



MOBIUS

Tape →

A

B

Fun with Mobius Strips

The Mobius Strip is a curious band named after a nineteenth century mathematician. It is a loop of paper with a single twist. As you'll soon see for yourself, a Mobius Strip has just one side and one edge.

Here's how to make one for yourself. All you need is this page, tape and a pair of scissors.

1. First, cut along the dotted line.
2. Holding it the tall way, give the strip a twist and tape the two ends together so that "A" touches "D" and "B" touches "C".
3. Start drawing a line around the strip and you'll end up right back where you started. Freaky!
4. See, it doesn't have a front or a back! The top and the bottom are the same. The twist in the strip connects what was the top to the bottom, making one big side.

What's really interesting about this strip is all the things you can do with it. Start cutting your strip down the middle, like you are cutting two, thinner strips. But you don't get two. You end up with a much larger, thinner Mobius Strip with two twists! Try cutting it down the middle again. Is it still one strip?

Try Some Other Fun Projects

HEARTS: Make two Mobius Strips.

One strip has to be twisted clockwise, the other counter-clockwise. Tape them at right angles to each other. When you cut down the middle of both strips, you will get a pair of hearts linked together.

TRY ONE HALF TWIST, two half-twists, three half-twists, etc. Is there a pattern to the shapes you get?

EVEN NUMBERS of half-twists give two loops, odd gives one loop. There is also a pattern to the number of times they twist around each other.

WHAT DO YOU GET with more than two strips stuck together?

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Twist →



Tape ←

C

D