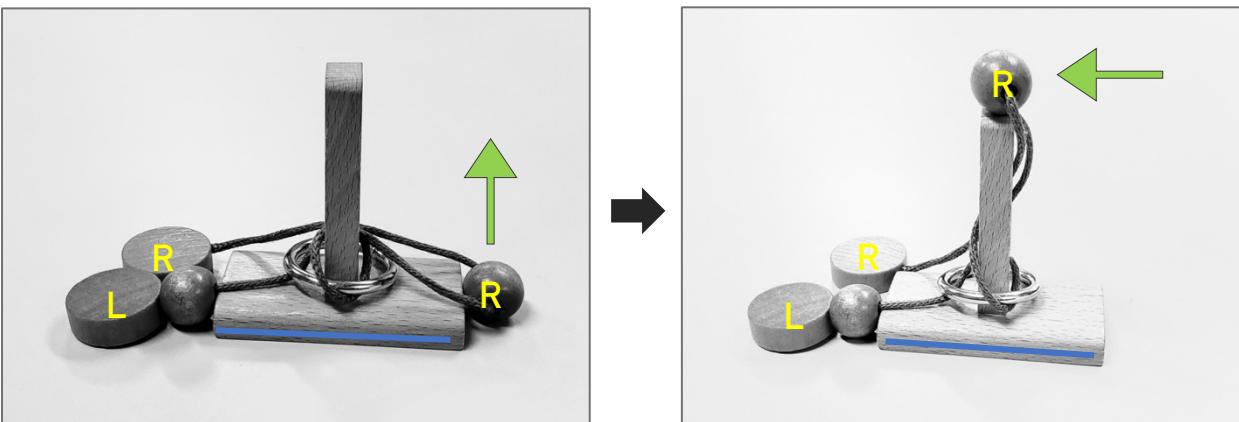
13. Place the ring at the bottom of the post.



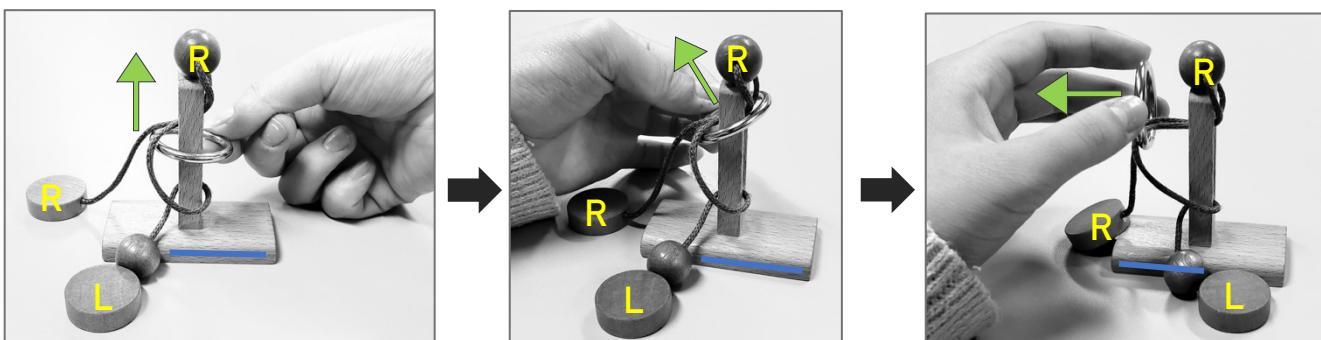
14. Pick up disc R and slot it through the post (over the rope) towards the left.



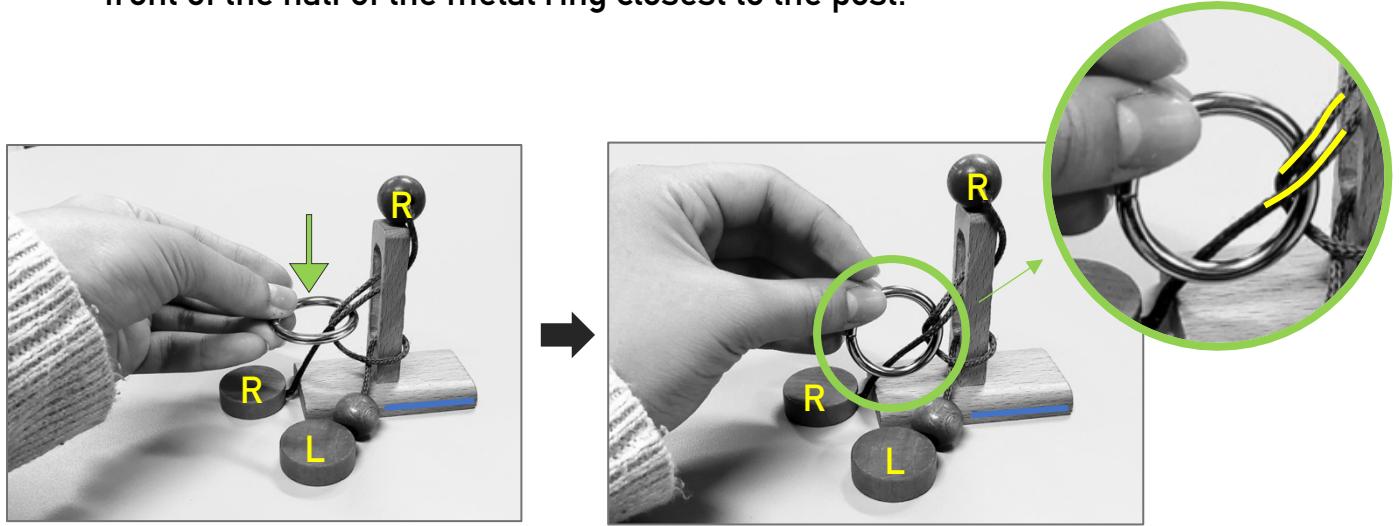
15. Lift bead R and place it on top of the post (keeping the strings splayed).



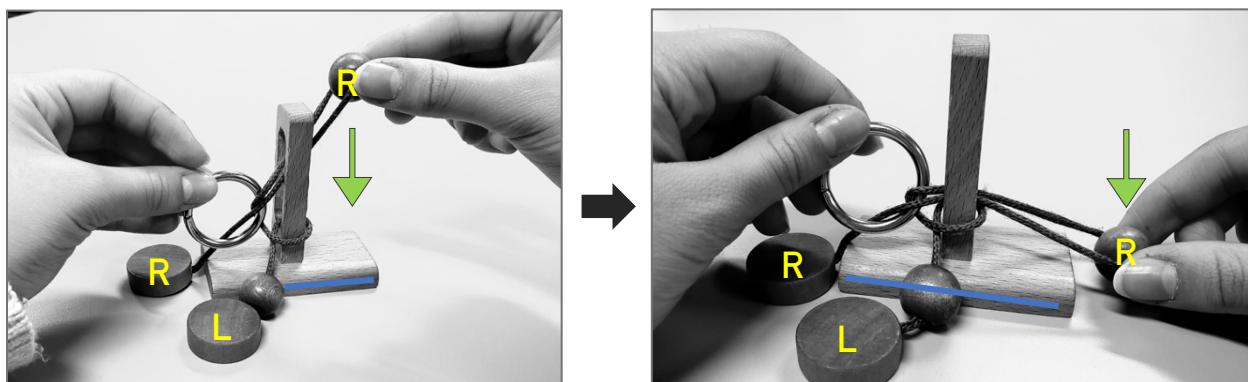
16. Lift the ring from the bottom of the post and flip it over bead R towards the left side of the post.



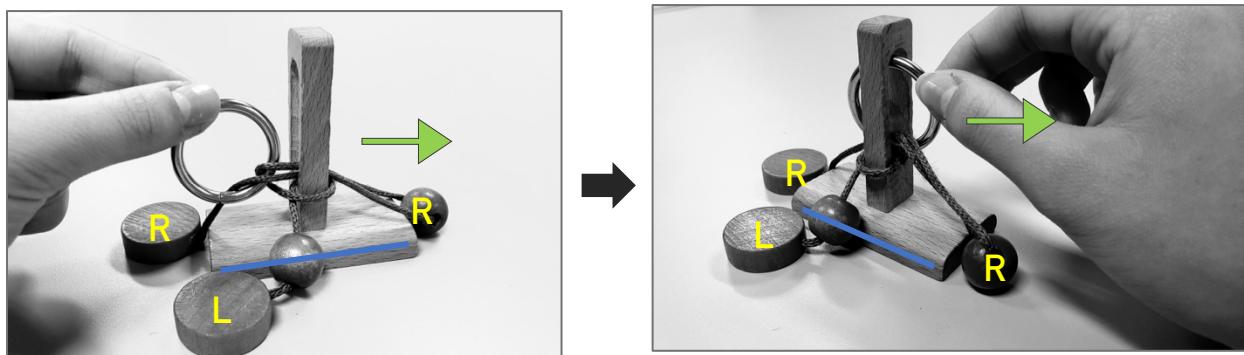
17. Lower the ring, then rotate it 90 degrees towards you so the rope is in front of the half of the metal ring closest to the post.



