

# Cryptic Puzzle Safe

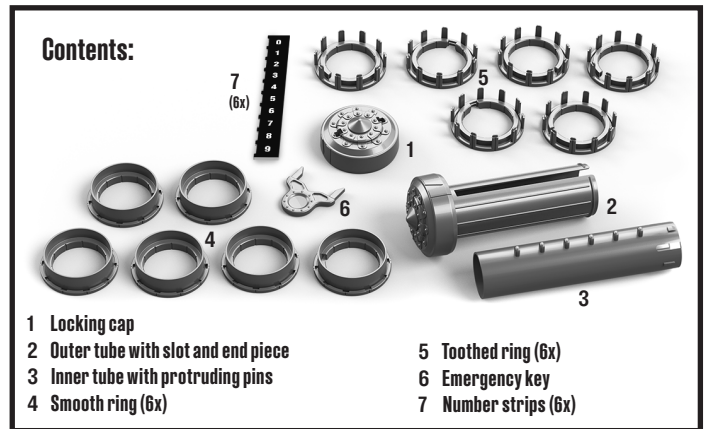
Crack the code  
and open the  
secret compartment  
inside

Safeguard your secrets and treasures inside of this portable vault! The secret compartment will only open after the correct six-digit combination is entered. You set the code. With your Spy Labs Cryptic Puzzle Safe, rest assured that important belongings like crucial evidence, secret messages, and even your allowance aren't at risk of falling into the wrong hands!

**WARNING!** Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard – small parts may be swallowed or inhaled.

Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

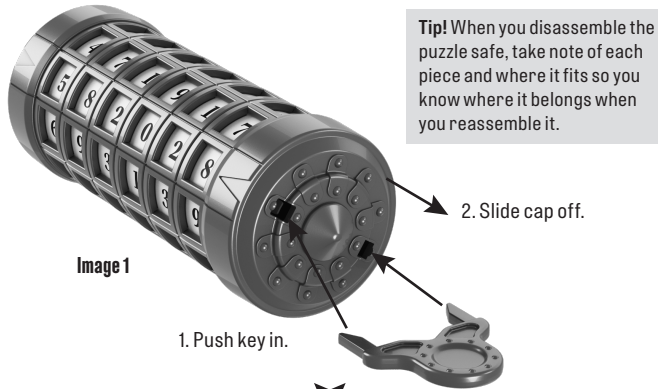
The puzzle safe should never be forced open! Keep the emergency key somewhere safe, or ask your parents or another adult to keep it for you.



## HOW TO SET THE CODE FOR YOUR CRYPTIC PUZZLE SAFE

### 1. Open the puzzle safe using the emergency key

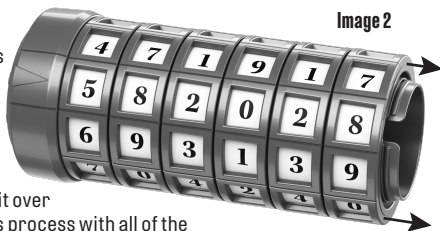
Insert the emergency key into the two square holes in the locking cap. Hold the body of the puzzle safe with one hand and slowly but forcefully slide off the cap with your other hand, keeping the emergency key pushed firmly into the holes.



**Tip!** When you disassemble the puzzle safe, take note of each piece and where it fits so you know where it belongs when you reassemble it.

### 2. Disassemble the safe

First, find the notch on the inside of the first ring. Turn the ring until the notch lines up with the slot in the outer tube (see image 2). The first ring can now be removed by sliding it over the raised edge on the outer tube. Pull hard to get it over the raised edge. Repeat this process with all of the remaining rings. Before you remove the last ring, pull the inner tube (with the protruding pins) out of the outer tube.



### 3. Change the access code

You have two options for changing the access code: You can either slide the six rings back onto the outer tube in reverse order (see step 4) or change the positions of the number strips inside the rings.

Look closely at one of the rings. It consists of three pieces: a number strip, a smooth ring, and a toothed ring. Each number strip is held in place on a smooth ring by a toothed ring. There is a gap on the inside of the smooth ring for the pins on the inner tube to slide through later. The gap on the inside lines up with the number from the correct code on the outside. Disassemble the ring assembly (see image 3) by pulling both halves apart.

