

Ma's Puzzle

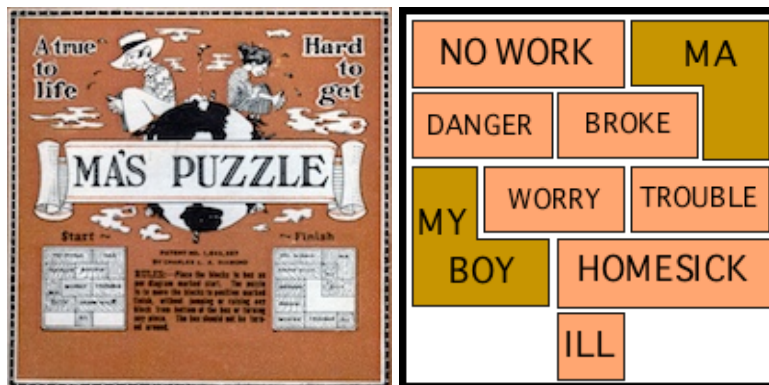


a.k.a. Spirit of '76, Wooden Puzzle, Rectangle Puzzle

Patented by C. L. A. Diamond, 1927.

(orange cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1/2 inch)

Starting with the position shown below, slide the pieces so that the two L's form a 3 high by 2 wide rectangle in the upper right corner. Described on pages 16-17 of the 1942 *Filipiak book* (which presents a 56 move solution). *Hordern's book* presents a 23 rectilinear moves (26 straight-line moves) solution and two variations: make a rectangle from the two L's anywhere (19 rectilinear moves / 22 straight-line moves) and make a 2 high by 3 wide rectangle in the upper right corner (37 rectilinear moves / 41 straight-line moves).



The Solution That Came with Ma's Puzzle

SOLUTION TO MA'S PUZZLE

Ill to left; Homesick down; Trouble down; Worry to extreme right; My Boy to extreme right; Ill to the left and up; Homesick to left; Trouble down; Worry down; Broke down; Ma down; No Work to right; Danger up; Ill to extreme top; My Boy to extreme left; Broke to left and up; Worry left, up and again to the left; Ma down; Broke to right; Worry up; My Boy to the right; joining Ma and My Boy to make a rectangle whose longest side is from left to right; Ill to extreme down; Worry to the left and down; Broke to left; Ma up; My Boy to right joining Ma; Broke to right; Worry to right; Ill up; Homesick up; Trouble to left; My Boy down; Ma down; Broke to right; Worry up; Homesick up; Trouble up; My Boy to left; Ma down; Homesick to right; Trouble down; Ill down; Worry to left and down; Broke to left; Homesick up; Ma up; My Boy to right; Ill to right and down to bottom; Trouble up; Ill to left; My Boy to left and up; Ill to right; Trouble down and to the right; Worry down to bottom; Broke all the way down; Danger all the way down; No work to left; Homesick to left; Ma to top, My Boy to right and up, which solves the puzzle.

The Harlekin Version Of Ma's Puzzle



Made by Harlekin, Germany, circa 2000?

(cardboard box, wood tray, and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1 inch)

The booklet that comes with this puzzle gives the simpler problem that is also addressed in Hordern's book, of making a rectangle from the two L's anywhere (19 rectilinear moves corresponding to 22 straight-line moves); here is the solution given:

Und so wird's gemacht
That's the way it is done

9/L		8/U		6/U		5/R		7/R		9/O		8/L
6/U		5/U		4/U		2/U		1/R		3/O		9/O
9/R		7/L		7/O		5/L		4/U		4/R		9/U

<p>L = nach Links R = nach Rechts O = nach Oben U = nach Unten</p>	<p>L = to the left R = to the right O = to the top U = to the bottom</p>
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<p style="text-align: center;">z. B.</p> <p>6/U = Der Stein 6 wird um einen Schritt nach unten geschoben</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">e. g.</p> <p>6/U = Stone 6 is moved to the bottom by one step</p>
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Other Versions Of Ma's Puzzle



A true to life Hard to get

MA'S PUZZLE

Start ~ ~ Finish

NO WORK	MA
DANGER	BIRORE
MY	WORRY TROUBLE
BOY	HOME SICK
	ILL

PATENT NO. 1,033,397
BY CHARLES L. A. DIAMOND

RULES:—Place the blocks in box as per diagram marked start. The puzzle is to move the blocks to position marked finish, without jumping or raising any block from bottom of the box or turning any piece. The box should not be turned around.