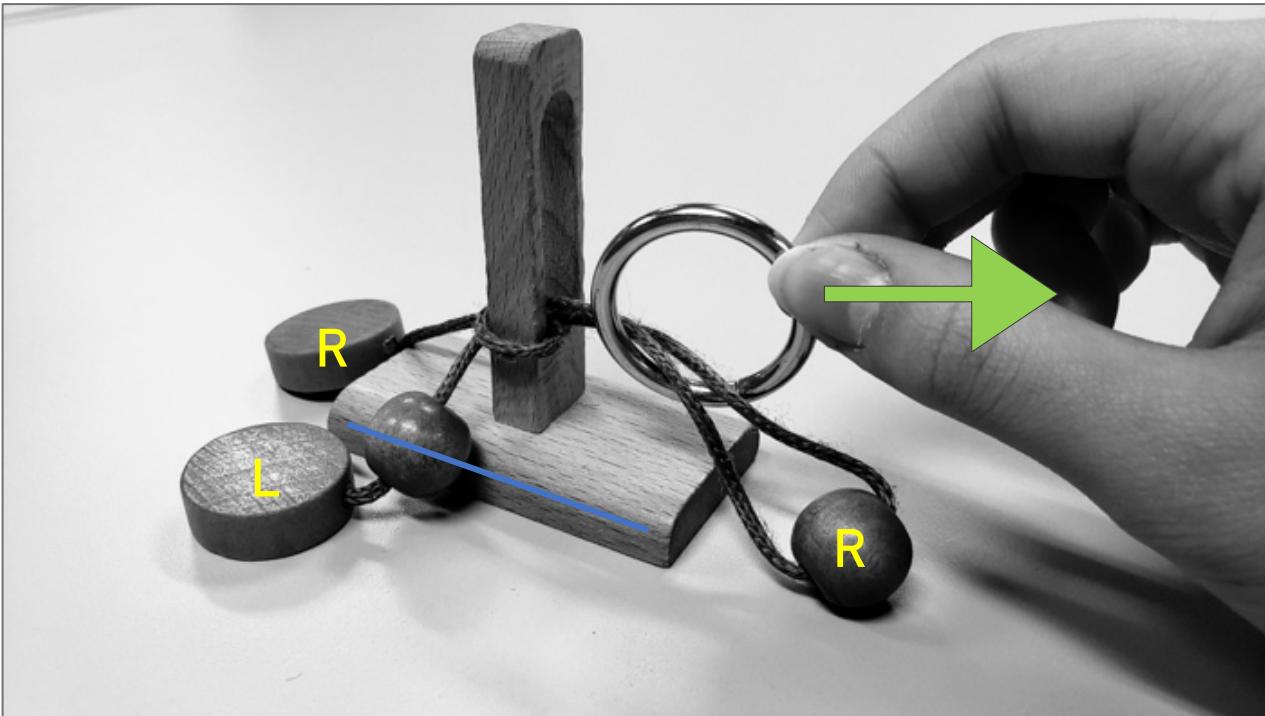
18. Remove bead R from the top of the post and place it on the right side of the post (keeping the rope splayed).



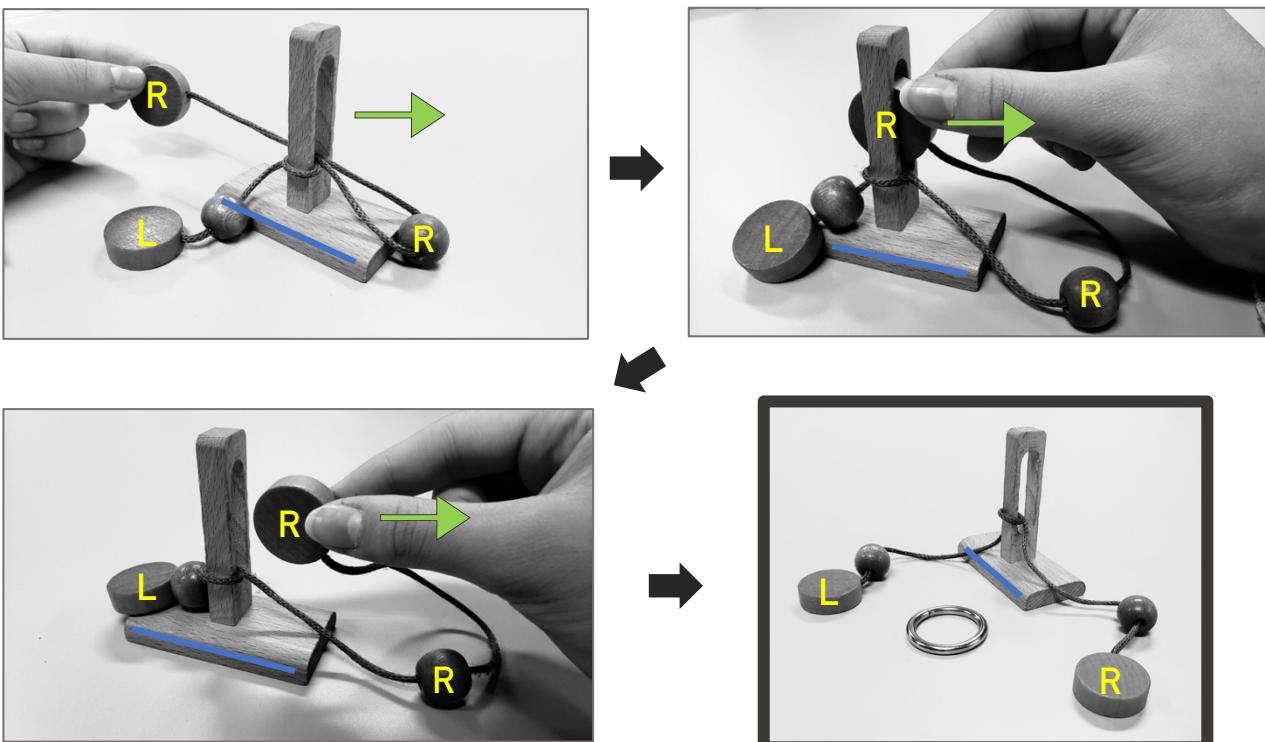
19. Slot the metal ring through the post, pulling it through towards the right side of the post.



20. You should now be able to pull the metal ring off the rope by pulling it towards the right.

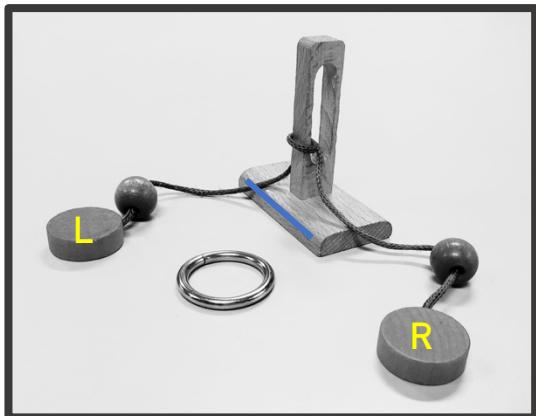


21. You can also pull disc R through the post (over the rope) towards the right.



END OF STAGE 2

Stage 3: Replacing the ring on the post



Starting Position



Final Position

1. Begin with the post oriented sideways in front of you, with disc R on the right of the post and disc L on the left side of the post (Figure 3.0).

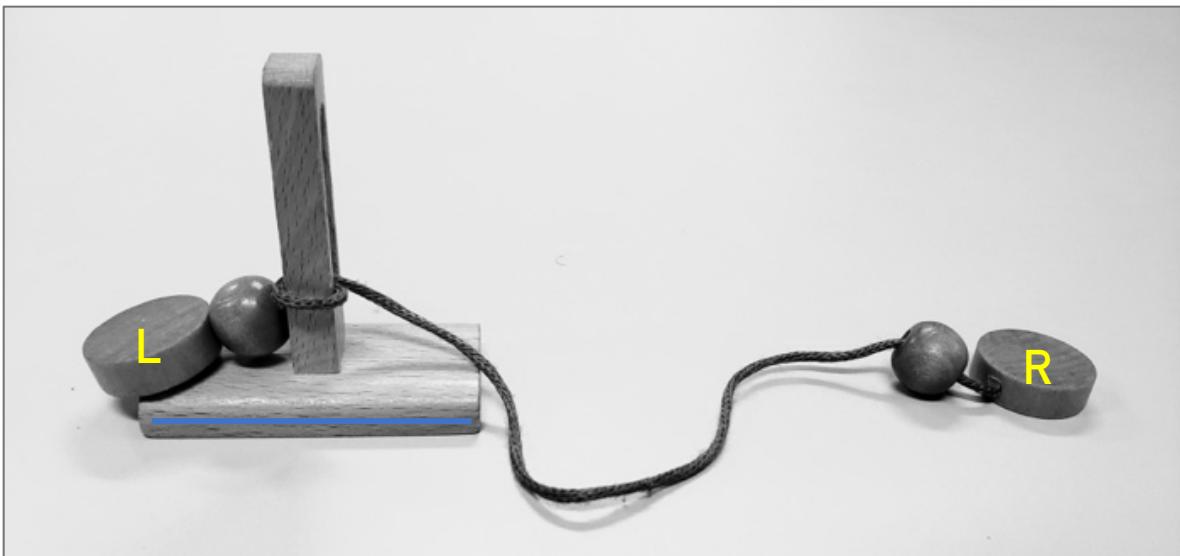


Figure 3.0: Front view of ring post puzzle. The blue line indicates the side that faces you.



TIP: Make sure that the high side of the rope is on the left side of the post (from the front view), as seen in Figure 3.1. If not, refer to the “switching high sides” section of this manual.

