

PUZZLE

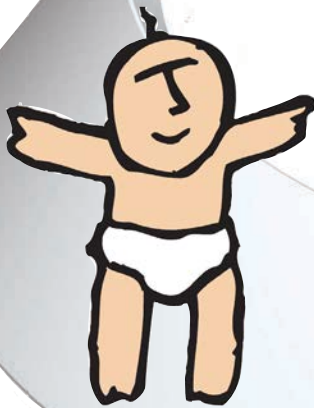
By twisting a thin ribbon of paper once and forming a ring with it, you can make a ring with one continuous surface. If you started to draw a line on one side, it would eventually cover both sides and join back up with itself. This is the famous Möbius strip. It is now possible to go from one side of the paper to the opposite side of the paper without crossing the edge simply by following the circuit of the loop. One circuit around the loop will end you exactly opposite your starting point, and another circuit around will land you back where you began.

Now, if you cut along this line with a pair of scissors, which shape would the paper make – A, B or C?

THE JOKE SHOP VERSION OF THE MÖBIUS STRIP IS AN INDEX CARD THAT HAS A RIDDLE PRINTED ON IT:

“How do you keep a fool occupied all day? (Over)”

The same text is printed on the reverse of the card so as to complete the effect. That’s the basic structure of a Möbius puzzle: self-referencing, self-reversing.



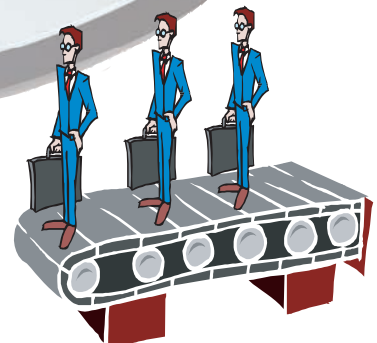
A NEW SOLUTION TO AN OLD PROBLEM

by Eleanor Ninestein

The Topologist’s child was quite hyper
‘Til she wore a Möbius diaper.
The mess on the inside
Was thus on the outside
And it was easy for someone to wipe her.

MÖBIUS TRIVIUS

- Giant Möbius strips have been used as conveyor belts (to make them last longer, since each “side” gets the same amount of wear) and as continuous-loop recording tapes (to double the playing time).
- In the 1960s, Sandia Laboratories used Möbius strips in the design of versatile electronic resistors.



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