Once you have decided what you want the six-digit access code to be, adjust the number strip on the ring so that the first number of the desired code is over the gap on the inside. (In image 3, for example, the number is 5.) Make sure that the tabs on the number strip are in the holes on the side of the smooth ring. Once you are happy with the positioning, place the toothed ring over the number strip and smooth ring, lining up the notch in the toothed ring with the notch in the smooth ring.



Repeat these steps for the five additional rings. Once complete, you have the rings of your six-digit access code.

**Tip!** You can also turn the preprinted number strips over and create your own rings by writing letters and numbers or drawing symbols on the back sides. Whatever you write or draw onto the strip must always be visible in the windows created by the teeth of the toothed rings. You can download blank strips to print and cut out on the product page for this item on [www.thamesandkosmos.com](http://www.thamesandkosmos.com).

### 4. Reassemble the safe

Slide the inner tube with the pins into the locking cap. The two locking tabs at the end of the inner tube must engage. You will hear a click when the cap locks in place.

Slide the rings onto the outer tube in the order of your access code. In addition to memorizing it, be sure to write down the combination and put it somewhere safe, just in case. If you ever forget or misplace the access code, you can use the emergency key to open the puzzle safe.

Align the rings on the outer tube so that the solution numbers are in a straight line and line up with the arrow on the end piece. This is called the "solution row." Carefully push the inner tube into the outer tube (see image 4) and then twist the rings to scramble the code.



### 5. Open the safe using the access code

To open the puzzle safe, you must turn the rings to show the correct code in the solution row. The arrows on both ends mark the solution row. Rotate the rings until all of the correct numbers are lined up in the solution row. Once all of the correct numbers are lined up, you can pull apart the ends of the puzzle safe. You may need to jiggle the rings a little while pulling.

Once your safe is open, you can change the access code at any time by changing the order of the rings or the positions of the number strips (see image 2). Place your treasures and secrets inside the inner tube before resealing your safe. Because there are 1,000,000 possible solutions, you can rest assured that your items are safe!

Encrypting messages so that third parties or the public are prevented from reading private messages is called **cryptography**. *Kryptos* is the Greek word for “hidden” or “secret.” The term **cryptology** describes the study of the encryption and decryption of messages and data.

### 1. The Caesar Cipher

One of the most widely known encryption techniques is the Caesar cipher, named after the Roman general Julius Caesar (100 – 44 BC), who used it in his private correspondence. To send secret messages, Caesar encoded them by using the letter 23 positions to the right, so X is substituted for A, Y is substituted for B, and so on.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
X	Y	Z	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W

For example, “Cryptic Riddle Safe” becomes:

**ZOVMQFZ OFAAIB PXCB**

Because the message doesn’t make any sense at face value without the encryption key, people can’t understand it if it is intercepted.

**Challenge 1:** Can you answer this encrypted trivia question?

**TEXQ HFKA LC AOBPPFKD FP  
JXAB TFQE XKZELSFBP?**

### 2. The Skip Cipher

This encryption method makes your text much longer. By putting the number 2 in front of your message, you are telling the reader that only every second letter counts. A 3 would mean only every third letter, and so on. The “other” letters can be chosen at will. To make your message harder to decipher, you can omit the spaces between words.

The red fedora is the emblem of ...

**2HSKPYFLAMBLSG  
IKNWGOLRIPQOPRJAIFEND**

**Challenge 2:** Decode the following sentence:

**2PJTUSNHIXOERQDYEZTPEGGLTWIBVXEZSN  
AHRTEUOPNDTSHREFCKAUSIE!**

### 3. The Number Cipher

This encryption technique replaces letters with numbers. To make decrypting the message more difficult, the corresponding numbers aren’t consecutive, and can even be completely randomized.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
10	41	39	37	8	35	33	31	6	29	27	25	23	21	4	19	17	15	13	11	2	9	7	5	3	1

For example, “Number Cipher” becomes

**21-2-23-41-8-15 39-6-19-31-8-15**

**Challenge 3:** Can you answer this encrypted trivia question?

**31-4-7 23-10-21-3 15-4-25-25-13 10-15-8 6-21  
10 41-10-27-8-15-13 37-4-1-8-21?**

SOLUTIONS: 1. What kind of dressing is made with anchovies? (Caesar) || 2. JUNIOR DETECTIVES ARE ON THE CASE || How many rolls are in a baker's dozen? (13)