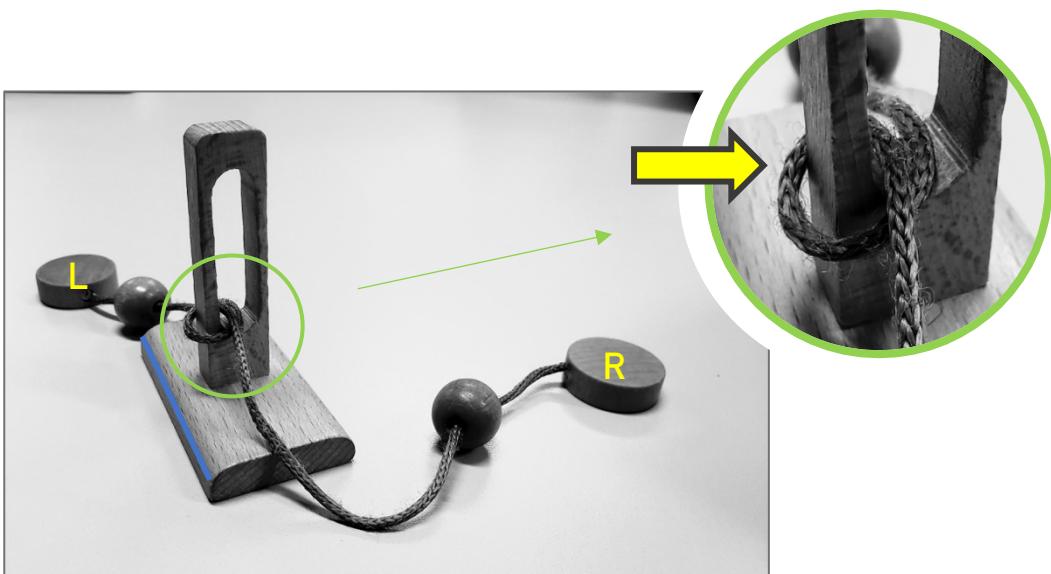
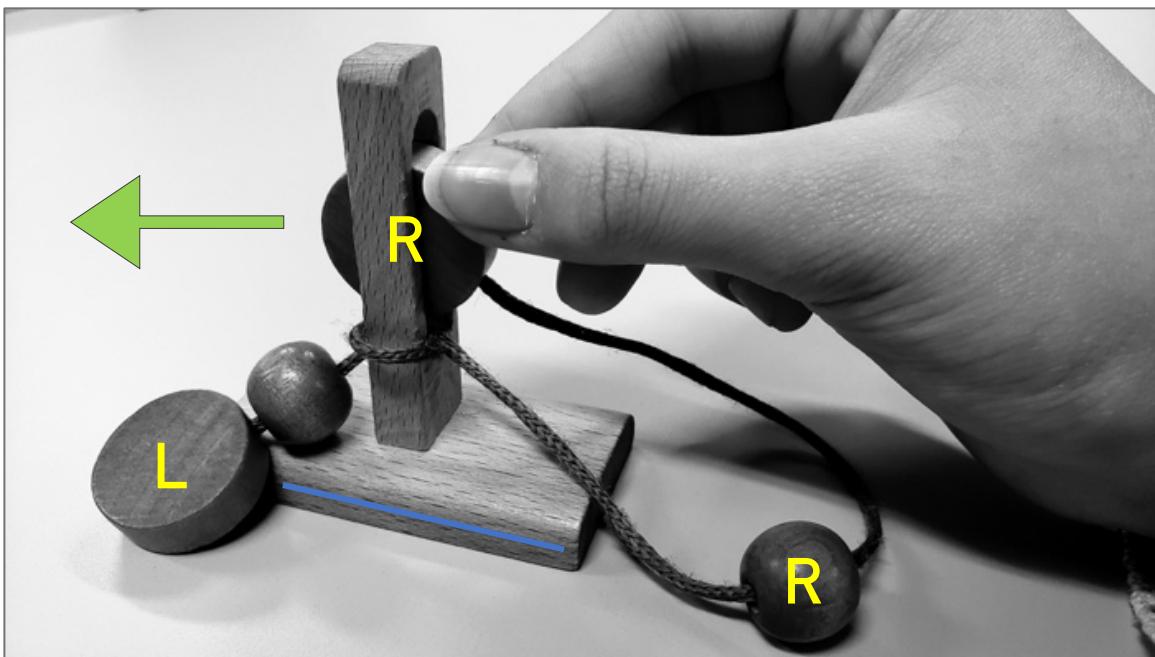
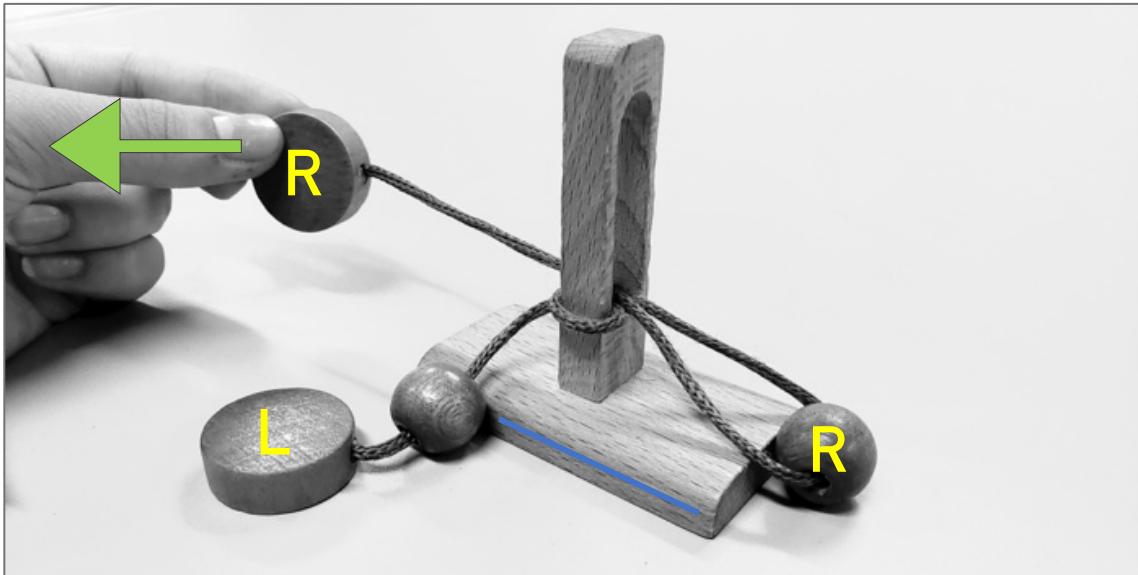


Figure 3.1: Side view of "high side on left" position

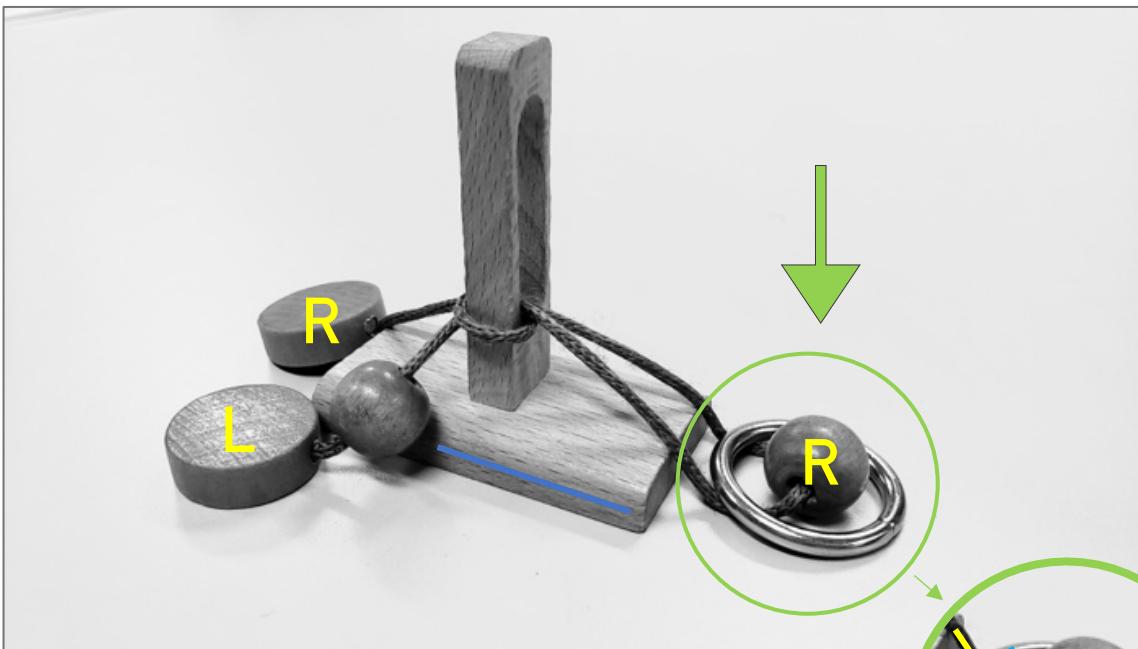
2. Pick up disc R and slot it through the post, over the rope, towards the left side of the post.



3. Pull disc R through the post towards the left, and then put it down, keeping the rope splayed.



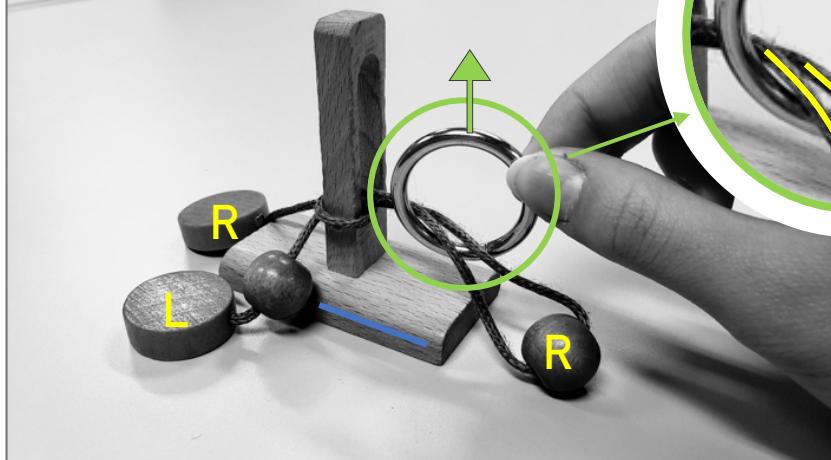
4. Place the metal ring over bead R on the right side of the post.



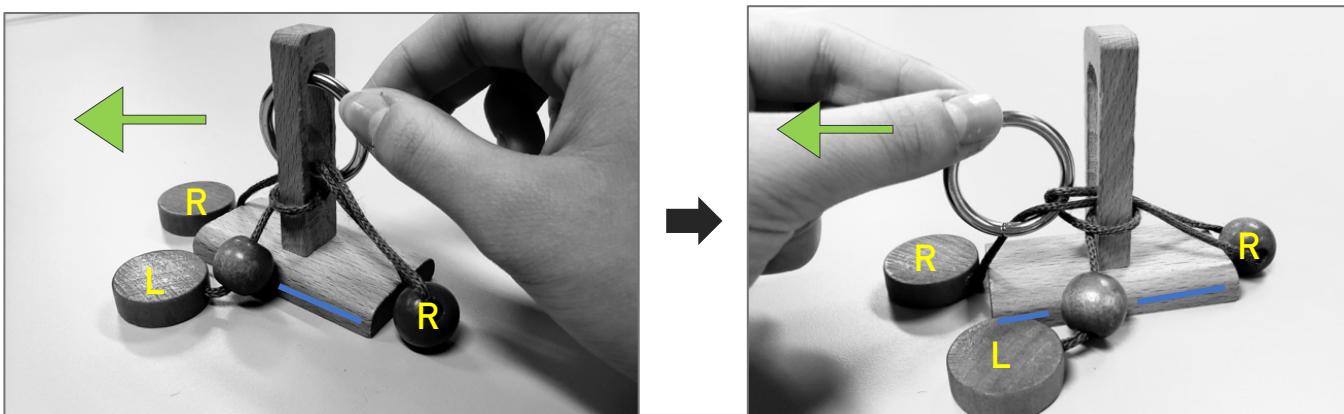
TIP: Make sure the ring lies on top of the rope as shown.



