

Helter Skelter

Kit Inventory

- Front, Left, Back, Right and Bottom Inner Box Panels
- Holder Panel (left)
- Upper Spacer (left), Middle Spacer (left), Lower Spacer (left)
- Upper Slider Holder (left), Lower Slider Holder (left)
- Holder Panel (right)
- Upper Spacer (right), Middle Spacer (right), Lower Spacer (right)
- Upper Slider Holder (right), Lower Slider Holder (right)
- Upper Spacer (front), Slider Holder (front), Lower Spacer (front)
- Upper Spacer (back), Middle Spacer (back), Lower Spacer (back)
- Upper Slider Holder (back), Lower Slider Holder (back)
- Two (2) Runner (lid), Two (2) Holder (lid)
- Two (2) Runner (base), Two (2) Runner Filler (base)
- Two (2) Holder (base), Two (2) Holder Filler (base)
- Upper Rail (front), Lower Rail (front), Two End Rail (front)
- Upper Rail (back), Lower Rail (back), Two End Rail (back)
- Lid Outer Panel, Base Outer Panel
- Upper Outer (front), Slider (front), Lower Outer (front)
- Upper Outer (back), Middle Outer (back), Lower Outer (back)
- Upper Slider (back), Lower Slider (back)
- Upper Outer (left), Middle Outer (left), Lower Outer (left)
- Upper Slider (left), Lower Slider (left)
- Upper Outer (right), Middle Outer (right), Lower Outer (right)
- Upper Slider (right), Lower Slider (right)
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- Black (.280") alignment pegs (34+)
- Orange (.150") alignment pegs (14+)

Other Items Needed

- Glue – I use a “craft” type tacky glue such as “Aleenes Tacky Glue” which can be found at craft stores like Michael’s.
- Sandpaper - to smooth any rough edges and make parts slide easier.
- Wax/paraffin – also to make parts slide better.

General Notes:

- All writing on parts is oriented the same way on each side unless otherwise noted.
- This puzzle is assembled with the writing on the plywood pieces facing out. When the outer layer pieces are glued on the writing on those pieces faces inwards.
- The alignment pegs are of different lengths depending upon the number of layers that are being placed together. Be careful to use the correct length. The pegs are easier to push through the holes if you start them on the side of the piece that has writing.
- Check the fit before gluing and sand/file any pieces that do not slide smoothly
- I find that light sanding of the faces of sliding pieces makes for better boxes. I also use paraffin/candle wax on the surfaces to get smoothly moving pieces.
- I use Aleene's tacky glue for gluing parts. I glue the pieces and then hold them together for ~15 seconds and they will stay in place until the glue dries.
- Be careful when attaching outer sides, spacers and covers to keep glue away from areas where it might squeeze out underneath and get on any of the sliding parts. If possible glue those parts without the sliding pieces in place so you can clean up any glue squeeze out.
- Clean up glue squeeze out while the glue is still soft as it is much harder after it dries.
- When sanding flat sides it is better to place the sheet of sandpaper on a flat surface and move the puzzle piece over the sandpaper. This keeps the face flat and prevents rounding over the edges.
- If tabs seem too fat to fit in slots then sand them with a couple of passes of 100 grit sandpaper on each side of the tabbed piece.
- If tabbed pieces do not seat fully in the pocket areas, then sand the ends of the tabs .

Assemble Inner Box

Start by gluing the front, left, back, right and bottom panels together. The writing on the side panels should be facing outwards and the writing on the bottom panel should face towards the inside of the box/towards the top.



After the glue is dry sand the four sides of the box with 100 grit sandpaper to remove any ridges and make it smooth for any sliding pieces. Then sand it with 180/220 grit sandpaper to make it really smooth for the sliding panels.

Add Spacer Pieces

Using the black (.280") pegs add the spacer pieces to the front and back sides of the box. The pegs should be flush with the inside of the box.



After the glue has dried check the fit of the front and back slider holders. Make sure that they slide smoothly between the spacer pieces.

Front & Back Outer Pieces

Glue the upper and lower front outer pieces to the front spacers. Be careful applying the glue since only a portion of the outer pieces needs glue on it.

Glue the upper, middle and lower back outer pieces to the back spacers. The same caution applies as it did for the front.

The remainder of the instructions are included with the kit.

Apply Finish

If you are going to apply finish to the puzzle that should be done now. Sand the box and lid with 180/220 sandpaper and put on your favorite stain/finish or paint the box/lid. Be careful when applying finish on the front & back sides of the box so that the sliding pieces do not get stuck by the finish. Many light coats of finish and making sure the sliders still move between coats works best. Make sure to put finish on both sides of the lid piece and bottom piece. After the finish is dry you can assemble your puzzle and you are done.



