

The Stickman Apothecary Puzzlechest

The Apothecary Puzzle Chest is a historic and monumental project conceived by Robert. The concept was for a large apothecary style chest, that was not only an elaborate puzzle by itself, but also contained multiple puzzlebox drawers that were contributed by other contemporary artists. The goal was a project that would represent an entire generation of the best puzzle craftsmen.

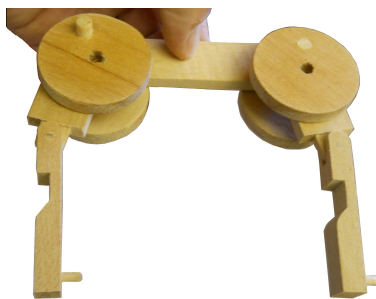
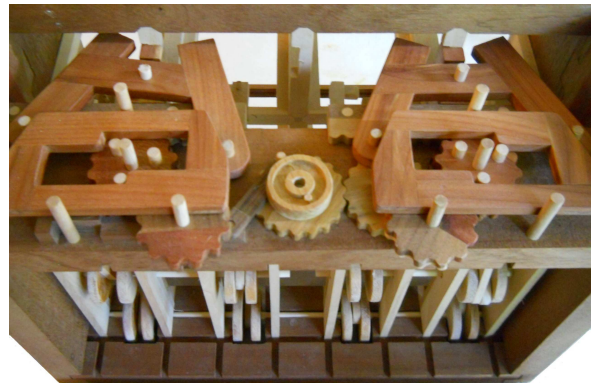
The project consisted of twelve exceptional puzzle designers, each of whom produced 15 identical puzzleboxes that most closely reflected their particular styles. In exchange, they each received a personal copy of the chest, with the additional copies being auctioned to pay for group production costs.



The chest is designed so that only a single puzzlebox can be removed from it at a time. Each puzzle must then be solved, and re-inserted before the next drawer will come free. Most puzzle drawers contain a hidden mechanical component, without which the chest will not unlock the next drawer for removal. This forces artists to solve and appreciate the work of their peers in order to solve the chest in its entirety.

The particular mechanics of this chest allows one or more drawers to slide out as others are pressed in,

and discovering this apparently random process is part of the solution. Mechanically, this process is accomplished with an intricate cam and piston system, (pictured). Cams can also be removed from the chest and re-inserted in different configurations to provide multiple solutions. The mechanical pistons are just as intricate. As a solved puzzle is pressed back into its slot, its piston will lift up to engage and lock the puzzle into the chest while still allowing it to slide freely as part of the machine.



Very little restrictions were placed upon any of the contributing artists, aside from size, uniqueness, and general quality of their puzzlebox drawers. The chest was designed around the mechanical attributes of each individual contribution, as opposed to artists conforming their designs to accommodate the chest. The idea was to allow the unique flavor, style, and ability of each contributing member to be fully represented and unhindered.