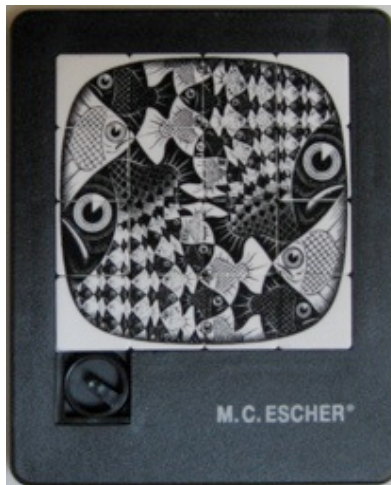


Sixteen Puzzle



a.k.a. *Fifteen Puzzle*

*Basic idea dates to before 1900, this Escher drawing purchased 2007.
(plastic, 3.6 by 2.9 inches)*

Like the *Fifteen* puzzle except there are sixteen pieces and a seventeenth extra space. The piece adjacent to the extra space in the solved position will always either be there (in which case no pieces can move until it is moved into the extra space) or be in the extra space. So this puzzle can be solved by first placing this piece in the extra space, solving the remaining Fifteen puzzle, and then moving this piece back. The position of the extra space does not matter, and varies from one puzzle to another. Here's one with the extra square by the upper right corner:



*Flintstones, circa 1965?
(plastic, 3.6 by 2.9 inches)*

Further reading:

Larabee Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 1,477,371

Green Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 2,007,530

Feller Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 5,529,301

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