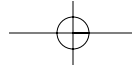


Contents

Preface	vii
Acknowledgments	xiii
0 Software Installation and a First Tour	1
1 An Overview of Oval Tracks	13
2 The Transpose Puzzle: An Introductory Tour	29
3 The Slide Puzzle: An Introductory Tour	37
4 The Hungarian Rings Puzzle: An Introductory Tour	47
5 Permutation Groups: Just Enough Definitions and Notation	55
6 Permutation Groups: Just Enough Theory	73
7 Cycles and Transpositions	85
8 The Parity Theorem	93
9 The Role of Conjugates	113
10 The Role of Commutators	121
11 Mastering the Oval Track Puzzle	133
12 Transferring Knowledge Between Puzzles	155
13 What a Difference a Disk Makes!: Changing the Number of Disks, and Using <i>Maple</i> or <i>GAP</i>	163
14 Mastering the Slide Puzzle	185
15 Mastering the Hungarian Rings with Numbers	203
16 Mastering the Hungarian Rings with Colors	219



17 Advanced Challenges	237
A Using Puzzle Resources	259
B Solutions and Hints for Selected Exercises	269
C Annotated List of Web and Print References	293
I Index	299
About the Author	305

