Three in a Row

Three in a Row is a simple apparatus puzzle designed by Robert E Neale. The object is to fold the puzzle up into a flat strip in which one square of each colour is arranged in a row.

The solution is very simple to achieve but difficult to conceive of. That is the genius of Robert E Neale.

The solution can be found on the Puzzles page of this site. As always it is far

Designed by Robert E Neale



better to play with the effect / puzzle and discover the manipulation / solution for yourself than to look it up at too early a stage.

You will find a template for the puzzle on the last page of this pdf, or a slightly larger version on the Puzzles page of this site, which you can print, cut out and fold up following the instructions below.



1. Cut the template out, remove both central squares and crease carefully along all the boundaries between the remaining sixteen small squares. Fold all the creases backwards as well as forwards so that all the segments move freely in relation to each other in both directions. When you have done this turn the template over sideways.

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2. Apply glue to the area of the template shown shaded here then fold the left half onto the right half so that all the edges line up and press firmly together. If necessary, trim the edges slightly to neaten them. Leave to dry.

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3. Make sure all the creases between the small squares still work as hinges in both directions. The challenge is to fold the puzzle up, using only the creases you have already made, so that you end up with a flat strip made up of one square of each of the three colours. Three in a Row!



4. The three colours can be in any order.

Good luck!

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Remove this square	
Remove this square	

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