

The Bridge Solution

This rather nice little puzzle box, with pictures of Japanese garden bridges all around, works very similar to the traditional Japanese puzzle box, in that all the moves are controlled by only two sliders, one at each end. These sliders allow the end panels to move vertically, and they in turn allow the top and bottom panels to move horizontally. Eventually, the top panel will slide off sideways. That's what normally happens... However, just when you think the lid is about to come off, the box appears to lock up. Strangely, the only way to get the lid off, is to start closing the box again... This box takes 44 moves to open; 4 more to remove all the panels.



The Bridge puzzle box fully closed.

Both end sliders will move in the same direction, but only one end panel will move. Find the end panel that will move, and hold the box so that this panel is on the left, moved downwards slightly, and both sliders slid out towards you.

In this position, steps 1, 2 and 4 are already done. Now follow the steps shown on the right.



The Bridge puzzle box with all the panels removed.

If you haven't made this puzzle, then this solution isn't really any use to you. However, it might help you to decide whether to make this puzzle box.

To open the box, just to follow these steps:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. left slider forwards | 23. right panel downwards |
| 2. left panel down | 24. top panel to the right |
| 3. top panel to the left | 25. left panel upwards |
| 4. right slider forwards | 26. bottom panel to the left |
| 5. right panel upwards | 27. right panel downwards |
| 6. bottom panel to the right | 28. top panel to the right |
| 7. left slider forwards | 29. left panel upwards |
| 8. left panel down | 30. right slider backwards |
| 9. top panel to the left | 31. right panel downwards |
| 10. right slider forwards | 32. top panel to the right |
| 11. right panel upwards | 33. left slider backwards |
| 12. bottom panel to the right | 34. left panel upwards |
| 13. left slider forwards | 35. bottom panel to the left |
| 14. left panel down | 36. right slider backwards |
| 15. top panel to the left | 37. right panel downwards |
| 16. right slider forwards | 38. top panel to the right |
| 17. right panel upwards | 39. left slider backwards |
| 18. left slider forwards | 40. left panel upwards |
| 19. right slider forwards | 41. bottom panel to the left |
| 20. right panel downwards | 42. right slider backwards |
| 21. left panel upwards | 43. right panel downwards |
| 22. bottom panel to the left | 44. top panel to the right and off- |

-and continue on to remove all panels:

45. left slider backwards
46. left panel upwards and off
47. bottom panel to the left and off
48. right panel down and off.

So, to assemble the box, simply follow these steps in reverse! Good luck!

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