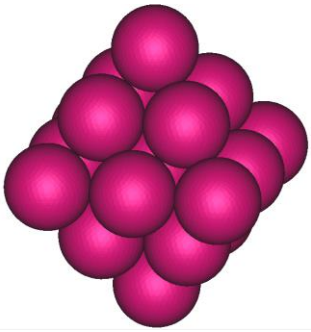
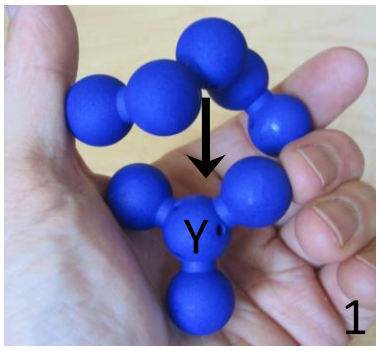
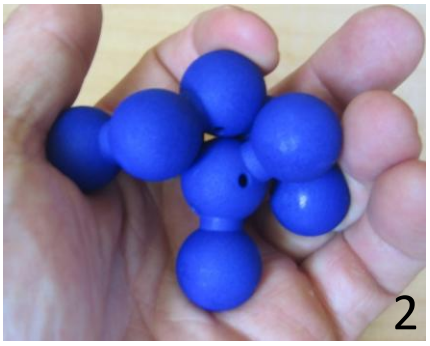
Puzzle Solution: Screwy Octahedron

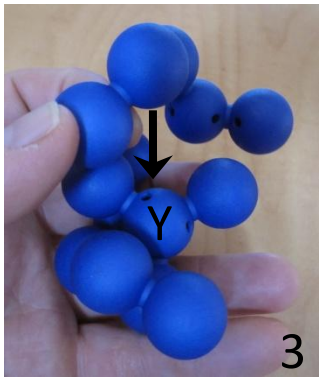
George Bell

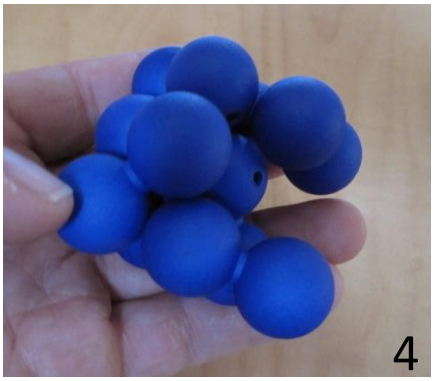


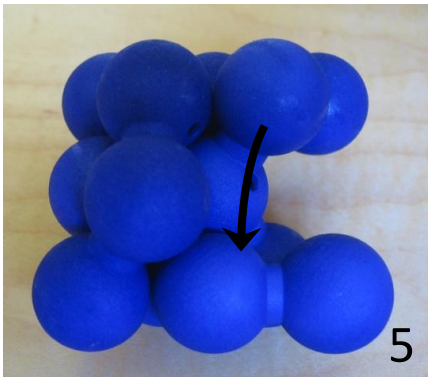
This puzzle consists of one Y-shaped piece, and three helical pieces. Two of the helical pieces are identical. Place one of these helical pieces between the top two legs of the Y piece (photos 1-2). Rotate both pieces 120 degrees (CCW) and place the second identical helical piece in the same way between the top two legs of the Y-shaped piece (photos 3-4).











You should now be in the shape in photo 5. If you had a third identical helical piece, it would fit the remaining gap. Instead, rotate the Y-shaped piece 60 degrees toward you as indicated in photo 5. The fourth piece now fits into the remaining gap—some force is needed to snap it into place.

Note: the photos show the large version of this puzzle (22mm diameter spheres). The IPP30 exchange version uses 13mm diameter spheres.