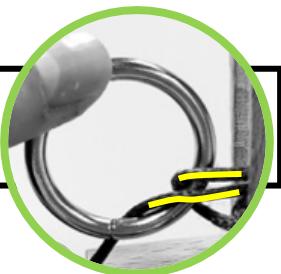
5. Lift the metal ring so the rope runs through it as shown. (This is the same as pulling bead R through the ring).



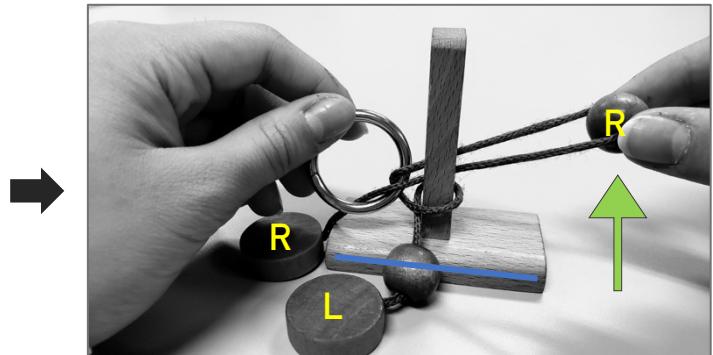
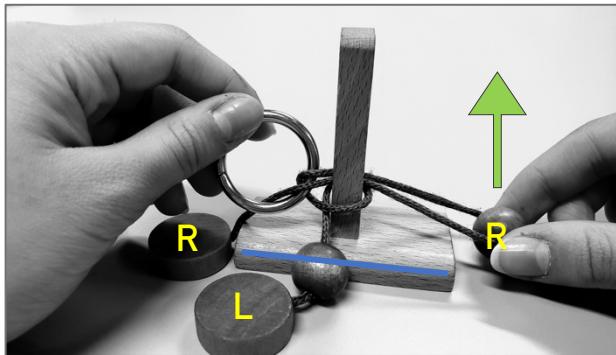
6. Slot the metal ring through the post towards the left side of the post.



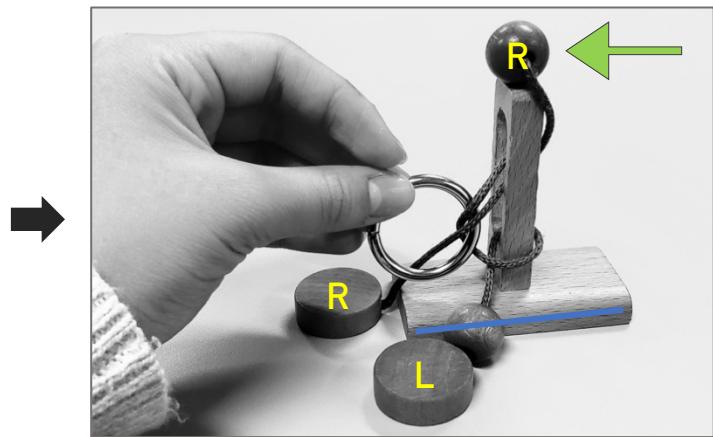
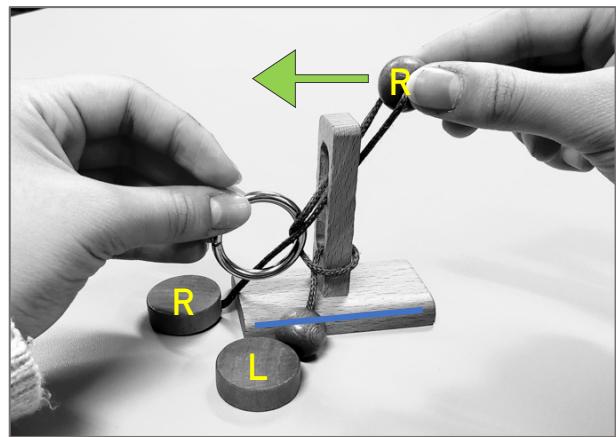
! WARNING: Make sure the rope remains splayed as shown.



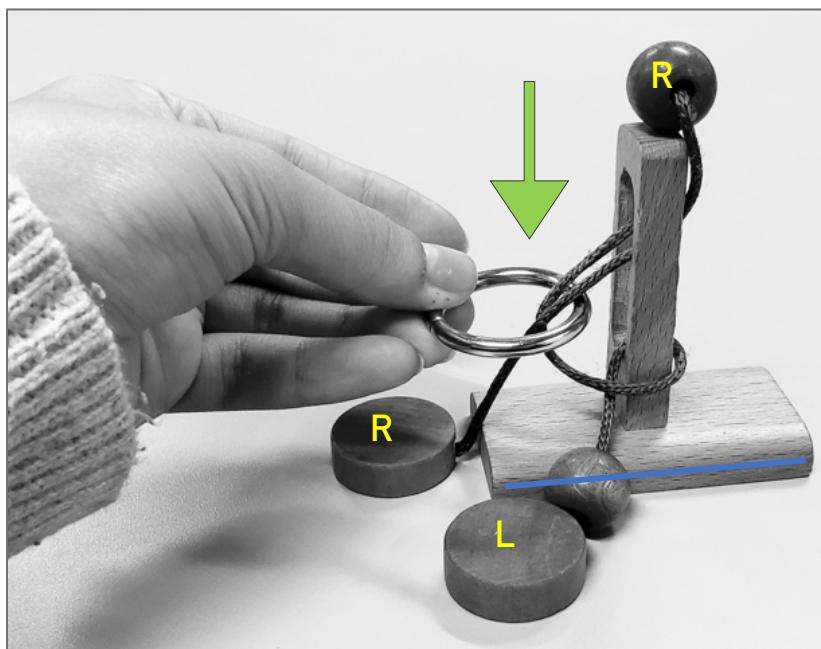
7. While holding the metal ring in place, pick up bead R from the right side of the post.



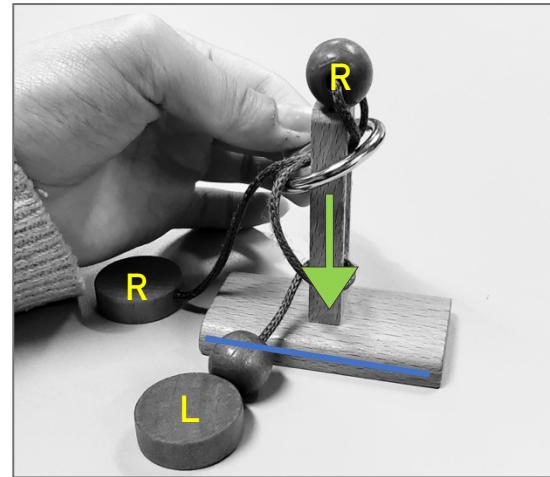
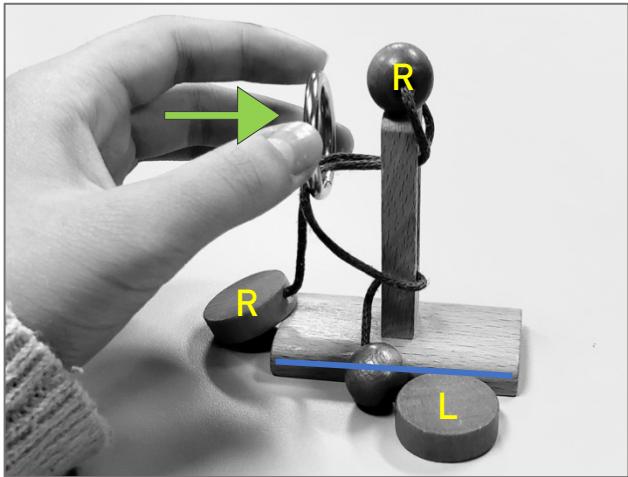
8. Place bead R on top of the post, keeping the rope splayed.



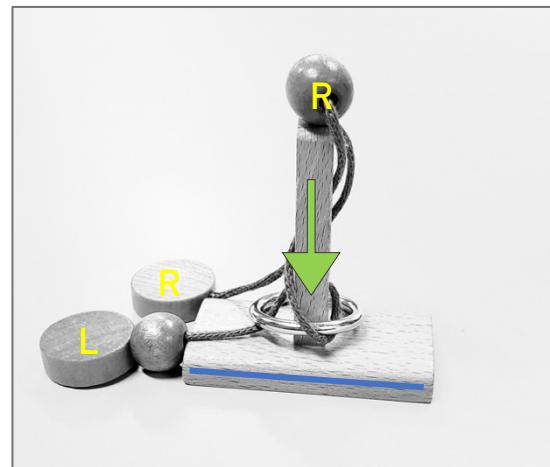
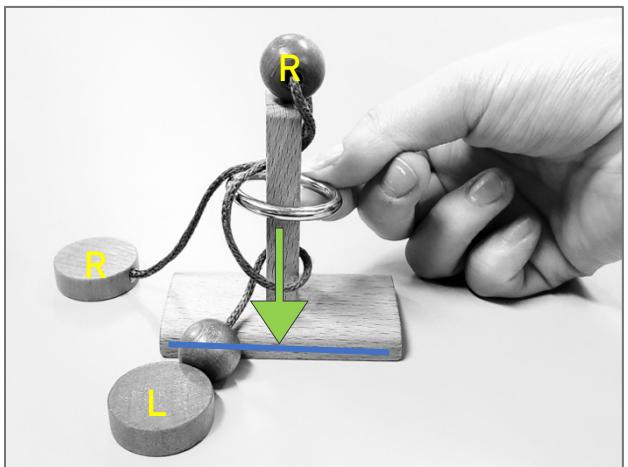
9. Rotate the metal ring 90 degrees away from you so the rope remains splayed while running through the ring.



