



You had 9 mini 5x5 puzzles, and the title "Some Assembly Required". I was hoping that would be enough to get you to notice that you could assemble the smaller grids to make a larger 15x15 grid (which is the standard size for most of my puzzles). You just needed to order the mini puzzles in their 1-9 order, and you didn't need to pay any attention to the not-quite symmetric squares (sorry if that tripped you up!)

While you were solving, I had hoped you would notice two things. First, a clue in part 7 mentioned that you could "spell out" a letter with three blocks in a meta crossword, so I was hoping you'd then go searching for groups of three blocks that would make a letter. A good place to start would be the rebus squares in part 4 (the second thing I had hoped you would notice). Those rebus blocks, when combined with the next block in part 5, spelled out DOUBLE U, which is a phonetic letter spelled out from three squares. If you looked in those same locations (middle row/column, with two blocks from the first puzzle and one block from the following puzzle) you could find 11 other letters in the mega-grid, which spelled out, in order JIGSAW PUZZLE, which is indeed an item that resurged in popularity during quarantine and our meta answer.