

EXPERIMENT MANUAL

GECKO RUN

MARBLE RUN
STARTER SET

Limitless!

Ever-changing,
non-stop
rolling fun!

Nano-
ADHESIVE
PADS



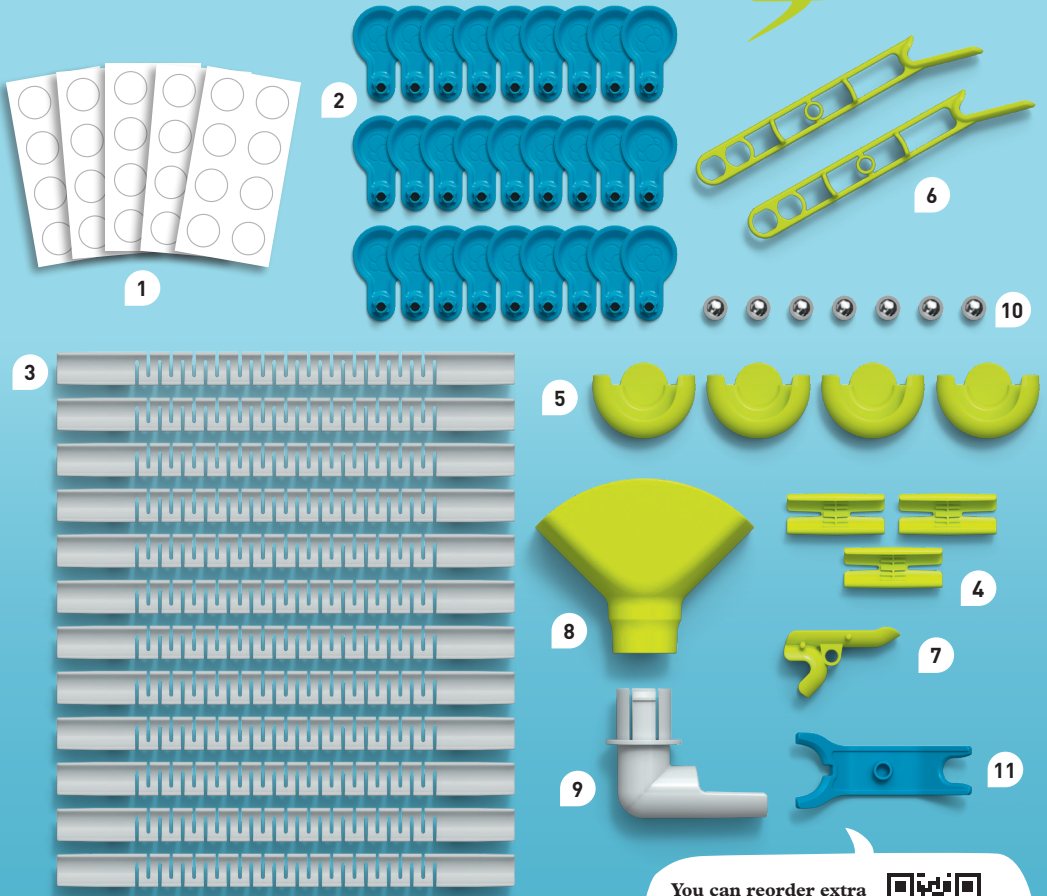
THAMES & KOSMOS



KIT CONTENTS

What's inside your experiment kit:

Wow!
So many parts!



Checklist:

You can reorder extra nano-adhesive pads and metal marbles from our website.



✓ No.	Description	Quantity	Item No.
○ 1	Sheet with nano-adhesive pads	5	726192
○ 2	Adapter	27	726603
○ 3	Track	12	726605
○ 4	Track bridge	3	726606
○ 5	Track turn	4	726607

✓ No.	Description	Quantity	Item No.
○ 6	Lever	2	726608
○ 7	Switch	1	726609
○ 8	Funnel	1	726610
○ 9	Funnel outlet	1	728311
○ 10	Metal marble	7	726604
○ 11	Gecko tool	1	728205

(part remover tool)

CONTENTS

Kit Contents Inside front cover
 Table of Contents 1
 Safety Information 2
 Important Information 3
 Gecko Run Parts 4

SETUP BEGINS ON PAGE 6

Your First Runs 6
 Tips and Tricks 10
 Challenges 14
 Chaos Theory and the Butterfly Effect 15
 Animals That Stick 16

SCAN FOR A QUICK-START VIDEO:



TIP

YOU WILL FIND ADDITIONAL INFO IN THE CHECK IT OUT SECTIONS ON PAGES 15 - 16.





SAFETY INFORMATION



WARNING! Not suitable for children under 3 years. Choking hazard — small parts and small balls may be swallowed or inhaled. Keep the packaging and instructions as they contain important information.

Instructions for using the nano-adhesive pads

What makes your new marble run special are the innovative **nano-adhesive pads** that stick to surfaces like the feet of a gecko. The pads are covered on one side with microscopic suction cups that allow the Gecko Run parts to be securely attached to vertical surfaces. Just like large suction cups, the nano-adhesive pads adhere to smooth surfaces only, leave no traces when removed, and can be used over and over.

