

occulo™

What is occulo?

It is a handheld tubular puzzle divided up into a number of rotating hollow sections and is effectively a vertical maze..

The nine sections are 70mm in Diameter x 240mm Long and the puzzle is completely self-contained.

The two end sections are both open single chambers whilst intermediate sections are divided into a number of open & dead-end chambers.

The tube contains a steel ball.

What is the aim of occulo?

To get the steel ball from one end of the tube to the other using only the senses of touch and sound. You cannot see how to solve it.

This you achieve by searching for and sensing all the open chambers in each rotating section from one end to the other.

How do you get the Steel Ball from one end of occulo to the other?

When you pick up occulo for the first time shake it to hear the steel ball rattle which will help you locate which end of the tube it is located.

When you think you know which end it is located hold occulo vertically with the end you think the ball bearing is located on the bottom.

In the disc which closes the end section there is a slot, feel for this opening and allow the ball to roll over your finger so confirm its location.

Now turn occulo the other way up and you are ready to start the balls journey to the other end of the tube!

Roll the ball around and listen for it to sit in the hole that will let it pass into the next section.

Then rotate the next section until you hear & feel the ball drop into it.

The question now is the steel ball sitting in an open chamber that will allow it to pass into the next section or a dead-end chamber?

Again, listen for the ball to sit in the hole that will let it pass into the next section. If you sense this, then you are ready to rotate the next section and repeat the process.

What if I cannot hear or sense the ball sitting in the hole ready to pass through to the next section?

In each of the end sections this is definitely achievable. You will just have to roll the ball around until you hear it drop ever so slightly into the hole. This you will better judge with practice.

You may be lucky as the next section maybe an open chambre and the ball might drop straight through into the next section.

But is it an open chamber which will allow the ball to pass into the next section?

If you cannot sense the ball sitting in the hole which allows it to pass through, you are in a dead-end chamber.

What do I do now I am in a dead-end chamber?

You must turn occulo up the other way and return the ball to the section you were in previously.

Now rotate the section you need to enter approximately a one third turn, now turn the occulo back up the other way and repeat locating the steel ball in the hole ready to drop into the next section. Repeat rotating the lower section until the steel ball drops again, hopefully this time into an open chamber. Repeat as many times as necessary until the steel ball drops into the next section.

When you hear the ball drop into the next section you must repeat the process of sensing the ball is in the hole ready to drop. When this happens you know you are in an open chamber which will allow you to pass into the next section.

When you have negotiated all seven sections the steel ball will drop into the end section which you can feel by rolling the ball over your fingers placed on the slot.

Hints!

Only rotate the section you are trying to pass through. Try and leave all the completed sections untouched. If you manage this successfully the whole puzzle (which effectively a vertical maze) will allow the steel ball to pass from one end to the other.

When you negotiate a dead-end chamber and return to the previous section ensure you rotate the section you are trying to pass through approximately a one third turn – this should allow you to enter a different chamber in the section.

To reset occulo simply rotate the various sections randomly.

This is a very challenging puzzle, literally there is nothing to see! They say patience is a virtue, so be virtuous and Good Luck!