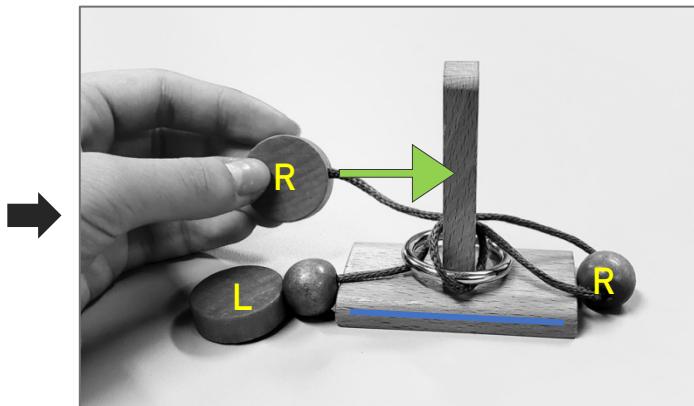
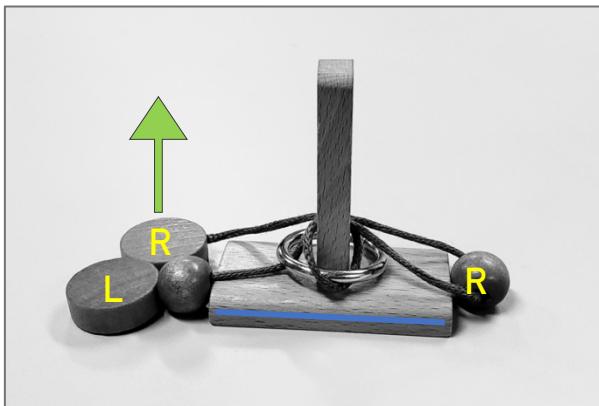
10. Lift the metal ring and flip it over the bead towards the right and onto the post.



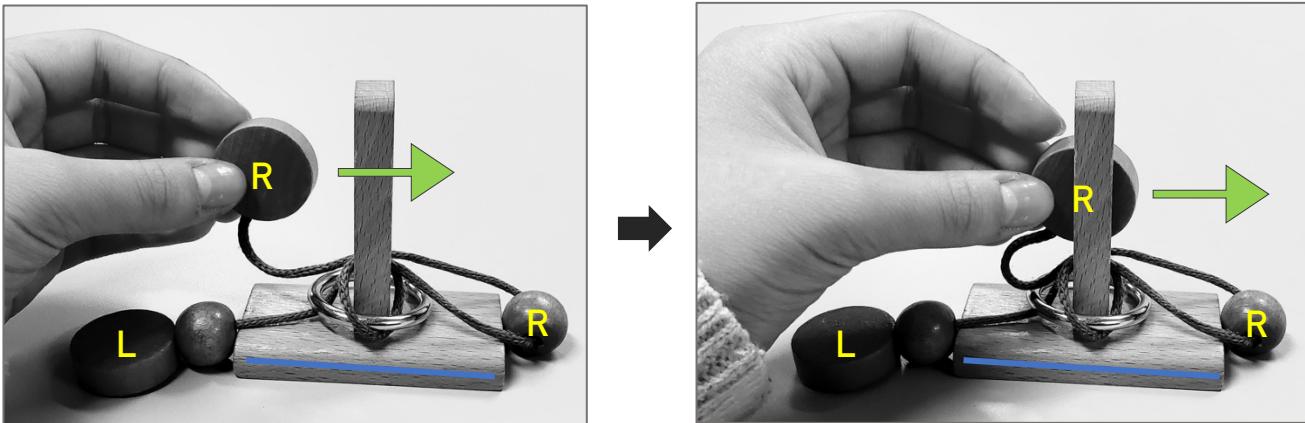
11. Lower the metal ring and place it on the base.



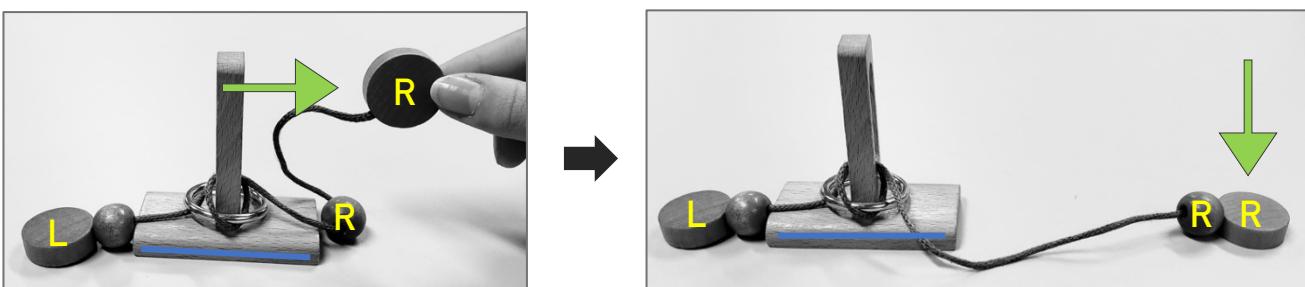
12. Lift disc R, keeping the rope splayed and prepare to slot it through the post.



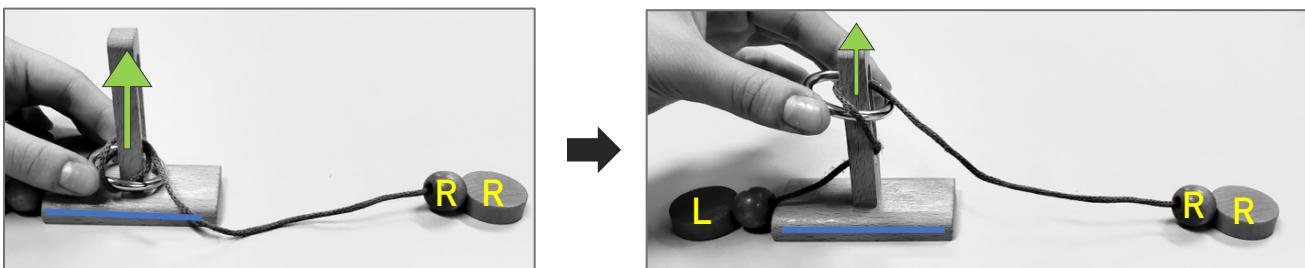
13. Slot disc R through the post (over the rope and metal ring) towards the right side of the post.



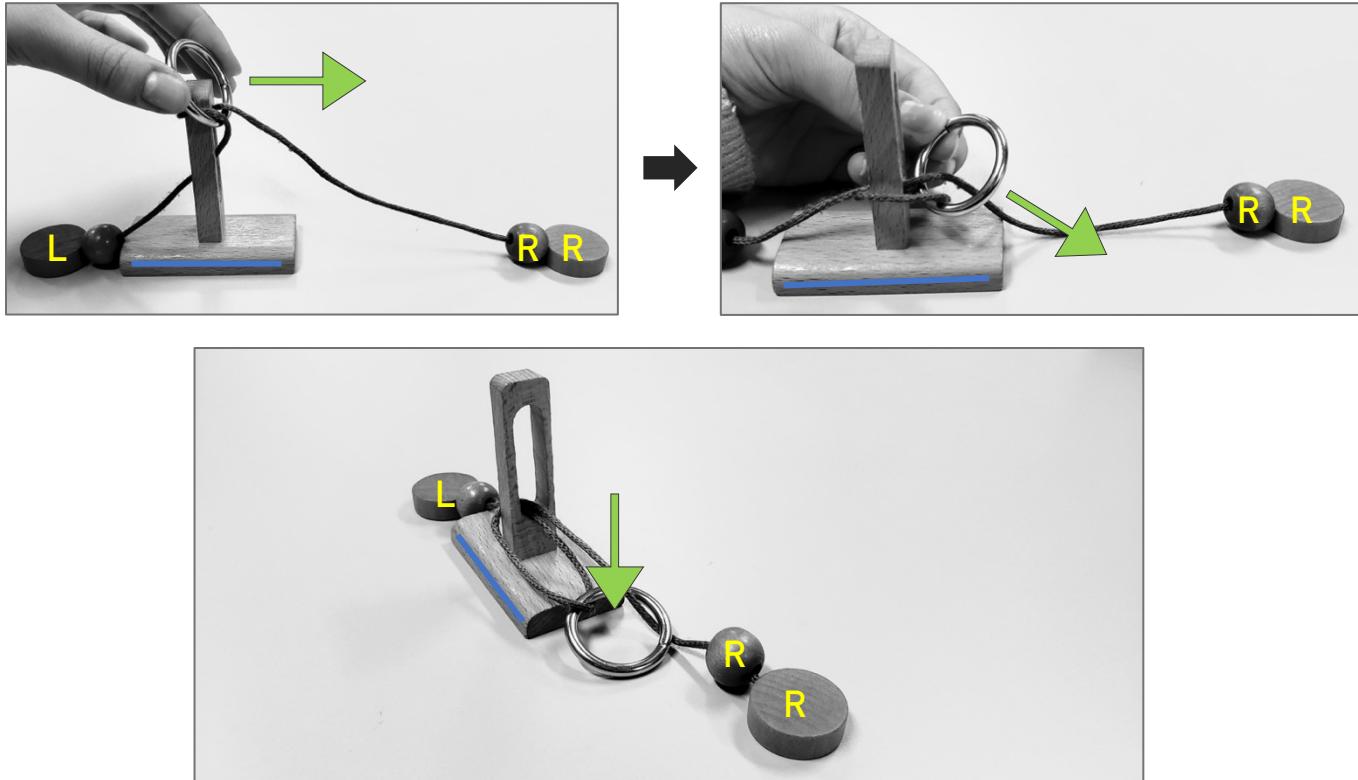
14. Pull disc R through the post towards the right, and place disc R on the right side of the post.



