Four if by Sedan Chair

by Brie Frame, Ben Smith, and Joe Cabrera

Teams are assembling a decoder that when placed over the assembly instructions will reveal the answer. Seems easy enough. Unfortunately, the instructions are in Sverdish. Fortunately, you don't need to be fluent in a fictional foreign language to figure out how to assemble things.

Even more fortunately, page 4 contains a Rosetta Stone of sorts: a short paragraph written in both English and Sverdish. Translating this paragraph gives the solver several useful prepositions (*above*, *below*, and *to the right of*) and a few articles and smaller words (*to*, *the*, and *this*).

Additionally, the parts list on page 2 labels a few of the pieces. It is reasonable to assume that *keglär*, *cesär*, and *setär* are the names of shapes; though *flerk* is an adjective describing something that all the labeled shapes have in common, it might not be obvious yet what that is. (SPOILER ALERT: It's *large*. *Flerk* means *large*.)

The final given piece of information is that tape is called *blerfär* in the Sverdish language. Since almost all of the instructions begin with the word *blerfen*, the language aficionado might guess that nouns in Sverdish end in $-\ddot{a}r$ and verbs end in -en. It's a good thing that this guess is correct.

Between the given information, the included colored figures, and the set of Sverdish instructions, the solver can then work back and forth to figure out the rest of the translation and build a DECODER. The final instruction is to place the DECODER on page 3, where there is a mysteriously DECODER-shaped area in gray. Reading portions of words through the windows of the DECODER give the answer: **ADVANCES IN SOFAS**.

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF SVERDISH INSTRUCTIONS:

- 0.1) Tape 3 small triangles to a large square (figure 1). Call this "FOO". Make 2.
- 0.2) Tape a small square to the short side of a small rectangle. Call this "BAR". Make 2.
- 0.3) Tape a medium triangle to the short side of a large rectangle (figure 2). Call this "BAZ". Make 3.
 - 1) Tape 1 FOO left [the key] (figure 3).
 - 2) Tape the long side of a large triangle to the long sides of 2 small triangles. Tape the short sides of another large triangle right a small triangle and below a large square (figure 4).
 - 3) Tape the long side of a small triangle left and align top [the kev].
 - 4) Tape a small square below the [the key] and below a small triangle.
 - 5) Tape the short side of another small triangle left and below the small square. The long side of this triangle align left.
- 6) Tape the long side of a small rectangle right a large square.
- 7) Tape the short side of 1 BAR right and align top of a small rectangle.
- 8) Tape 1 BAZ below the BAR. Tape another BAZ to the left of that BAZ (figure 5).
- 9) Tape the short side of a large triangle below a BAR.
- 10) Tape a FOO left and to bottom of a BAZ.
- 11) Tape the long side of a medium triangle below a large triangle. Tape the long side of another medium triangle below and left that medium triangle (figure 6).
- 12) Tape the long side of a small triangle below and right a medium triangle.
- 13) Tape the short side of a BAR left and align bottom of a FOO.
- 14) Tape a BAZ left and align bottom of a BAR.
- 15) Call this DECODER. Tape the DECODER to page 3.



