

Dear Sir/Madam:

I strongly believe that you will find the CONUNDRUM to have significant potential and I am very much hoping that you will decide to proceed with it, from here to the retail market. As you can see, it is a "next-generation Rubik's Cube"-type puzzle, specifically one where on each of the six faces the nine coloured stickers have been replaced by the nine letters of the word CONUNDRUM. Even in the unscrambled state the letters don't appear to be in any particular order but they have in fact been arranged with great care (please see below); furthermore I put a great effort into making sure (as far as is possible) that the proposed puzzle represents the best possible puzzle of this type, i.e. of 3x3x3 cubes in which prior to solving the problem one has no obvious way of knowing what the unscrambled cube is supposed to look like, something which is of course immediately apparent with the standard cube. This type of puzzle thus definitely adds a whole extra level to the standard cube.

When the customer gets the puzzle it should be in a scrambled state and accompanied by a note that reads: "Rearrange the cube so that each of the six faces contains all of the nine letters in CONUNDRUM. The letters don't have to be in any particular order but on/within each face all of the letters have to be orientated in the same direction". Needless to say, I myself believe that there isn't a Rubik's Cube enthusiast in the world--as well as a very large number of other people with a general interest in cracking tough problems--who wouldn't want to sink their teeth into this challenge, and the ideal outcome would be for it to become recognized by this community as being the best possible puzzle of this type.

Now the letters clearly have to have been arranged in a very special way in the original design, to provide a pre-arranged path back to the unscrambled state; however, even if a special arrangement did provide such a path "in theory", that wouldn't necessarily make it good --and in practice there is indeed a whole spectrum of better and worse arrangements; at the extreme "bad" end of the

spectrum, off the scale actually, would be a lousy non-puzzle "created" by just writing down the nine letters of the puzzle's name at random on each face and then scrambling the cube! --but the result would then be that although we would know for sure that there was at least one solution (the original state), it would not at all be certain that it would be humanly possible to find it*, and even if someone could do so the whole exercise would be nothing more than a stupid grind anyway.

At the opposite end of the spectrum would be a puzzle constructed with great finesse, with the letters arranged in such a way as to provide a set of clues to unravelling the mystery which were subtly hidden yet relatively simple in themselves, "obvious" in retrospect--very much as in the best and most intriguing detective mysteries, in fact!--and as I stated above, I have made every effort to ensure that the CONUNDRUM-arrangement is as close as possible to the "finesse" end of the spectrum.

The situation is thus the following: as far as the **Patents** on the mechanism of the "Rubik's Cube" are concerned, these have expired a long time ago--this is a matter of public record; as far as **Copyright** is concerned, as you very well know this only protects the expression of an idea and not the idea itself, thus anyone would have the right to come up with alternative arrangements as long as they are not too similar to the one proposed here. Now this isn't a problem at all, as a matter of fact it would be a very good thing!--in the light of what I have implied above about the proposed arrangement being at least fairly close to the "finesse end of the spectrum", this would only serve to highlight the (hopefully) "original and best"-character of the proposed arrangement. Finally, as far as **Trademark**-protection is concerned, please see the note** below.

I am very much hoping that this letter will prove to be the start of a fruitful cooperation between us and I would like to suggest that it wouldn't be a bad idea at all for us to meet personally, at which time you could examine the prototypes that I have prepared.

Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

With best regards,

Peter Tchamitch

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At least with the 2x2 plus 5x1 distribution of the letters in "CONUNDRUM"; with a simple 9x1 distribution, i.e. nine different letters, it might just be (humanly) possible to solve a random arrangement, depending also on the overall relative orientation of (the letters on) the faces in the original/solved state.

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The name "CONUNDRUM" cannot be Trademarked as it can to some extent be seen as a description of the product, however I have an alternative which is even better I think, and you might very well be able to come up with something which is even better than that! The only requirement is to have two letters doubled up and one each of the remaining five, otherwise the puzzle won't work. Of course one doesn't even have to use letters at all, and I am sure that you would be able to come up with all sorts of alternative symbols which could be customized for specific markets at your discretion.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to formally state for the record that the proposal is 100% original/own work and is also 100% technically sound, i.e. the puzzle contains no hidden errors, having been checked hundreds of times in minute detail.