Gecko Run's nano-adhesive pads adhere best to **glass surfaces** such as **glass doors and windows**, but you can also attach the pads to other surfaces, as long as they are **smooth enough (tiles, plastics, wood and imitation wood, glossy painted surfaces, metal, etc.)**. Experiment with different surfaces!

Before you use Gecko Run for the first time, you will need to attach the nano-adhesive pads to the adapters and some of the tricks. You can

find out how to do this in the box below and on pages 4 and 5.

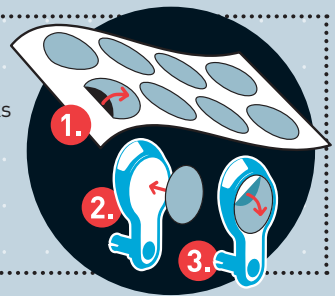
Before you start building a run, make sure that your installation surface is clean, dry, and free of grease. This will ensure that the pads can develop their full adhesive power. The longer the pads remain on a surface, the greater their adhesion. **Always use the included Gecko tool to remove the adapters from the surfaces.**

Dismantle the marble run after use and store it in its packaging to ensure the pads remain clean and retain their stickiness, and to prevent damage to the surfaces.

If the nano-surface of a nano-adhesive pads gets dirty or dusty, you can clean it with a dry, lint-free cloth. If a nano-adhesive pad suffers major damage, you can remove it and stick a new one on the same spot.

Important

When sticking the nano-adhesive pads to the adapters and tricks for the first time, make sure you are sticking the correct side. First peel the pad off the sheet (1) and stick the **glue-adhesive side** to the adapter or trick (2). Then remove the thin film from the pad to reveal the **nano-adhesive surface** (3).



TIP

WHERE TO STICK THE NANO-ADHESIVE PADS:



DO STICK ON:

- GLASS DOORS AND WINDOWS
- SMOOTH CERAMIC TILES
- SMOOTH WOOD
- SMOOTH LAMINATE
- SMOOTH, HARD PLASTIC
- SMOOTH METAL
- SMOOTH, GLOSSY PAINTED SURFACES
- SMOOTH, POLISHED STONE



DO NOT STICK ON:

- ROUGH SURFACES
- WALLPAPER
- DRYWALL AND PLASTER
- BRICK AND CONCRETE
- FABRIC AND UPHOLSTERY

Dear Parents and Supervising Adults,

Children want to be amazed, understand, and create new things. They want to try everything out and do it for themselves. They want to know! The Gecko Run marble run system is ideal for this, as it can be set up and altered quickly and easily. Before using it for the first time, you should discuss the following points with your child.

Important information for adults

The Gecko Run parts can be attached to virtually any smooth vertical surface; glass surfaces work particularly well. Together with your child, discover which surfaces the nano-adhesive pads adhere to best — and agree upon which surfaces in your home are best for setting up your Gecko Run. When making your selection, bear in mind that hazards can arise due to open windows or doors, sliding doors that slide over each other, surfaces that are susceptible to breakage or are not securely fastened, and surfaces that are high up.

Only use the Gecko Run on closed windows and doors; all glass surfaces must be made of safety glass.

All playing surfaces must be firmly attached to the wall and stable when pulling on the pads to remove them. Be careful with mirrors — these can be loosened from their mounts when removing the nano-adhesive pads.

Only build runs within the child's reach; never climb on furniture to build the run.

The playing surface should be clean, dry, and free of grease. This will ensure that the nano-adhesive pads can develop their full adhesive power.

The tracks must always be built and set up so that the metal marbles do not hit breakable objects, dent surfaces, or cause defects. The flooring and surrounding furnishings must be able to withstand impacts from falling marbles. If necessary, place a rug, blanket, or towel underneath the track — this will also prevent the marbles from rolling away.

Set up the run away from pets, babies, and toddlers.

Before playing and experimenting for the first time, the nano-adhesive pads must be affixed to the adapters and some of the tricks (see pages 4 and 5). Help your child apply the pads cleanly and with the nano-adhesive side facing out.

If you build your Gecko Run on doors that slide over each other (e.g., cupboards or patio doors), make sure that the parts are attached to the outer door so that they are not damaged when the doors are moved.

GECKO RUN PARTS

Adapter

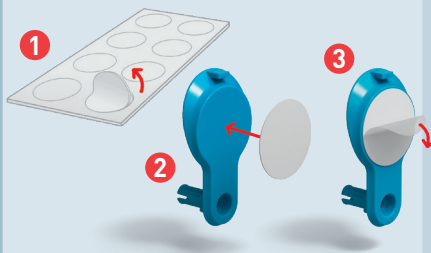
Use this to attach the tracks and some of the tricks to your vertical playing surface. You can see how to prepare the adapters below.



