

Jigsaw

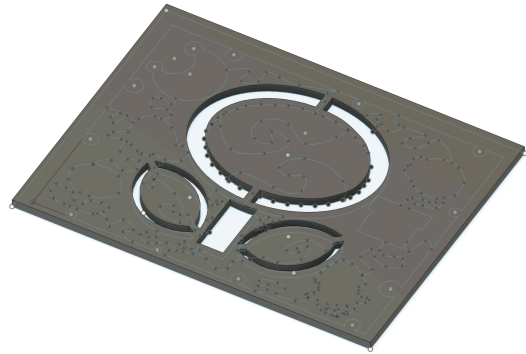
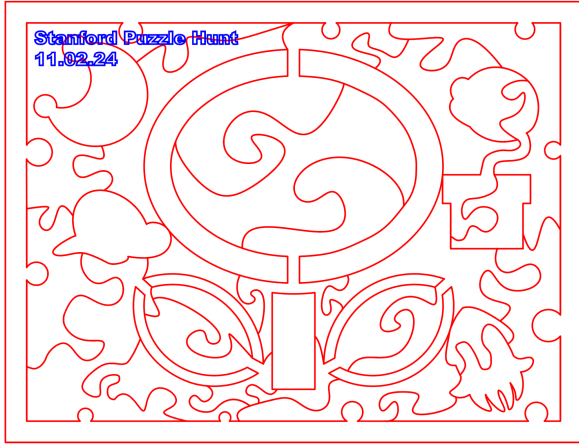
By Kristie Park

SETTER THOUGHTS: Since the whole point of a jigsaw puzzle is to (normally) put together all the pieces to reveal an image printed on top of each piece, I wanted to create an alternative where there are some intentionally placed missing pieces. The idea was to have puzzlers identify the shape formed by the missing pieces. Initially, I was thinking of ways to theme the jigsaw with Mario Kart, and thought of indexing into the names of F1 tracks. Upon further thought, this felt like it would require too much Googling, so I thought of making the negative image the shape of a single Mario Kart track such as Toad Circuit:



After asking a couple people to Google Mario Kart track shapes however, I realized it was too difficult to identify the track. Thus, I ended up choosing “FIREFLOWER” as my answer because a) the shape was in theme b) recognizable and c) because I had previously scrapped a different puzzle idea where the answer had been FIREFLOWER (lol). I included puzzle pieces shaped like characters in the Mario franchise to clue the theming of the puzzle.

Regarding manufacturing, I used a combination of Fusion360 and Adobe Illustrator to design the puzzle and prepare a file fit for laser cutting. Puzzles were cut from sheets of birch plywood due to the availability and affordability of the material at the PRL. One sheet of 10 puzzles took about 1.25 hours to cut, and then I packaged them into bags I made by heat sealing a roll of plastic. Special shout out to Mira and Ellen for helping me laser cut 150 puzzles!



SOLUTION: Solve the jigsaw by placing all the puzzle pieces together! Then, look at the shape created by the missing puzzle pieces. I wonder what type of plant it is....

