

## Don't Peel the Stickers... (Solution)

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Answer: SMORGASBORD

13 Rubik's cube scrambles are given, each with one sticker missing. As hinted by the puzzle text, looking up [the scrambles of former 3x3 world records](#) reveals that they are the same as the ones given in the puzzle. All 14 of the most recent world record scrambles (from Yusheng Du's 3.47 to Feliks Zemdeg's 6.65 at Kubaroo Open 2011) are given, except for Mats Valk's 5.55 scramble.

Next, each of the 13 stickers must be identified, as well as the piece that the missing sticker belongs to. For each of the missing stickers, find the position on Mats Valk's 5.55 scramble that they belong.

The flavor text hints to look at the lettering scheme used for blindfolded solving (Speffz lettering scheme). Use the lettering scheme to get a letter for each of the positions. Note that the first seven positions are on corner pieces, and the next six positions are on edge pieces. The letters from the corners give "SWEDISH", and the letters from the edges give "BUFFET". This clue phrase gives the answer **SMORGASBORD**.

List of scrambles, sticker colors, pieces, and letters:

name	time	sticker color	piece	letter	scramble
feliks zemdeg's	6.65	B	WBR corner	S	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=L2_B2_U_F2_D_B2_F2_R-_D_R_F2_L_B_L-_U-_F2_D-_L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.65">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=L2_B2_U_F2_D_B2_F2_R-_D_R_F2_L_B_L-_U-_F2_D-_L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.65</a>
feliks zemdeg's	4.59	G	WGO corner	W	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_U_L2_U_R2_D2_B2_L2_R2_F-_U-_L2_R_F-_U_L-_B_D_F2_L&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.59">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_U_L2_U_R2_D2_B2_L2_R2_F-_U-_L2_R_F-_U_L-_B_D_F2_L&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.59</a>
mats valk	4.74	G	YGR corner	E	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=F2_U2_R2_F-_L2_F2_U-_R_F_D_U_F2_U_R_B_R2_U_B-_R-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Mats%20Valk%204.74">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=F2_U2_R2_F-_L2_F2_U-_R_F_D_U_F2_U_R_B_R2_U_B-_R-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Mats%20Valk%204.74</a>
feliks zemdeg's	4.73	O	YBO corner	D	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_F2_D2_L_R-_F-_L-_U-_B_F-_U-_R-_D_R-_U2_L_F2_D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.73">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_F2_D2_L_R-_F-_L-_U-_B_F-_U-_R-_D_R-_U2_L_F2_D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.73</a>
feliks zemdeg's	6.18	Y	YBO corner	I	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_F2_D2_L_R-_F-_L-_U-_B_F-_U-_R-_D_R-_U2_L_F2_D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.18">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_F2_D2_L_R-_F-_L-_U-_B_F-_U-_R-_D_R-_U2_L_F2_D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.18</a>
feliks	4.22	B	WBR	S	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=R2_L-_F2">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=R2_L-_F2</a>