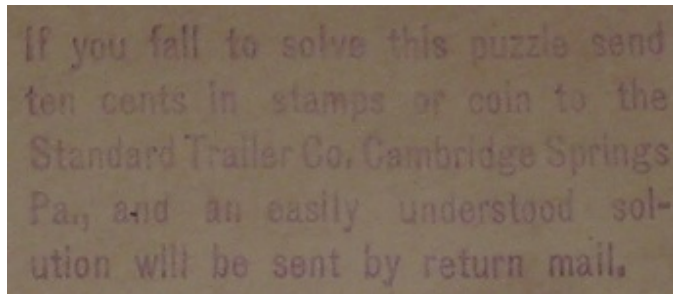
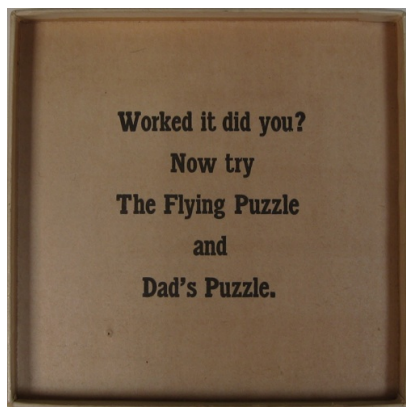
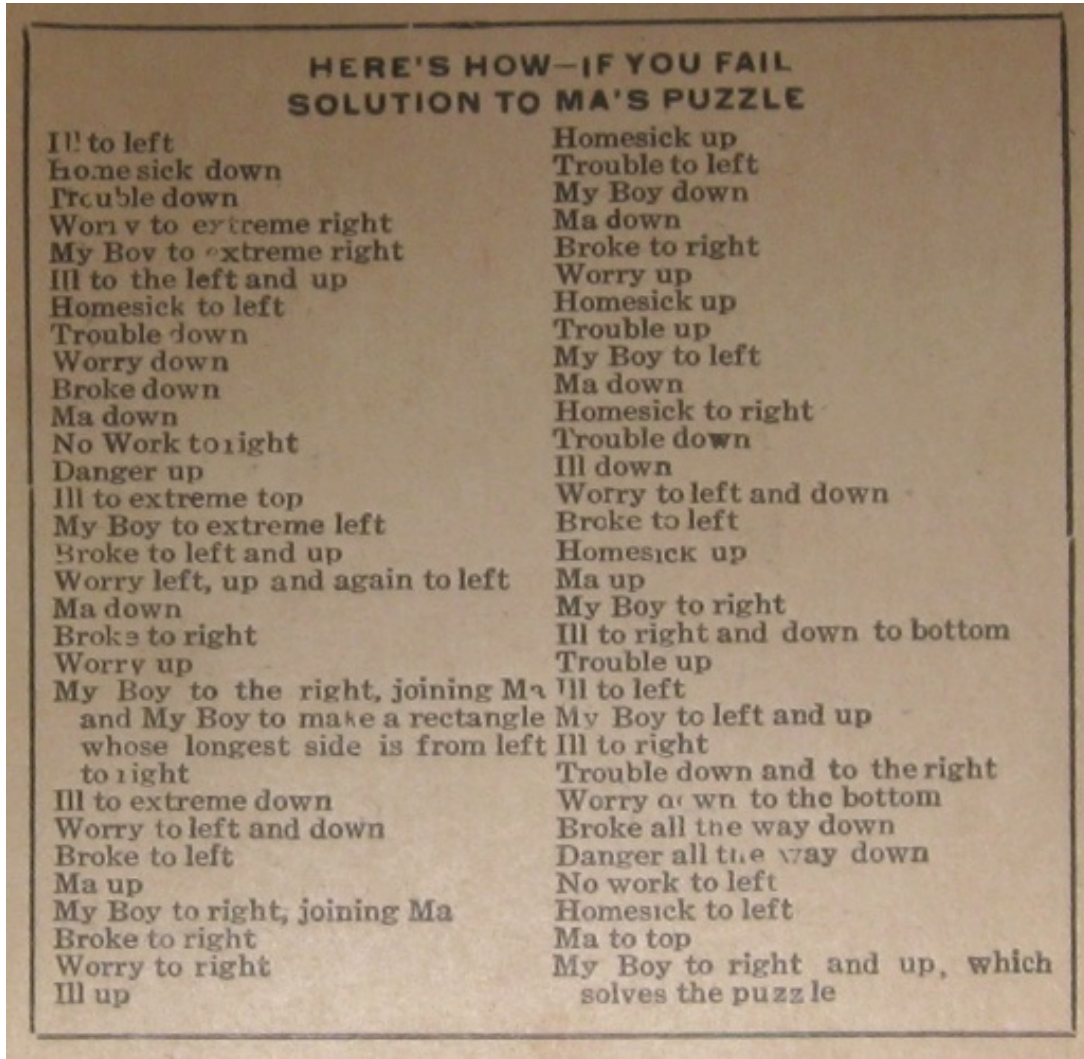
NO WORK	MA
HOME SICK	MY
DANGER	BOY
BIRORE	
WORRY	TROUBLE ILL