Nano-adhesive pads

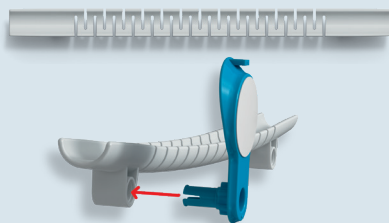
The pads have a normal sticky side and a nano-adhesive side (see p. 2). To prepare the adapters for use, you must stick a pad onto each adapter.

1. Peel a pad off of the sheet.
2. Stick the normal sticky side (glue adhesive) onto the back of the adapter.
3. Remove the thin foil to reveal the nano-adhesive side.



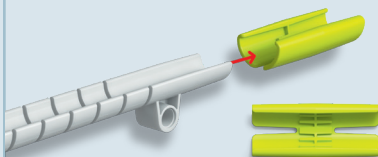
Track

The tracks are another essential element of Gecko Run. Their special design makes them bendable, giving you lots of freedom when building a run. They are attached to your playing surface using the adapters. Be sure to push the adapters all the way into the holes on the tracks.



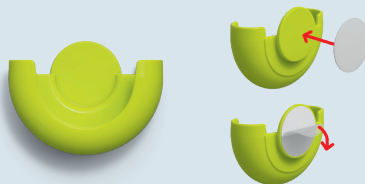
Track bridge

This component allows you to connect two tracks together to create a longer one. This is useful, especially if you want to bridge window frames or build a transition from one surface to another.



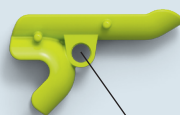
Track turn

This element serves as a 180-degree bend, a marble holder, and a marble catcher at the end of your run. Stick a nano-adhesive pad on the back of the track turn to prepare it. For more tips and tricks on how to use track turns, see pages 7, 8, and 13.



Switch

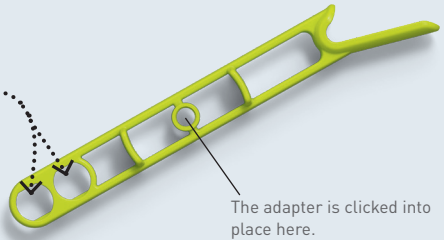
The switch is a kind of rocker that alternates the direction the marble travels in. The switch is also attached to your playing surface using an adapter, so that it can rotate freely. See pages 9 and 13 for information on using the switch.



The adapter is clicked into place here.

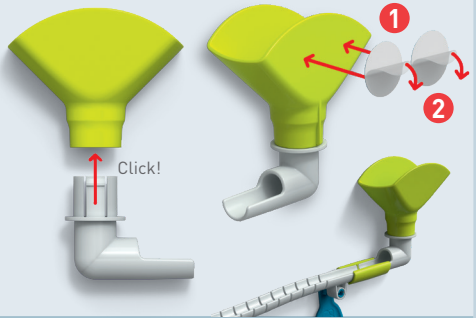
Lever

The lever is fixed in place with an adapter so it can rotate freely. It can catch a marble and pass it to a lower track. To prepare the lever, press one or two marbles into the rear slots on the lever. These will act as a counterweight. If you add two marbles as counterweights, the lever will collect two marbles before tipping and passing them both on. For more information on using the lever, see page 9.



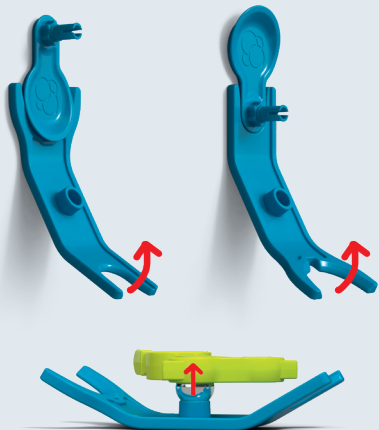
Funnel

You can catch marbles with this element. It consists of two parts that you must snap together the first time you use it. The outlet of the funnel can then be freely rotated and can be connected to a track via a bridge. The back of the funnel is secured to the playing surface with two nano-adhesive pads so that it can safely catch flying marbles.



Gecko tool (part remover tool)

Use this tool to pry the adapters off your playing surface. It also makes it easier to push marbles into the slots in the lever and remove them again. If you want, you can also attach the Gecko tool to your playing surface with a nano-adhesive pad to keep it close at hand.



Metal marble

In your set you will find seven precision steel marbles with a diameter of 12.7 mm. Take good care of them so that you don't lose them when the marbles start flying!





Cool ...
Now here
we go!



YOUR *first* RUNS!

Your Gecko Run is now ready to go! The following pages will guide you through the first runs to build so that you can learn how the individual elements of the Gecko Run system work.

