Mechanical Puzzle Classification

Mechanical Puzzle Types (Example name is bold)

1. Put-Together Puzzles-Putting the object together is the puzzle.
   1.1 2 Dimensional assembly puzzles (Tangrams, Anchor, T, jigsaw, etc.)
   1.2 3 Dimensional assembly puzzles - Non-Interlocking (Soma, etc.)
   1.3 Miscellaneous put-together (Instant Insanity, puzzle rings, etc.)
   1.4 Matchstick puzzles

2. Take-Apart Puzzles-Taking the object apart or open is the puzzle.
   2.1 Trick or secret opening puzzles (Puzzle boxes, etc.)
   2.2 Secret compartment puzzles (Slopes, coins, etc.)
   2.3 Trick locks & keys
   2.4 Trick matchboxes (matchsafes)
   2.5 Trick knives

3. Interlocking Solid Puzzles-Disassembly & assembly to solve puzzle.
   3.1 Figural (Animals, objects, etc.)
   3.2 Geometric objects (Cube, etc.)
   3.3 3-D jigsaw puzzles
   3.4 Burr puzzles
   3.5 Keychain puzzles
   3.6 Miscellaneous interlocking solid puzzles

4. Disentanglement Puzzles-Disentanglement & entanglement to solve puzzle.
   4.1 Cast Iron & sheet metal puzzles
   4.2 Wire puzzles (Chinese Rings, etc.)
   4.3 String puzzles (Non-rigid disentanglement)
   4.4 Miscellaneous disentanglement puzzles

5. Sequential Movement Puzzles-Moving parts of object to a goal is the puzzle.
   5.1 Solitaire puzzles (Remove pegs, counters, etc. by jumping)
   5.2 Counter puzzles (Rearrange counters, pegs, etc. by jumping)
   5.3 Sliding piece puzzles (2D & 3D)
   5.4 Rotating piece puzzles (3D-Rubik’s cube, etc.)
   5.5 Maze & route puzzles
   5.6 Miscellaneous sequential movement puzzles (Tower of Hanoi, etc.)
   5.7 Mazes and Labyrinths for People

6. Dexterity Puzzles-Manual dexterity is primary to solve puzzle.
   6.1 Throw & catch (Cup & ball, etc.)
   6.2 Rolling ball puzzles
   6.3 Maze dexterity puzzles
   6.4 Miscellaneous dexterity puzzles

7. Puzzle Vessels - Drinking without spilling, or filling a vessel is the puzzle.
   (Puzzle Jugs, Bottom fill wine & tea pots, Pitchers, etc.)

8. Vanish Puzzles - The puzzle is to explain a vanished or changed image.
   (Loyd’s Get Off the Earth, etc.)

9. Folding Puzzles - The puzzle is to fold a paper or hinged object, to form a specified pattern.
   (2D & 3D) (Fifth Pig Puzzle, etc.)

10. Impossible Puzzles - The puzzle is to explain how an object was made or why it behaves in a seemingly impossible way.
    (Arrow thru bottle, celt, etc.)