15. Lift the metal ring from the bottom of the post and prepare to flip it over towards the right side of the post.



16. Flip the metal ring over towards the right side of the post.



! **WARNING:** The rope should be under the ring as shown in Figure 3.2. If the rope is over the ring (Figure 3.3), flip it over towards the right.

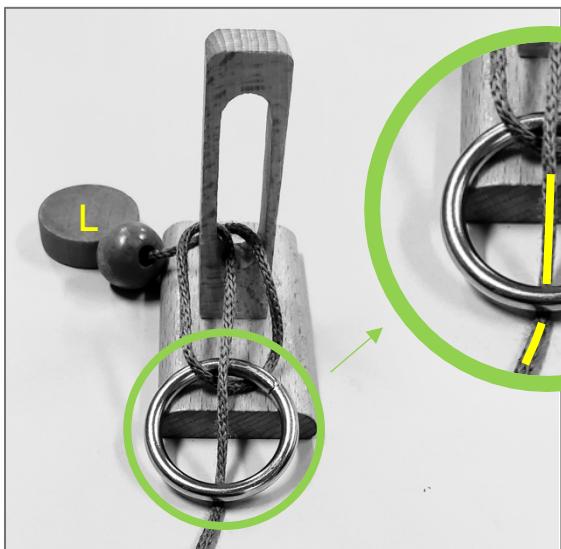


Figure 3.2: Correct position of ring - ring on top of rope.

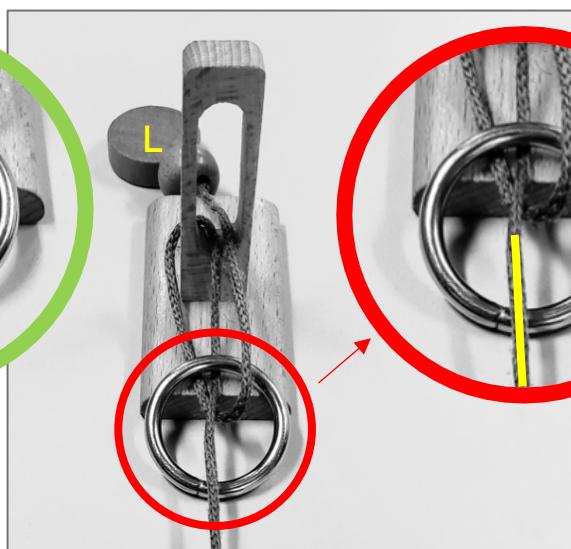
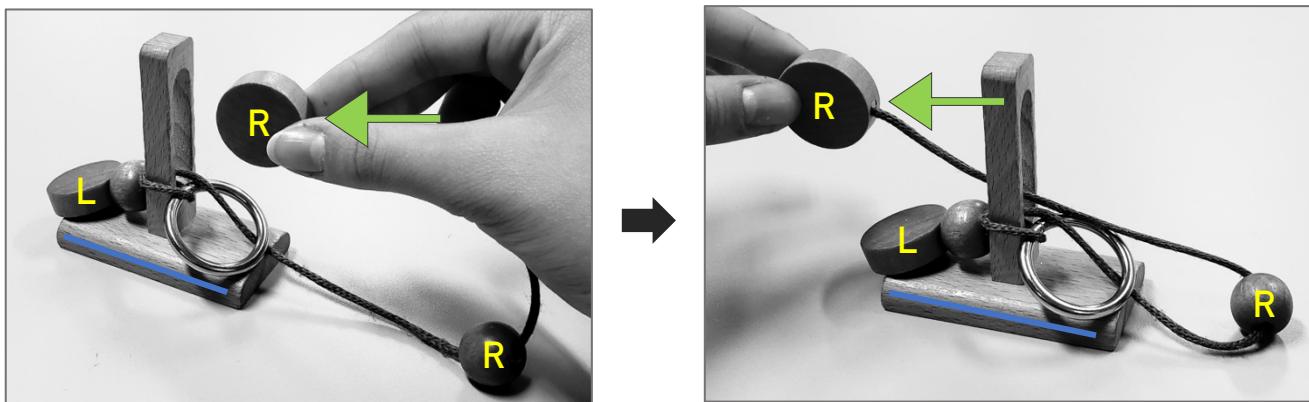


Figure 3.3: Incorrect position of ring - ring under rope.

17. Pick up disc R and slot it through the post (over the rope and ring), pulling towards the left side of the post.



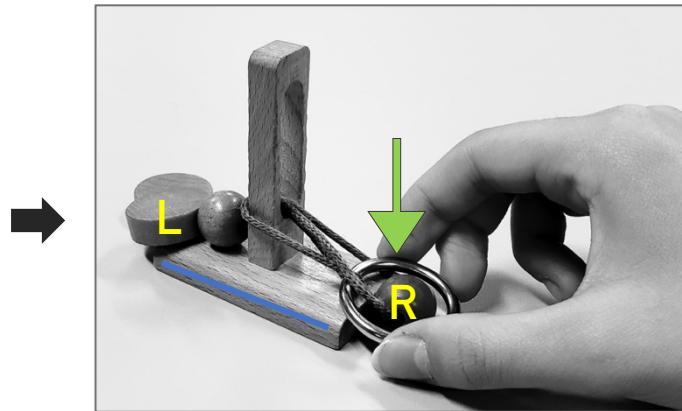
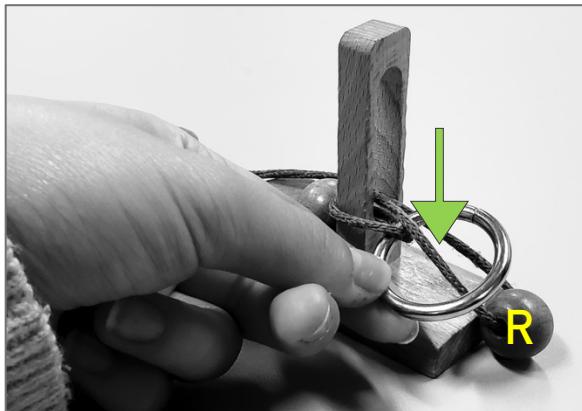
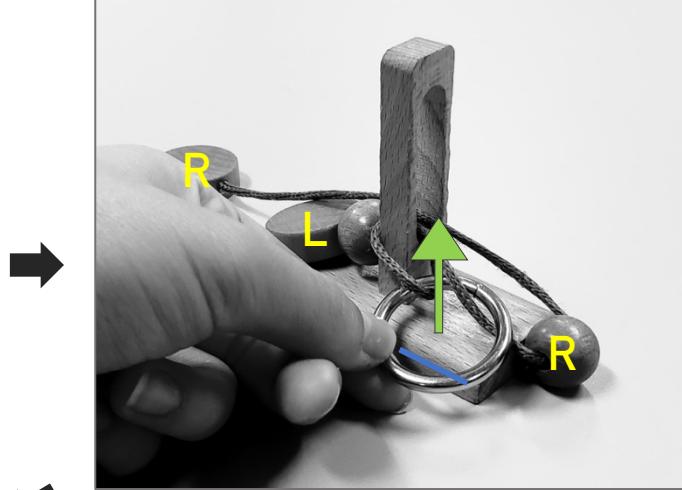
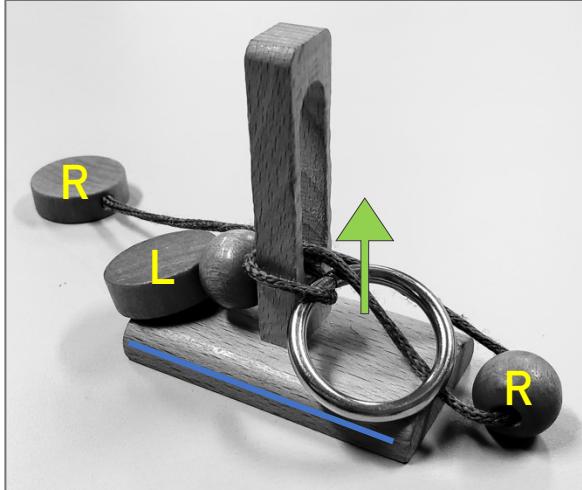
TIP: You do not need to pull disc R too far to the left since bead R will remain on the right side of the post. Leave enough rope to the right of the post so the ring can be moved and so you can pull bead R through in the next step.



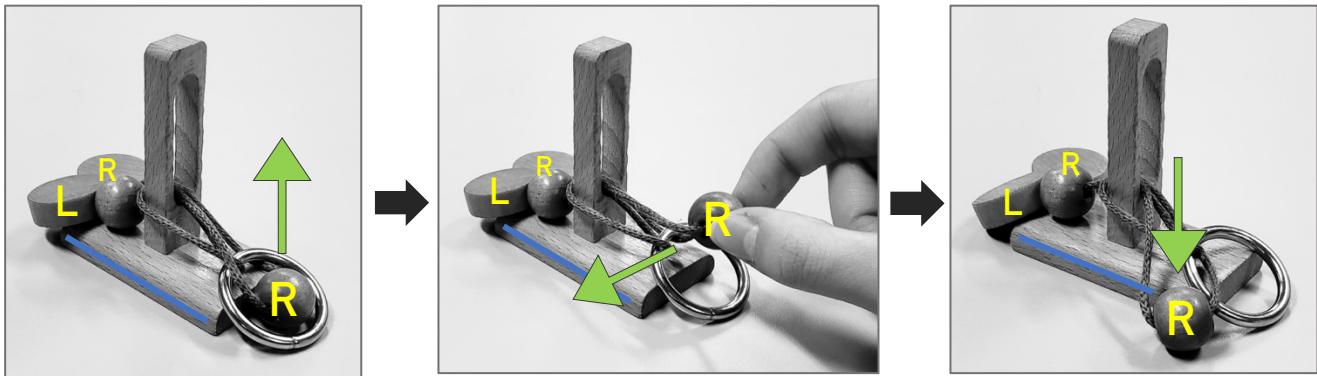
WARNING: Make sure the ring is on top of the rope as shown before proceeding. Do not flip the ring over when placing it on the bead.