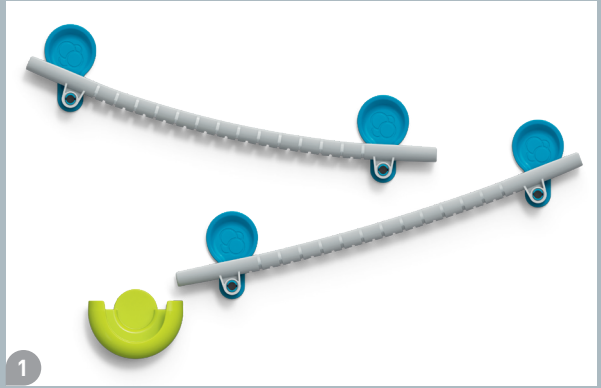
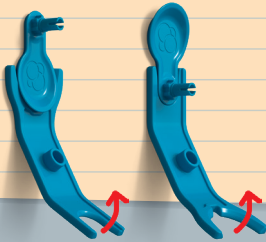


BUILDING YOUR FIRST RUNS

1. We will start very simply with two pieces of track and a track turn as a marble catcher.

**TIP**

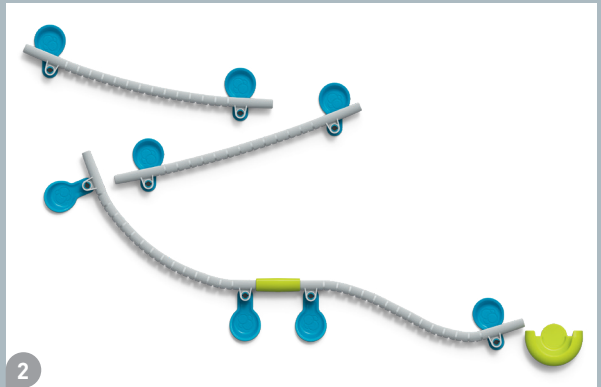
ALWAYS USE THE GECKO TOOL TO REMOVE THE ADAPTERS FROM THE PLAYING SURFACE.



2. Now add two tracks connected with a track bridge to your setup. Take advantage of the flexibility of the track and create some bends and curves.

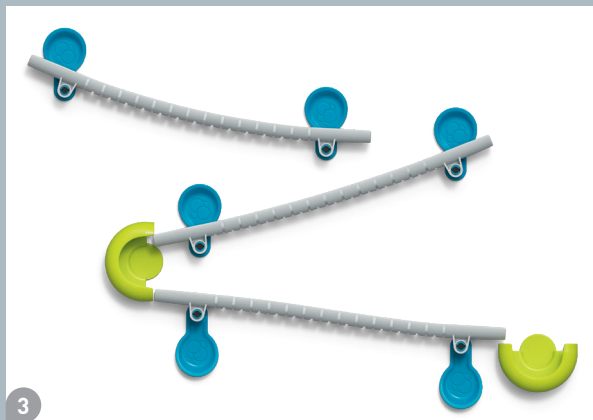
**TIP**

ALWAYS BUILD YOUR TRACKS FROM THE TOP DOWN AND TEST EACH NEW ELEMENT AS YOU GO. CHECK WHETHER THE MARBLE MOVES PROPERLY ALONG THE TRACK FROM THE VERY TOP. OTHERWISE, YOU MAY HAVE TO START FROM SCRATCH BECAUSE SOMETHING DOESN'T QUITE WORK AS YOU IMAGINED.



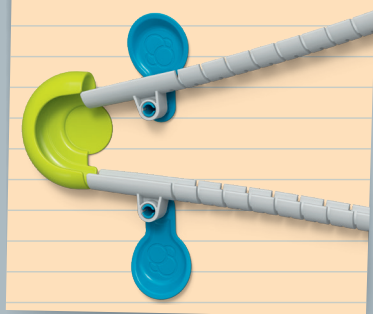


3. Use another track turn as a fast 180-degree turn.

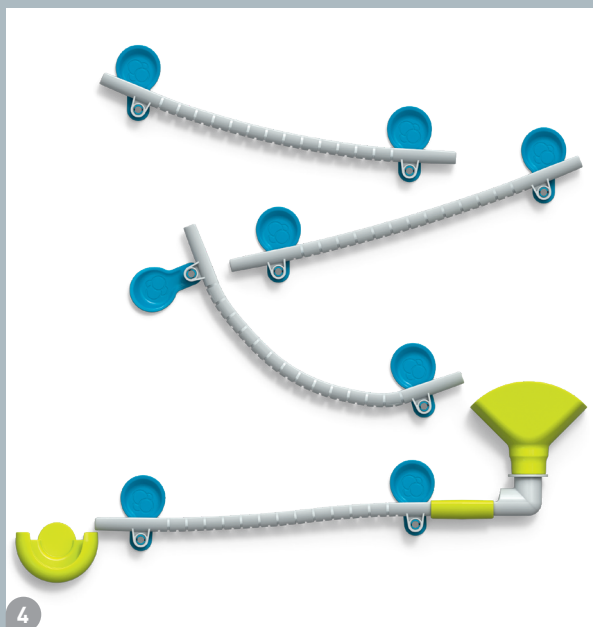


TIP

POSITION THE TRACK TURN AS SHOWN.



