

DASH 9 Play-at-home Instructions

This document is included in DASH9-puzzles.zip, which can be downloaded from <dash9.org>.

Puzzle Materials: You will find the following PDF files in the “puzzles” folder.

- **Puzzles-Standard, Puzzles-Expert** – select a version to play: the Standard level is a good choice for both novice and casual solvers (even if you have played DASH before). The Expert level is more challenging because there are many places where puzzles do not have explicit instructions for solving. Instead, you need to infer the rules by examining the puzzle or detecting clues within each puzzle’s text; part of the challenge is to figure that out! In addition, some of the puzzles will be harder in the Expert version.

Please ensure that you do not scale the pages when printing. Depending on your software, you may need to specify “Actual Size” or select “None” for page scaling; do not choose an option to “fit” or “shrink” to printable area. This is critical for puzzle 6 since the transparency needs to match the other pages. If you need to scale pages (e.g. to print to A4 paper), use the same scale factor, and verify that the outer box on the transparency matches the frame on page 4 of that puzzle (PDF page 22).

- **Transparency** – This is puzzle 6 page 3 (for both versions) and needs to be on transparent material. FedEx Office Print & Ship Center is a good place to have this printed.
- **Artifacts** – This file contains images for two puzzles: the six pentagons are used in puzzle 2; the three rhombi are for puzzle 7. These shapes were laser cut from thick board for the event.

You can print these pages for a simple version. It’s fine to make straight cuts along the sides; you don’t need to cut all the little in- and out-tabs. If you have cardstock available, printing on that so you have something a little sturdier than paper would be great, but it’s not required.

This file can also be used to laser etch and cut, but be aware that the results will vary based on the material and even possibly depending on the laser cutter. The material we used was 28 ply (0.09”) “Crescent White Mounting Board” from Dick Blick Art Materials <<http://www.dickblick.com/items/13004-1006/>>. Laser etching / cutting was done by Pololu Robotics & Electronics <<https://www.pololu.com/product/749>>.

Playing:

For DASH 9, many of the puzzles reference portions of previous puzzles. This means that you should keep all your puzzle materials in a safe place for the duration of the hunt. Note: Because some of the puzzles rely on information from other puzzles, you may not be able to solve a single puzzle out of sequence.

For fun, you can have two members of your team play the roles in the Opening Skit PDF before you start the hunt.

We recommend using ClueKeeper to complete your DASH 9 experience. Some of the story is revealed via ClueKeeper as puzzles are solved, and it is helpful for confirming partial solutions and providing hints.

The Player’s Guide PDF has information on using ClueKeeper, including instructions for downloading and playing a free sample hunt.

The play-at-home version of the DASH 9 ClueKeeper hunt is available for a small fee. Look for it via Find Hunts in the ClueKeeper app or at ClueKeeper.com (be sure to choose the hunt for the level you wish to play – Standard or Expert).

| Puzzle | Par Time | Materials |
|--------|----------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | 25 | 4 pages |
| 2 | 60 | 5 pages, 6 pentagons |
| 3 | 45 | 3 pages |
| 4 | 25 | 2 pages |
| 5 | 35 | 5 pages |
| 6 | 40 | 4 pages (including transparency) |
| 7 | 55 | 2 pages, 3 rhombi |
| 8 | 50 | 3 pages |
| 9 | 30 | 2 pages |