

The Teabox Puzzle

The Teabox Puzzle is one of the first of several “*jousting projects*” between Robert and artist Kelly Snake. A while back, Robert laid down a challenge among some puzzle artists to participate in a sort of “puzzle joust”. Such a competition involves a mechanical box fashioned by one artist, then sent to another to solve and modify in some other way. The goal is to successfully modify a puzzlebox to the point where the other artist cannot figure out how to get it open, or has to give up because he can no longer find a way or space on the box by which to modify it further.



Kelly has been the only puzzle artist willing to accept this challenge so far, and indeed has proved most formidable and cunning in his contributions. Kelly differs from Robert in his style of puzzlebox crafting, as his niche is to alter existing (often vintage) boxes with handcrafted wooden mechanisms, while Robert tends to design his puzzles from scratch. Still, in the realm of puzzleboxes, Kelly perhaps comes the closest to mirroring the same style of creative mechanical parts as found in most Stickman boxes.

This puzzle was not a formal joust, but rather a warm up, as each artist only added a single mechanical component to it. These puzzles are not overly complex to solve once their tricks are discovered, but they are fun for the price. One fun aspect to this puzzle is that Robert’s contribution made use of the tag and string that came with the tea bags, and several collectors removed the string prior to figuring out the puzzle, and then had to ship it back to be repaired.

Limited Edition Status: Limited to 20.

Production Dates: (Jun. 2011 – Jun. 2011)

Original Sale Price: \$65

Wood types: Basswood

Variations: Differing pictures on tea boxes.

Size: 4” x 3”x 3”.

Number of Compartments: 1

Number of Steps: Minimum of 2.

Difficulty Level: Easy

Instruction Book: N/A (but instructions on leaflet).

Special features: N/A

Goal: Open the box.