4. Next, test the funnel, which lets you catch flying marbles.



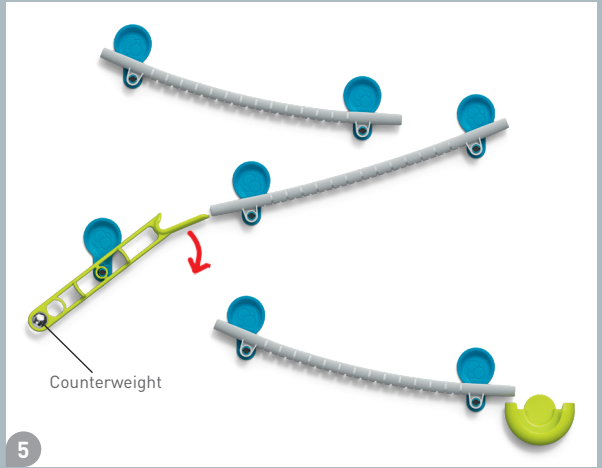
TIP

PRESS THE FUNNEL FIRMLY ONTO THE PLAYING SURFACE AND CONNECT THE OUTLET TO A TRACK VIA A BRIDGE AS SHOWN. THIS WILL ENSURE IT CAN WITHSTAND HARDER IMPACTS FROM THE MARBLES.

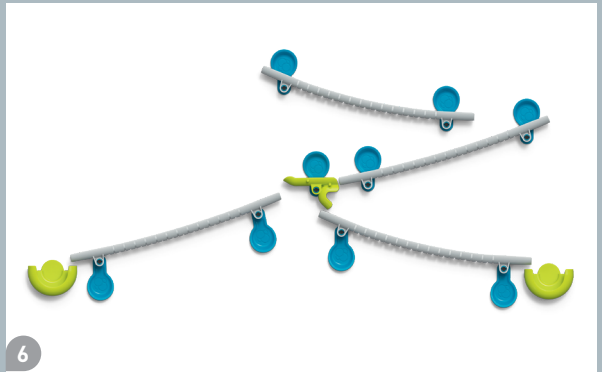
5. Now it's time to use the lever.
Remember to insert at least one marble into a slot at the end of the lever as a counterweight.

TIP

TO USE THE LEVER AS SHOWN, THE ADAPTER MUST BE MOUNTED AS VERTICALLY AS POSSIBLE.

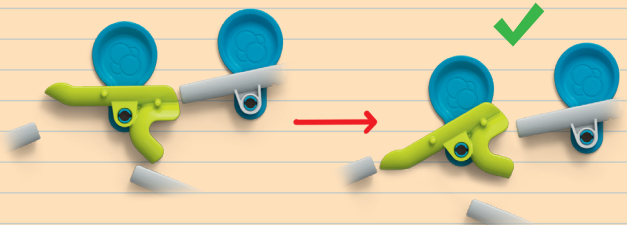


6. The switch makes your track much more complex, because with the switch, your runs can have two branches. The switch alternates the path that the marbles will travel. The marble may behave differently when it hits the switch, depending on its speed. Therefore, familiarize yourself with the characteristics of the switch before using this trick in a larger run.



TIP

WITH THE SWITCH, YOU WILL ALSO NEED TO HANG THE ADAPTER VERTICALLY. ALSO, MAKE SURE THAT THE SWITCH IS TILTED ALL THE WAY TOWARD THE LOWER TRACK WHEN ATTACHING IT.





Wow ...
Now build
a big run!



Tips AND TRICKS

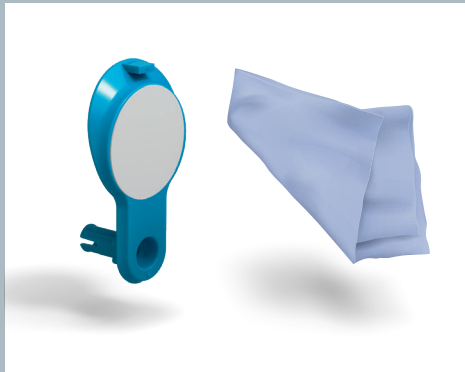
Now that you are familiar with all the Gecko Run parts you can build your very own runs. On the following pages you will find more tips and exciting challenges for you to complete on your way to becoming a Gecko Run pro.



BUILDING MORE COMPLEX RUNS

The playing surface

The nano-adhesive pads can hold your parts on many **materials** as long as they have a smooth surface. So explore your home with your parents and find out where you can put your run.



The nano-adhesive pads

If your pads are no longer sticking very well, check whether dust has settled on them. If this is the case, you should clean them with a dry, **lint-free cloth** (e.g., a microfiber cloth). If a pad has lost its adhesion, you can remove it from the adapter and attach a new one.

The track

1. Since the tracks are so bendable, you can easily turn a section of track into a **bend**. This is always very useful if you need a lot of **speed** for your marble — this is the best way to get the marble around the bend without losing its momentum.

