

Speedcubing

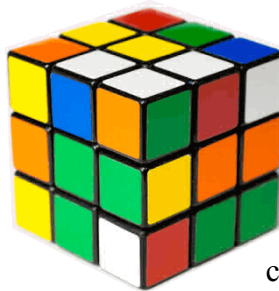
I discovered speedcubing (the art of solving the Rubik's Cube quickly) by happy accident. It was February 2003 and one evening I stumbled upon a website that professed to have a method of solving any Rubik's Cube. I was a non-believer. You had to be a genius to solve a Rubik's Cube, no? Sure...I had a cube back in the 80s like everyone else and, like everyone else, I peeled off the stickers after hours of futility spent trying to restore the cube to a state of monochromatic bliss.



The website piqued my curiosity so I went out and bought a Rubik's Cube the next day. I went back to the website and, after an hour and a half of fumbling through the algorithms (sequences of turns that are designed to move a small number of pieces on the cube while leaving most of the cube unaffected), I was amazed that I was holding a solved Rubik's Cube! I scrambled it again and I was hooked.

After A LOT of practice, I've gotten my average solve time down to about 18 seconds with a best average in competition (yes, there are Rubik's Cube competitions!) of 16.53 seconds. At one point this put me solidly in the top 100 in the world! In order to get fast, one needs to memorize an efficient system for solving the cube (the Fridrich Method is the most popular system; it's named after its inventor, Jessica Fridrich, an engineering professor at SUNY Binghamton in upstate New York) and practice to the point where the algorithms can be performed quick-ly and fluidly.

Competitions now include many the Pyraminx (a pyramid shaped dodecahedron), and cubes of size compete in the traditional Rubik's solving it one handed, blindfolded,



other "twisty puzzles" including puzzle), the Megaminx (a 2x2x2 through 7x7x7. Cubers also Cube in non-traditional ways: and even with feet.

There are some websites below your journey into the world of speed- beginner's solution method, a video of me solving at a tournament at Rutgers University, a video of the world record holder, Feliks Zemdegs, a 14 year old from Australia, and information about an upcoming tournament at MIT on November 13 (it's free for spectators so come on by and be sure to introduce yourself!).

that can serve as starting points for cubing. You'll find links to a

solving at a tournament at Rutgers

<http://peter.stillhq.com/jasmine/rubikscubesolution.html>

<http://strangepuzzle.com/download.php?videoName=3x3x3%20IanWinokur%2016.93.mov>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sa8owbBOvmQ>

<http://mit.edu/cubeclub/#/compete>

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