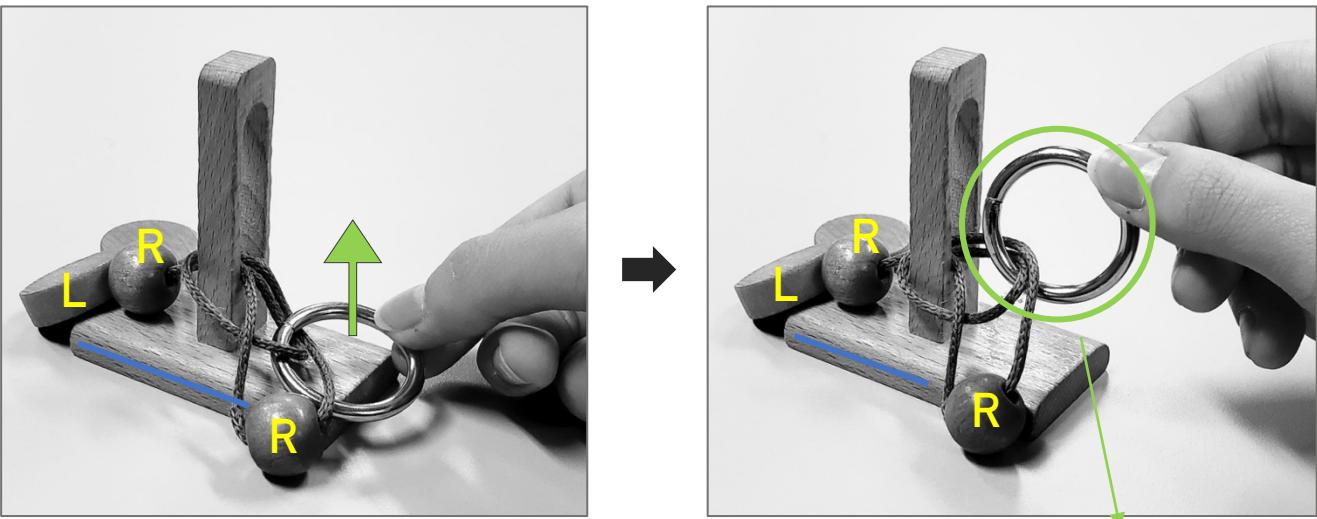
18. Lift the metal ring and place it on top of bead R so the bead is in the hole of the ring.



19. Lift bead R and place it to the left of the ring as shown.



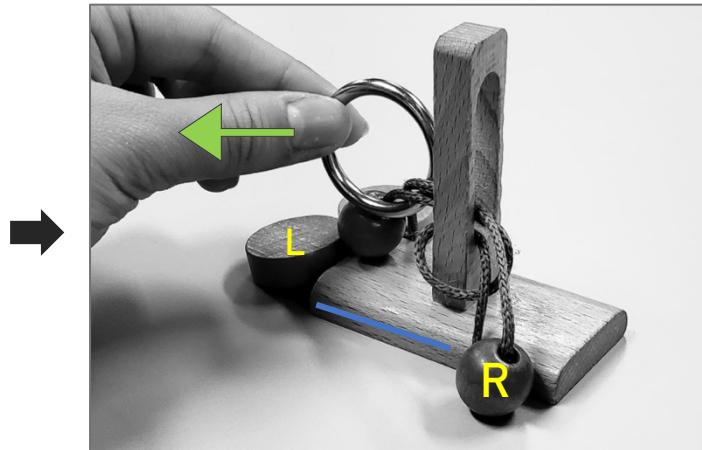
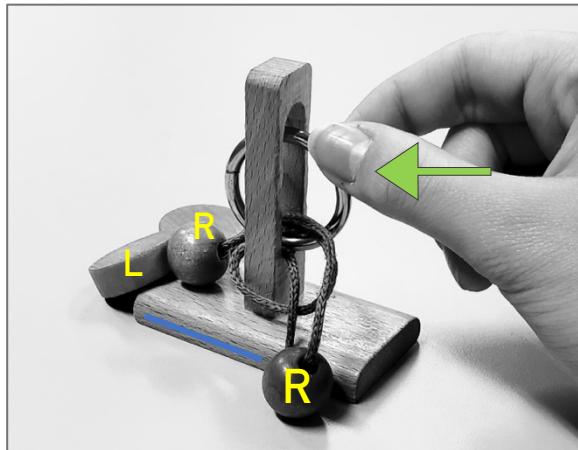
20. Turn the ring towards you and lift it to prepare to slot it through the post.



! **WARNING:** Make sure the rope is splayed as shown before proceeding.



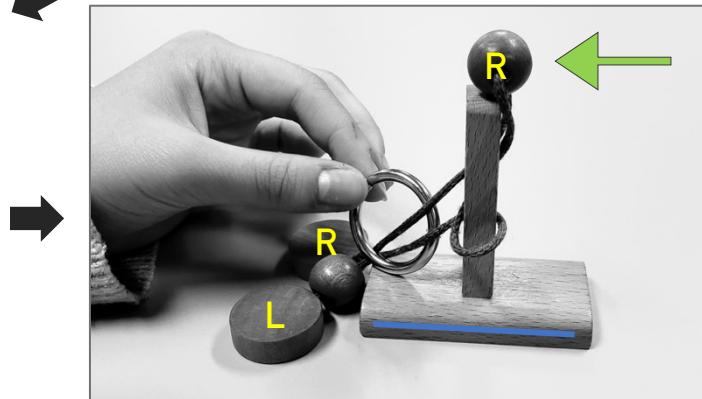
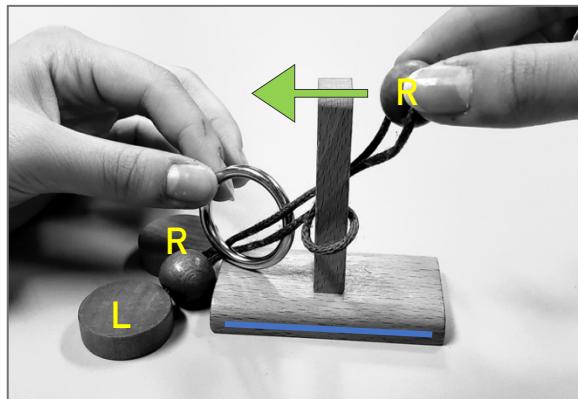
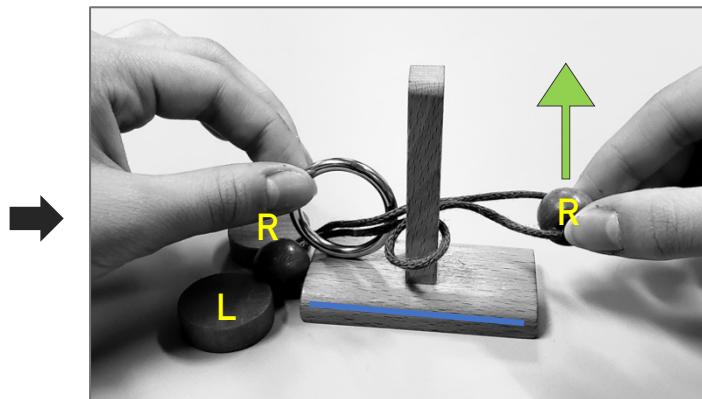
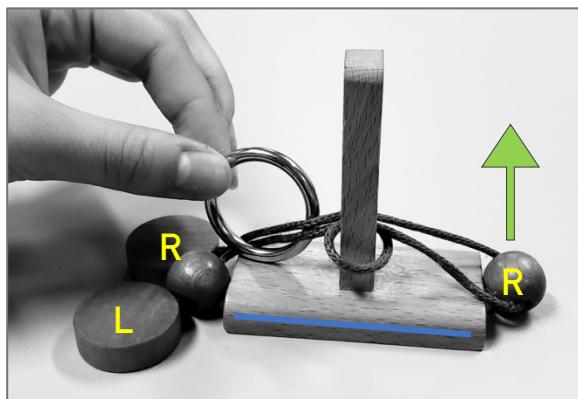
21. Slot the ring through the post (over the rope) towards the left side of the post.



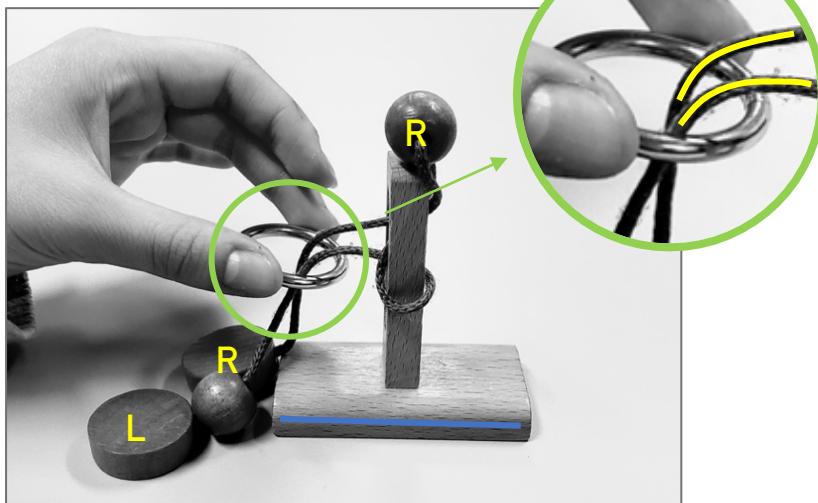
22. While holding the ring upright so the bottom is resting on the base of the puzzle, pick up bead R from the right side of the post and place it at the top of the post (keeping the strings splayed).