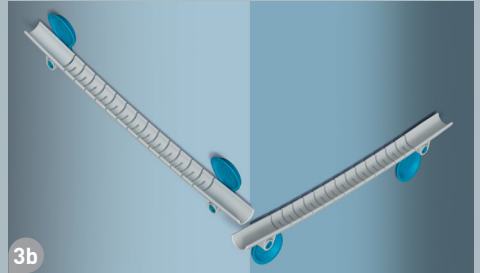
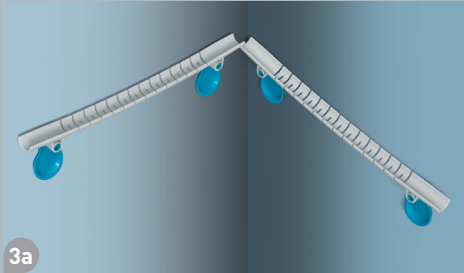




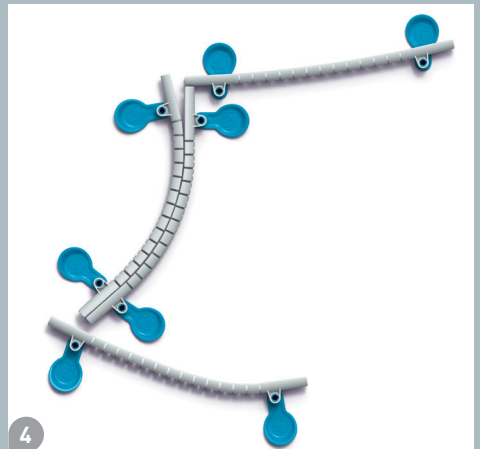
2. You can bridge **window frames** or similar with the tracks and the track bridges. All you need to do is attach adapters to the ends of a long piece of track.



3. In addition to window frames, you can also bridge corners to get from one level to another. Position the tracks as shown below. Make sure the marble doesn't have much momentum so that it falls into the second track.

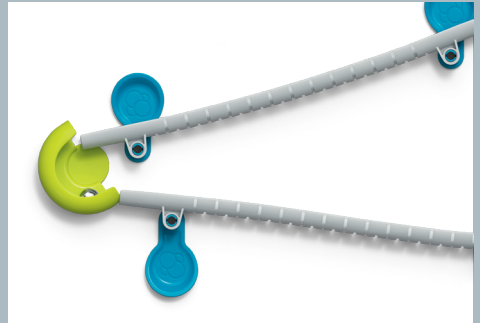


4. By mirroring two tracks as shown in the illustration, you can form a tube that ensures the marble falls safely to a lower level without jumping off the track.



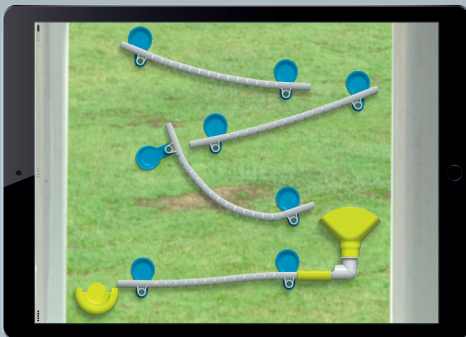
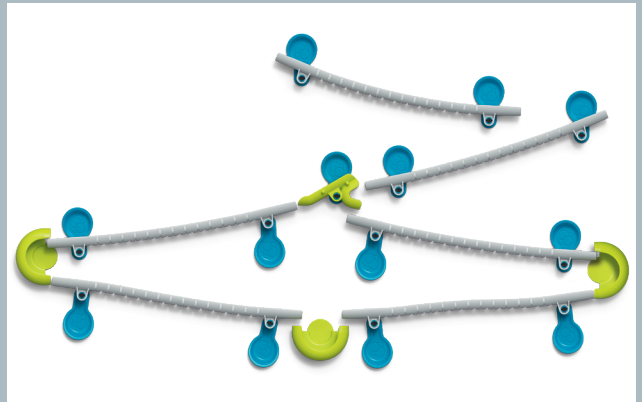
The track turn

You have already discovered that the track turn can change the direction of the marble and also catch it. But that's not all! If you set up the track turn as shown, it will collect a few marbles before releasing them one at a time. See conservation of momentum at work!



The switch

The switch splits your run into two different paths. If you don't have much space on your playing surface or if your components are running low, you can reunite the divided paths beneath the switch.



Slow-motion videos

Perhaps you could borrow a smartphone or tablet with a slow-motion video app from your parents, or maybe you have one yourself. By filming your marble as it rolls along your track, you can make exciting, dramatic videos. A slow-motion video can also help you spot problem areas if your marble keeps falling off track and you can't see the cause with the naked eye.

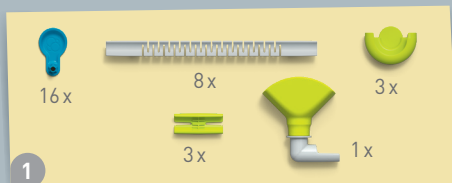


CHALLENGES

Here are a few challenges for you to try with your Gecko Run. Compete alone or against friends and family.

