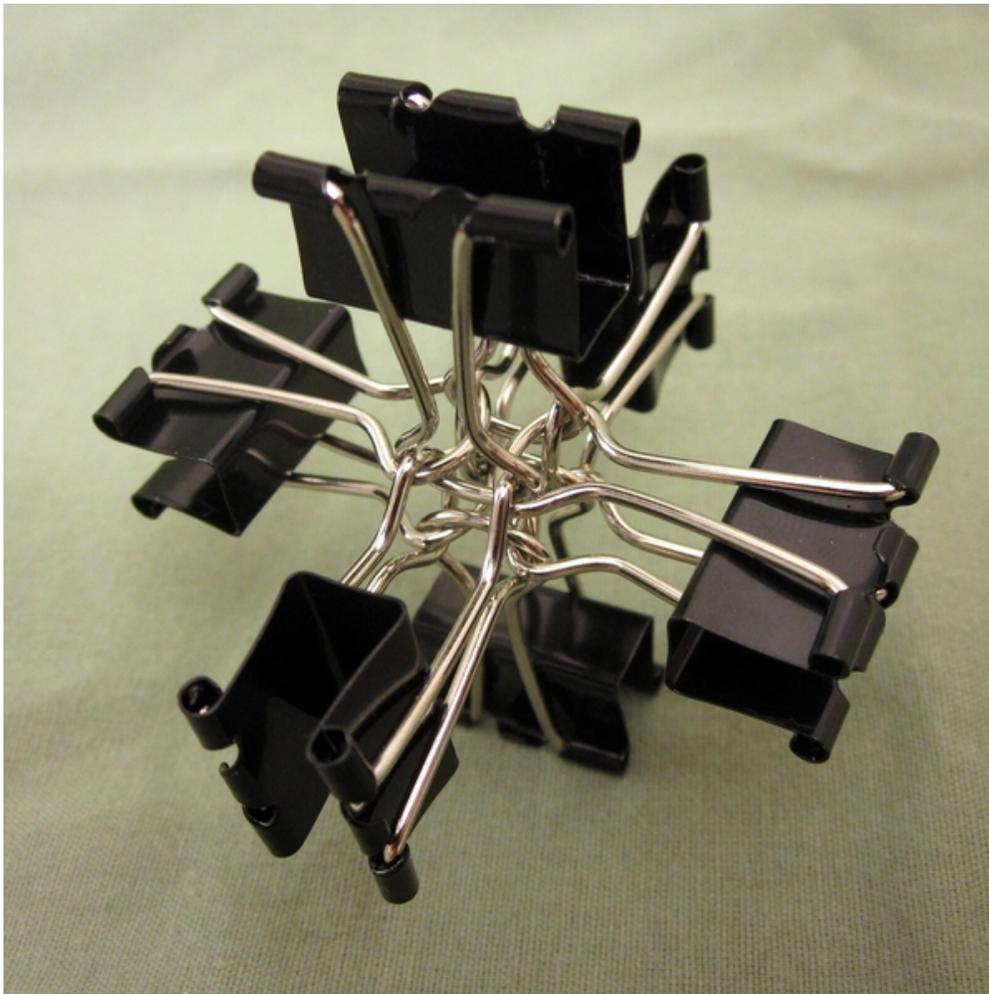


A “Stressful” Puzzle

Zachary Abel

Here is a fun puzzle requiring only familiar materials: *Stressful* is composed of 6 binder clips whose handles are woven in an intricate Xchange that holds all of the clips open. Despite the appearance of an imminent Xplosion, the finished puzzle is quite stable. And careful Xamination should reveal three instances of an appropriate letter¹.



The clip bodies are positioned at the faces of a cube (*i.e.*, at the vertices of an octahedron), but because of the clips' orientations, *Stressful* retains only half of the cube's symmetries. These 24 symmetries are the same as those of a volleyball and form the Pyritohedral group.

I will bring plenty of binder clips with me during G4GX, so come find me if you would like to try your hand at this puzzle! Here's a small hint for assembly: don't hurt yourself.

¹... in both the puzzle and this paragraph.