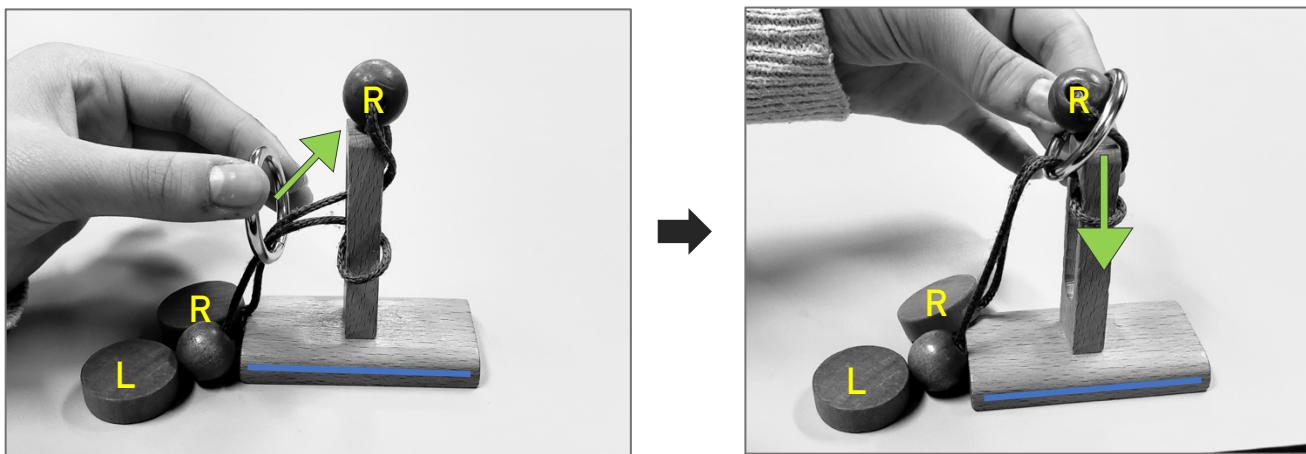
TIP: You may put the ring down temporarily but ensure that the rope does not cross itself when picking it up again for the next step.



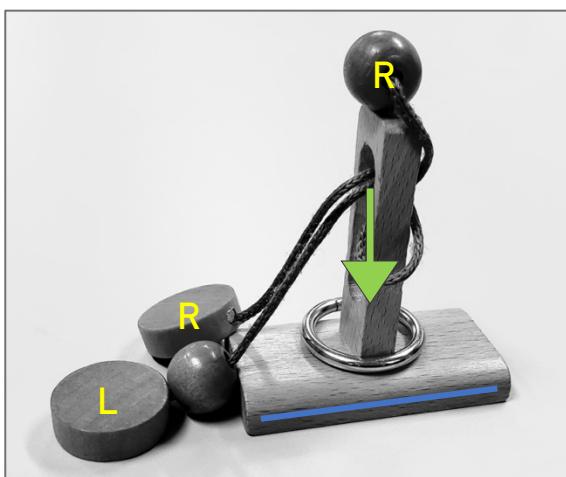
23. Rotate the ring 90 degrees away from you so the strings run through the ring as shown.



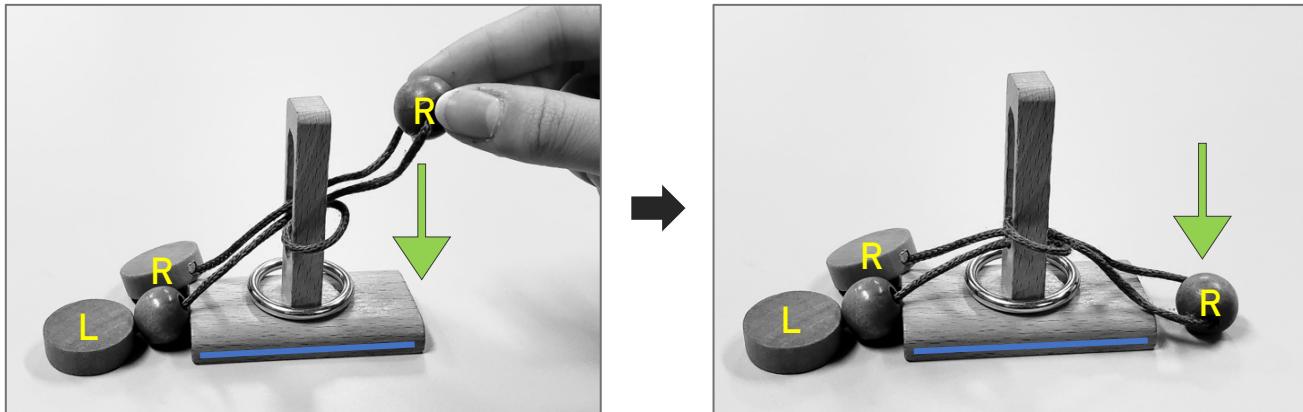
24. Lift the ring and flip it towards the right, over bead R, and onto the post.



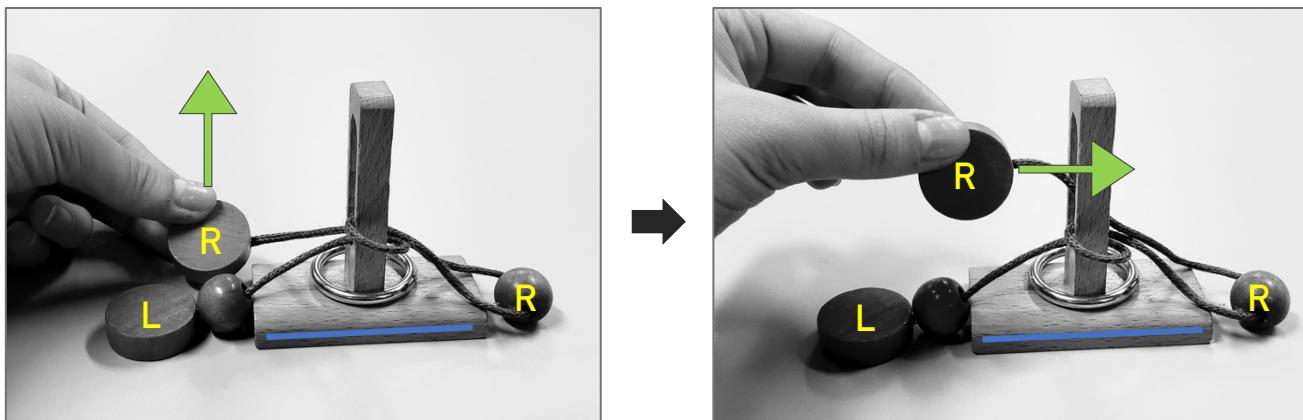
25. Lower the ring and place it at the bottom of the post.



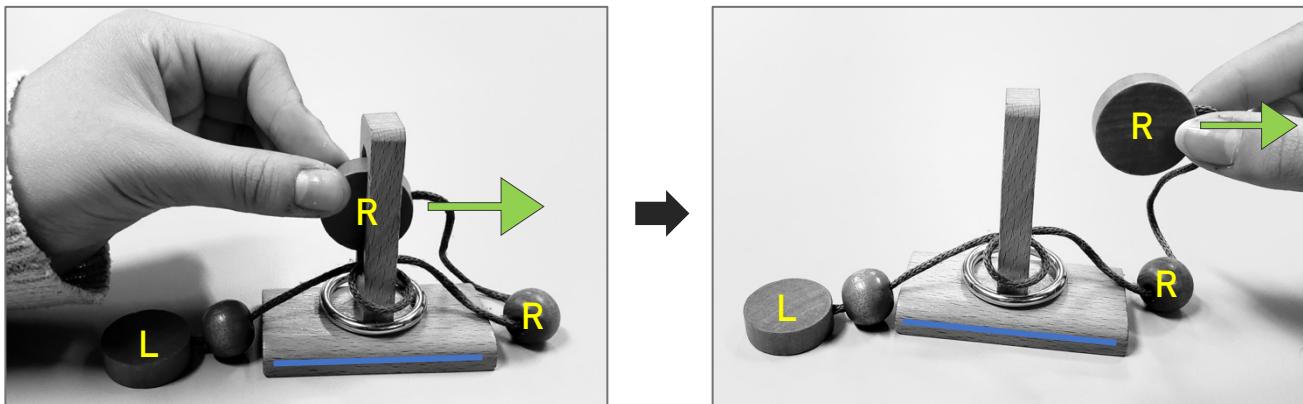
26. Remove bead R from the top of the post and place it to the right of the post (keeping the rope splayed).

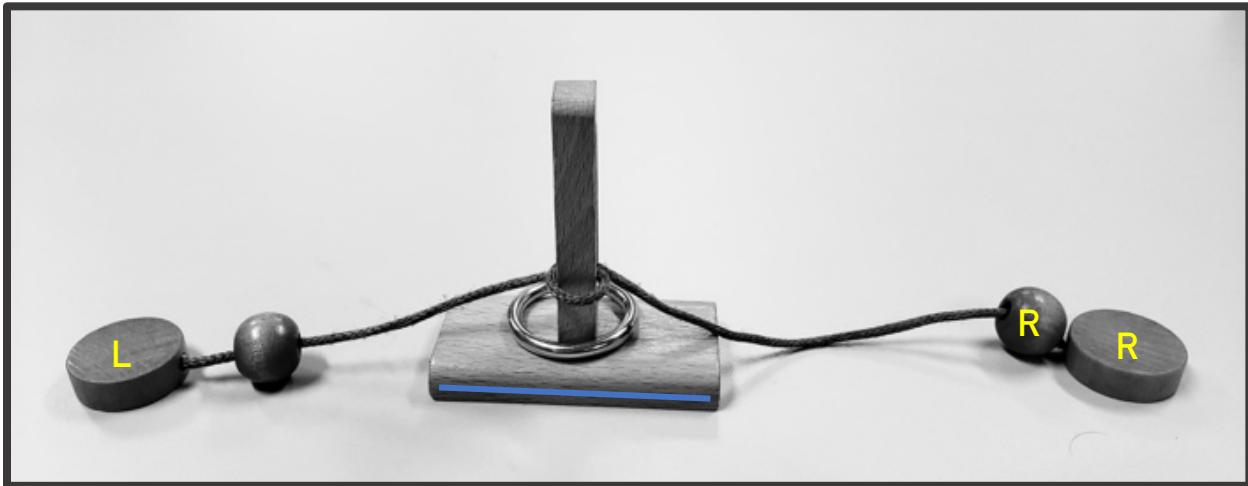


27. Lift disc R and prepare to slot it through the post towards the right.



28. Slot and pull disc R through the post towards the right and put disc R down on the right side of the post.





Congratulations! You have successfully reassembled the ring post puzzle!

END OF STAGE 3