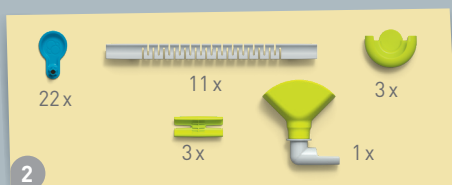
Challenge #1

Use the components shown to build a run through which the marble travels **as fast as possible** and arrives at the destination — i.e., the track turn — three times in a row!



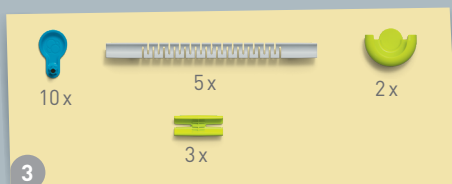
Challenge #2

Use the components shown to build a run on which the marble travels for **as much time as possible**. The destination is once again the track turn used as a marble catcher.



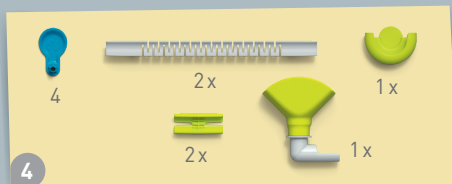
Challenge #3

Use the parts shown to build a run that covers **as much height as possible** without losing the marble.



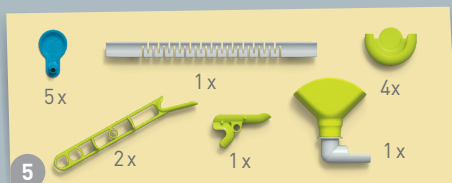
Challenge #4

Build a jump for the marbles using the components shown. Use the funnel and track turn as a catcher. How far will your marble fly?



Challenge #5

Build a run that only includes **one track** and otherwise consists only of tricks.



Find out more about your Gecko Run by scanning this QR code.





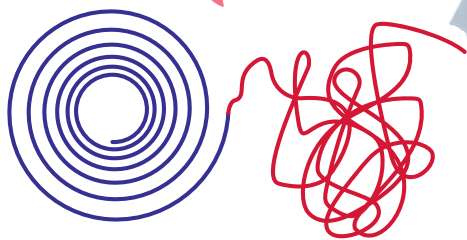
CHECK IT OUT

The subtle difference

You may have noticed something rather odd while playing and experimenting with your Gecko Run: you have built an exciting track and the marble goes through it perfectly a few times. But on the next attempt, the marble suddenly jumps off the track or gets stuck somewhere. This strange phenomenon can be explained with the help of chaos theory.



It's not always obvious when a system enters an apparently chaotic state.

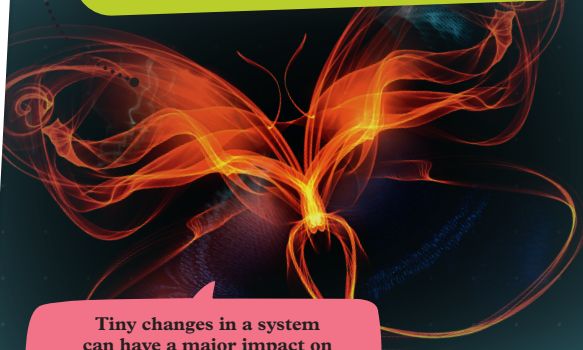


CHAOS THEORY

Your marble follows physical laws that are identical at all times. In principle, therefore, your marble should take an identical path each time. But the reality is probably different! You may have set up your track to be dependent on ideal starting conditions — in other words, by exactly how you put the marble onto the track. Tiny differences in initial positioning can result in the marble hitting a trick slightly differently, and these deviations can then be exacerbated until the marble eventually bounces off the track.

THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT

Have you heard of the butterfly effect? This refers to the claim that the flap of a butterfly's wings in Brazil can trigger a tornado in Texas. This is not meant to be taken literally, but rather as an example of how minute (very small) changes in a system (like a puff of air from a flap of wings) can have an enormous effect. In fact, this phenomenon is especially apparent in weather patterns, which is why it's almost impossible to reliably predict the weather more than one week into the future.



Tiny changes in a system can have a major impact on its behavior.



CHECK IT OUT

The countless hairs on a gecko's foot can only be seen clearly under a microscope.

Animals that STICK

Thanks to the ingenious pads, your marble run can hang like a gecko on vertical walls. But do you know which animals have similar sticky abilities?



