

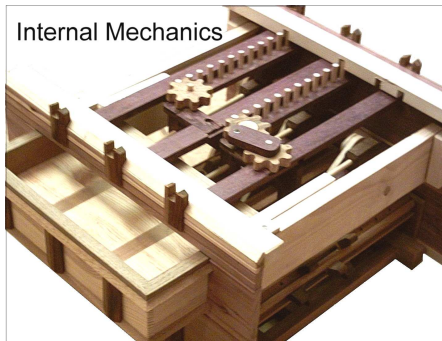
# The Stickman Pirate's Puzzle Chest

Fashioned after a portion of Charles Babbage's difference engine, the Stickman Pirate's Puzzle Chest is internally a form of simple mechanical computer. By exchanging gears with levers, Robert simplified and improved upon Babbage's design. Levers proved to be a more efficient method for this puzzle, as simply adjusting a fulcrum produced the same adjustable input to output ratios as complex gear assemblies.



The chest functions as a re-programmable cipher machine, translating the input of latitude, longitude, and physical landmarks from an included pirate's map into the output of distance and direction as a part of a treasure hunt theme.

Secret compartments contain normal pirate items, such as a compass, blunderbuss bullets, and a bag of black pearls. Such are not booty, but rather serve as input counters for the chest's mechanical cipher mechanism.



When placed within drawer slots, pearls and bullets represent map coordinates that engage with the chest's mechanics, causing the external compass to change direction, a distance rod to push out, and an internal landmark wheel to spin, thus revealing the next location on the pirate's map. Figuring out how the machine works and decoding its complex cipher is the only way to find the location of the pirate's buried treasure chest, and upon its solution will also unlock the last hidden compartment holding its key.

Though commissioned by Jim Strayer as a one of a kind puzzle, two other copies (prototypes) of this chest were eventually crafted from spare parts. It was refreshing for Robert to tailor a puzzle with a particular collector in mind, and Jim's fondness for ciphers and treasure hunts was paramount in this design. Crafting such a limited number also allowed Robert to focus his attention more on the design portion of puzzle making than on the tedious duplication and assembly of identical parts. And as a bonus, the cipher machine's ability to be re-programmable allows it to be employed for different maps, and its removable compass makes it usable for real-life treasure hunts as well.



Catering to its treasure hunt theme, an elaborate amount of detail also went into the historical context of this puzzle. This is a chest that comes with a story based upon the historic details, with a real-life pirate and a real lost treasure. As an aspect of role-play, the sleuth is commissioned by the King of Britain to solve this chest's cipher to regain the treasure from one of his pirated vessels.

The chest comes with a formal letter bearing the king's seal, a map consistent with the era and location of the lost treasure, and even the glass eye of the scallywag caught fleeing with the chest when the pirate ship sank. Along with the items hidden in the chest, these are necessary components to solve the puzzle. Maintaining this theme, the



Pirate's Puzzle Chest was also crafted using only woods, techniques, and styles consistent with that era.

- Limited Edition Status:** One-of-a-kind  
(2 prototypes also exist).
- Production Dates:** (Dec. 2010 – May 2011)
- Original Sale Price:** (Priceless)
- Wood types:** Exotic Cedar, Cocobolo & Cabreuva
- Variations:** N/A
- Size:** 18" x 16" x 12"
- Number of Compartments:** 6
- Number of Steps:** Minimum of 89.
- Difficulty Level:** Difficult
- Instruction Book:** 10-pages.
- Special features:** Carved feet, wooden gears, re-programmable cipher mechanism.

**Goal:** Use items found in secret compartments to solve its cipher, locate the treasure, and unlock its hidden key compartment.