**MANUFACTURED BY
THE STANDARD TRAILER CO.
CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA.**

"MANUFACTURED BY THE STANDARD TRAILER CO. CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS, PA."
(blue / light blue / red / orange cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4" x 4" x 1/2")

Other Versions of Ma's Puzzle Continued

The Standard Trailer versions of Ma's Puzzle on the previous page have various things written in the box. Inside the box lid the red and orange ones have a solution, whereas the blue and light blue ones invite you to send ten cents for one. Also, on the bottom, under the pieces, the blue and light blue ones advertize *The Flying Puzzle* and *Dad's Puzzle*:



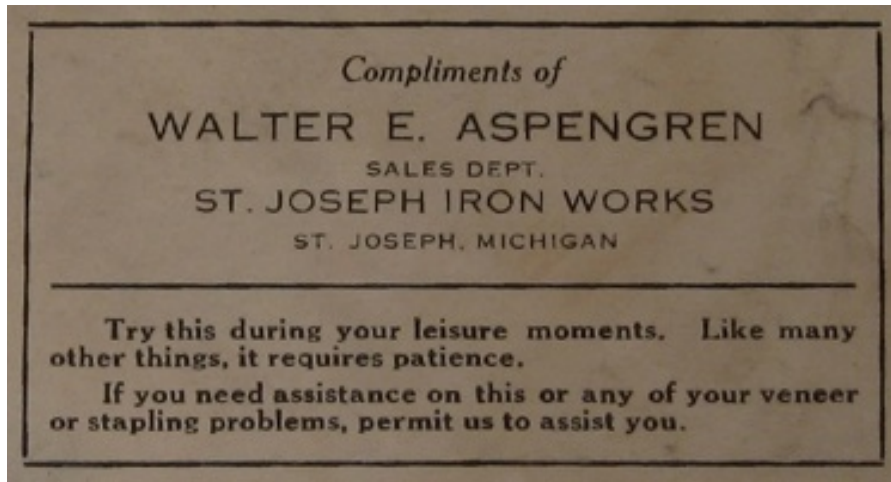
Other Versions of Ma's Puzzle Continued



"DISTRIBUTOR BONA FIDE BROOM & NOVELTY CO. PACOMIMA, CALIF."
 (blue / light blue cardboard box and 9 wood pieces, 4 by 4 by 1/2 inches)

Try It During Your Leisure Moments

The Bona Fide Broom version of Ma's Puzzle on the previous page (blue box) has this label on the inside of the top cover:



Further Reading

Diamond Patent, from: www.uspto.gov - patent no. 1,633,397