GECKOS, INSECTS, AND SPIDERS

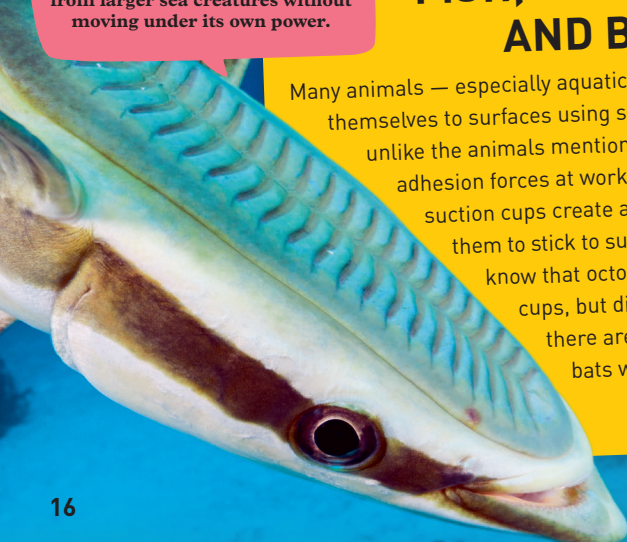
These animals have countless microscopic hairs on their legs that increase the contact surface with the wall many times over. This creates physical adhesive forces (referred to simply as adhesion), which ensure that the wall and the animal's feet attract each other. By the way, the same forces act when you bring plastic wrap (cling wrap) into contact with a smooth surface.

The remora is a species of fish with suction cups on its head. These allow the fish to hitch a ride from larger sea creatures without moving under its own power.

FISH, OCTOPUSES, AND BATS

Many animals — especially aquatic ones — attach themselves to surfaces using suction cups. However, unlike the animals mentioned above, there are no adhesion forces at work here. Instead, their suction cups create a vacuum that causes them to stick to surfaces. You probably know that octopuses use suction cups, but did you know that there are also sharks and bats with suction cups?

The tentacles of the giant Pacific octopus are not only incredibly mobile, they can also hold onto pretty much anything thanks to their thousands of suction cups.



© 2023 Franckh-Kosmos Verlags-GmbH & Co. KG • Pfizerstrasse 5–7 • 70184 Stuttgart, DE

This work, including all its parts, is copyright protected. Any use outside the specific limits of the copyright law is prohibited and punishable by law without the consent of the publisher. This applies specifically to reproductions, translations, microfilming, and storage and processing in electronic systems and networks. We do not guarantee that all material in this work is free from other copyright or other protection.

Concept: Richard Schmising

Editorial: Richard Schmising

Technical product development: Deryl Tjahja

Product design: Manuel Ayd, aydt design, Pforzheim

Design concept for instructions: Atelier Bea Klenk, Berlin

Layout of packaging and instructions: Michael Schlegel, Würzburg

English manual editing: Hannah Mintz, Ted McGuire

3D illustrations for instructions and packaging: Andreas Resch

Design concept & packaging design: Peter Schmidt Group, Hamburg

Additional graphics and layout: Dan Freitas

Images: Jaimie Duplass & beror (all adhesive strips © fotolia); Agsandrew, p. 15 top; AlexVector, p. 15 middle; nexus 7, p. 12 top left, p. 13 bottom right; nico99, p. 16; Popmarleo, p. 16 top; Shane Gross p. 16; Urfin, p. 2 bottom, p. 11 middle; Vectorium, p. 15 top right; Yellow Cat, p. 16 (all @ shutterstock.com), Andreas Resch, p. 1, p. 10 (using an image by manzrussali @ shutterstock.com), p. 6 (using an image by MPH Photos @ shutterstock.com), p. 11 or (using an image by Kinek00 @ shutterstock.com)

The publisher has made every effort to identify the owners of the rights to all photos used. If there is any instance in which the owners of the rights to any pictures have not been acknowledged, they are asked to inform the publisher about their copyright ownership so that they may receive the customary image fee.

2nd Edition © 2023, 2024 Thames & Kosmos, LLC, Providence, RI, USA

Thames & Kosmos® is a registered trademark of Thames & Kosmos, LLC.

Distributed in North America by Thames & Kosmos, LLC. Providence, RI 02903

Phone: 800-587-2872; Web: www.thamesandkosmos.com

Distributed in United Kingdom by Thames & Kosmos UK LP. Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3HE

Phone: 01580 713000; Web: www.thamesandkosmos.co.uk

We reserve the right to make technical changes.

Printed in Germany/Imprimé en Allemagne

GECKO RUN

Limitless!

Ever-changing,
non-stop
rolling fun!

INGENIOUS EXTENSIONS FOR YOUR GECKO RUN



GECKO RUN - LOOP

With the loop, you can add even more speed, action, and experimental fun to your marble run. How much speed does the marble need to race perfectly through the loop? Find out!



GECKO RUN - TRAMPOLINE

How can you align the trampoline to make the marble fly even further? Can you even bounce it downward or catapult it to a higher section? Experiment with trajectories, bounce, and rebound angles.

COOL expansion packs to extend
extras your marble run fun!

Do you have any
questions?

Our customer service
team would be glad
to help you!

Thames & Kosmos US
Email: support@thamesandkosmos.com
Phone: 1-800-587-2872

Thames & Kosmos UK
Web: thamesandkosmos.co.uk
Phone: 01580 713000