

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## 3D-Printed Twisty Puzzle Sets Unofficial World Record

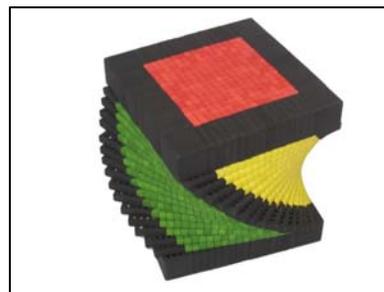
***Community Member and Shop Owner Oskar van Deventer  
3D Prints 17x17x17 Working Mechanical Puzzle at Shapeways.com***



**New York (January 27, 2011)** - Shapeways ([www.shapeways.com](http://www.shapeways.com)), the online community and marketplace for personalized production using 3D printing, is excited to announce that internationally renowned puzzle designer and long-time Shapeways community member Oskar van Deventer has achieved an unofficial world record with the creation of his 17x17x17 twisty puzzle 3D printed at Shapeways.com. The previous record was held by Leslie Lie from China for his 12x12x12 cube.

“When I heard about the world records being set for Rubik’s Cubes, like the 7x7x7, 9x9x9 and 11x11x11 created by Panagiotis Verdes from Greece, and Lie from China for his 12x12x12, I wanted to try to set a new record myself,” said Oskar van Deventer. “With sponsorship and prototyping help from my good friend Claus Wenicker, I began designing and testing a number of prototypes, and my third attempt was printed successfully with Shapeways.”

The puzzle, entitled “Over the Top,” took more than 60 hours over the course of the last year for van Deventer to design. The final puzzle design was 3D printed in 1,539 individual white strong and flexible plastic pieces by Shapeways. The pieces were then sorted and hand-dyed by van Deventer, a 10 hour process. Subsequent assembly added an additional five hours of labor. The result is a fully functioning 17x17x17 mechanical puzzle measuring 140 millimeters or 5.5 inch side to side. Puzzle enthusiasts need not have envy, 3D-printed do-it-yourself kits for a fully functioning puzzle are now available for sale for \$2,000 at Shapeways.com:



[http://www.shapeways.com/model/64058/over\\_the\\_top\\_17x17x17](http://www.shapeways.com/model/64058/over_the_top_17x17x17)

“At Shapeways, we enable anyone to bring their ideas and designs to life as real world objects,” said Shapeways CEO Peter Weijmarshausen. “With 3D printing, people are only limited by their imaginations. Shapeways inspires people to think outside the box, which fosters fresh ideas and innovation in product design. That’s the power of Shapeways.”

Van Deventer, an electrical engineer living in Leidschendam in the Netherlands, started designing his puzzles as hobby at the age of 12. Since 1988, he has sold puzzle designs to toy companies as a side job. Now, thanks to the invention of 3D printing technology and Shapeways.com, van Deventer is able to bring his puzzle designs immediately to a consumer market.

“Currently, when I have a new idea -- say, for a twisty puzzle -- a simple one might take me 5 hours from idea to market,” van Deventer said. “It’s a very quick way to get the design out of my system and into the world.”

Now, more than 30 years since he designed his first puzzle, van Deventer has certainly earned his reputation as one of the world's most prolific puzzle creators. Today, several of his innovations are sold at traditional toy stores and many more are available in his Shapeways shop “Oskar Puzzles”: <http://www.shapeways.com/shops/oskarpuzzles>. Most recently, one of Oskar's twisty puzzles, “[Gift Cube](#),” was even used for a very original marriage proposal.

Shapeways’ vibrant community includes many puzzle enthusiasts. Some of the greatest puzzle designers in the world, such as [Bram Cohen](#), [Richard Gain](#), [George Bell](#), [Tom van der Zanden](#), [Garrett Ong](#), [Rik Brouwer](#), [Tanner Frisby](#), [Adam Cowan](#), and [Vesa Timonen](#) have teamed up with Shapeways to offer the most mind bending, complex, complicated and intricate 3D printed puzzles. To see some of these mind-blowing creations, visit [www.shapeways.com/themes/3d\\_puzzles](http://www.shapeways.com/themes/3d_puzzles).

## **ABOUT SHAPEWAYS**

Shapeways is the online community and marketplace for personalized production where anyone can make, buy and sell their own creations. Custom-made products are created one-of-a-kind and on-demand in a variety of materials using the latest 3D printing technologies.

The innovative designs found at Shapeways.com have been created by a diverse community of product designers, artists and enthusiasts. Community members engage in everything from collaborative creation through the Shapeways blogs and forum to selling their designs as products through the Shapeways Shops, an international marketplace for consumer created 3D printed products. As the Shapeways community continues to grow, more and more products become available to consumers.

Consumers can shop for unique giftware in the Shapeways Shops or co-create a wide range of personalized, affordable products, from customized cufflinks and jewelry to puzzles, home décor and more.

Headquartered in New York with offices in Eindhoven, Shapeways is a spin-out of the lifestyle incubator of Royal Philips Electronics. Series A investors include Union Square Ventures in New York and Index Ventures in London.

For more information, please visit [www.Shapeways.com](http://www.Shapeways.com).

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