zemdeg's			corner		<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2_F-_D_L2_B-_D_L_U_B2_U_B2_D2_L2_D-_F2_D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.22">D2 F- D L2 B- D L U B2 U B2 D2 L2 D- F2 D&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%204.22</a>
yusheng du	3.47	R	WBR corner	H	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=F_U2_L2_B2_F-_U_L2_U_R2_D2_L-_B_L2_B-_R2_U2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Yus-heng%20Du%203.47">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=F U2 L2 B2 F- U L2 U R2 D2 L- B L2 B- R2 U2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Yus-heng%20Du%203.47</a>
feliks zemdeg's	5.66	W	WG edge	B	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2_L2_D2_R2_B-_R2_F2_L2_U2_F-_R2_U_B_D_U-_L-_U_F-_U2_L2_F-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%205.66">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2 L2 D2 R2 B- R2 F2 L2 U2 F- R2 U B D U- L- U F- U2 L2 F-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%205.66</a>
collin burns	5.25	W	WR edge	U	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=U2_R2_U_B2_L2_R2_U2_F2_U-_F_R2_B2_R2_U-_L-_D2_U-_R_F2_L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Collin%20Burns%205.25">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=U2 R2 U B2 L2 R2 U2 F2 U- F R2 B2 R2 U- L- D2 U- R F2 L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Collin%20Burns%205.25</a>
seungbeom cho	4.59	R	GR edge	F	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2_F2_U_F2_D_R2_D_B_L-_B_R_U_L_R_U_L2_F_L-_U-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=SeungBeom%20Cho%204.59">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2 F2 U F2 D R2 D B L- B R U L R U L2 F L- U-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=SeungBeom%20Cho%204.59</a>
lucas etter	4.90	R	GR edge	F	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=R2_B_D2_F2_U2_R_D2_L-_B_L-_B_D_R-_F-_U_B2_F_L&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Lucas%20Etter%204.90">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=R2 B D2 F2 U2 R D2 L- B L- B D R- F- U B2 F L&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Lucas%20Etter%204.90</a>
patrick ponce	4.69	Y	YO edge	E	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2_R2_U_F2_D2_B_U-_R_U-_L_F_L_F-_L2_R_D_R-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Patrick%20Ponce%204.69">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=B2 R2 U F2 D2 B U- R U- L F L F- L2 R D R-&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Patrick%20Ponce%204.69</a>
feliks zemdeg's	6.24	W	WO edge	T	<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=L2_R2_F_R2_B2_L2_D2_F-_D-_L-_F-_U2_B_U2_L_F2_D-_B_L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.24">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=L2 R2 F R2 B2 L2 D2 F- D- L- F- U2 B U2 L F2 D- B L2&amp;type=reconstruction&amp;title=Feliks%20Zemdeg's%206.24</a>
mats valk	5.55				<a href="https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2_U-_R2_U_F2_D2_U-_R2_U-_B-_L2_R-_B-_D2_U_B2_L-_D-_R2&amp;title=Mats%20Valk%205.55">https://alg.cubing.net/?setup=D2 U- R2 U F2 D2 U- R2 U- B- L2 R- B- D2 U B2 L- D- R2&amp;title=Mats%20Valk%205.55</a>

*More details:*

### **Notes about the puzzle/Rubik's cubes:**

The puzzle title is not very relevant to the puzzle itself.

It is simply a reference to the joke of non-cubers solving a Rubik's cube by "peeling off the stickers", which is a terrible idea in terms of the effort required. The title does make a nod towards some stickers on the scrambles being removed, though.

The italicized flavor text hints "blind scheme", which if you Google with "Rubik's cube", you will get results about solving a Rubik's cube blindfolded. The lettering scheme used for blind solving is called the "Speffz lettering scheme", and goes as follows (from

<https://www.speedsolving.com/wiki/index.php/Speffz>):

- 1) **Pieces** on a **face** are lettered by starting as close to the upper left **corner** as possible, as seen from looking at the face directly. Starting corners are U face - UBL; L face - LBU; F face - FLU; R face - RFU; B face - BRU; D face - DLF
- 2) Pieces letter around the face clockwise, when looking at the face directly, starting at the piece as stated in #1 above. The letter A starts on the U face with UBL, and the letters continue around the face in order.
- 3) The face order to move around the cube is ULFRBD. This proceeds in a spiral around the cube in a clockwise fashion as seen from below the cube. The first letter on the L face is E, the first letter on the F face is I, etc.

Nonitalicized text: first sentence notes to look at the most recent world records. Doing some quick Googling, along with using the [alg.cubing.net](http://alg.cubing.net) visualizer, you will either find the actual reconstructions plugged into the visualizer, or find the scrambles for the world records that you can manually insert into the visualizer. Matching the most recent WR scrambles with the ones provided in the puzzle, you will notice that Mats Valk's 5.55 scramble is missing.

The "some things are missing." in the text suggests two things (with the plural "things"): stickers on each scramble are missing, and Mats Valk's 5.55 scramble is not listed.\

Note that each piece of a Rubik's cube contains 1, 2, or 3 stickers. The centers have 1 sticker, but they are not used in this puzzle. The edges have 2 stickers, and the corners have 3. Note that when turning the puzzle, the stickers on edges and corners stay together. I.e. there is ONE corner with white, blue, and red. No matter what turns you make to the cube, this piece will ALWAYS contain the stickers white, blue, and red, and no other piece will have these sticker colors. Thus, the reference to "the blue sticker of the white-blue-red corner" is a UNIQUE reference to one location on the cube, given a scramble.