

Hawaii Cubing Community

Crash Course in Cubing

April 2023 (updated 8/23/24)
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Beginner Cube

If you want to get into speedcubing, you should start by getting a good beginner puzzle. Most of these are under \$20:

- Moyu RS3M 2020 3x3
- YuXin Little Magic 3x3
- Qiyi Warrior W 3X3

For a little more money, you might consider a smart cube. These puzzles offer tutorials, allow you to race online with other cubers, and track your solve times.

- GAN 356 i Carry

Locally, there isn't a great selection of speedcubes. You can find some puzzles at:

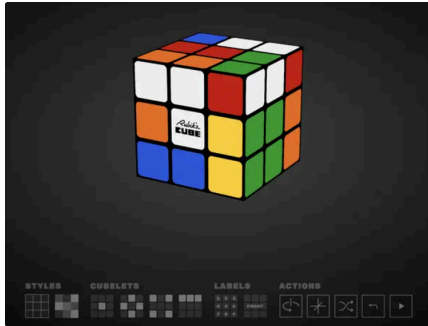
- Razor Concepts & Sports at Pearlridge Center
- Thinker Things
- Toys Express at Windward Mall

For better deals, sometimes free gifts, good reviews, a better selection, and support companies that give back to the cubing community, check out these popular online puzzle shops:

- [The Cubicle: https://www.thecubicle.com/](https://www.thecubicle.com/)
 - We can place an order for you for 15% off, but it has to come through the club's email account.

- [SpeedCubeShop: https://speedcubeshop.com/](https://speedcubeshop.com/)
 - Use Promo Code HCC for 15% off (valid until 10/31/24)

Cube Basics



How does the cube work? Check out this Google Chrome Lab experiment by Stewart Smith for a brief tutorial: <https://iamthecu.be/>. This fun interactive demo allows you to explore the different elements of the cube. This is best viewed on the Chrome browser. Learn about centers, opposite facing colors, edge pieces, corners, rotation.

Beginner Solve Guides

Choose your own adventure. There are many beginner solve guides; they're all fairly similar. Basic rule of thumb for beginners' methods: solve [layer by layer](#) and not face by face.

- [J Perm's Beginner Method for 3x3 \(https://jperm.net/3x3\)](https://jperm.net/3x3)



A simple method that doesn't require learning notation or fancy algorithms. Try not to get discouraged! Many of us watched and re-watched this video hundreds of times. Once you master this, you can move on to more complicated algorithms and [finger tricks](#).

- [CubeHead Cube.Academy \(https://www.cube.academy/\)](https://www.cube.academy/)



How to solve a 3x3. Cube notation. Beginner CFOP. Intermediate CFOP. Fingertricks. Speedcubing fundamentals. OLL/PLL. Cubing resources/tools.

- [Tyson Mao's Rubik's Cube Tutorial \(Co-founder of the WCA\)](http://www.tysonmao.com)
(www.tysonmao.com)

Totally Not Related to Work

Tyson's Rubik's Cube Tutorial (go/rubiks-tutorial)

May 18, 2021

tyson.mao@gmail.com (if you have questions, best is to leave a comment in the deck)

- [CubeSkills Beginner Method](https://www.cubeskills.com/tutorials/the-beginners-method-for-solving-the-rubiks-cube)

(<https://www.cubeskills.com/tutorials/the-beginners-method-for-solving-the-rubiks-cube>)



Learn how to solve a 3x3 by two time World Cube Association world champion Felix Zemdegs.

[Download tutorial PDF.](#)

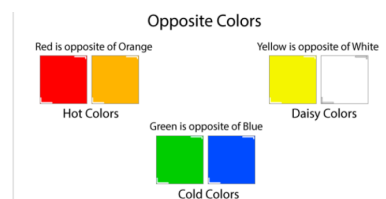
- [GAN Tutorials](https://www.gancube.com/tutorials/) (<https://www.gancube.com/tutorials/>)

Tutorials from the speedcube brand, GAN, with some focus on finger placement/turning and cube notation.

- [Easiest Solve](https://easiestsolve.com/) (<https://easiestsolve.com/>)

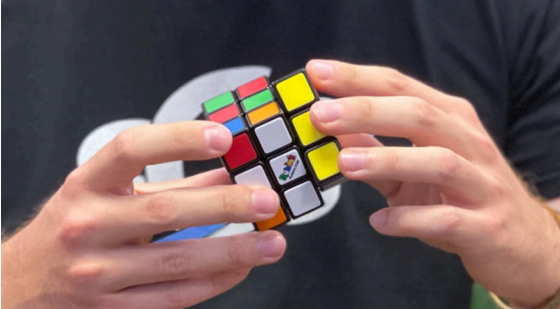


A fun, self-proclaimed "easiest solve" tutorial. It has nice tips about learning the basics of your cube, like this graphic:



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- [SpeedCubeShop How to Solve a Rubik's Cube for Beginners](https://speedcubeshop.com/a/blog/solve-a-rubiks-cube)

(<https://speedcubeshop.com/a/blog/solve-a-rubiks-cube>)



The [printable PDF solve guide](#) from this site is pretty handy and easy to understand. It's written by Cameron Brown, the guy who started SpeedCubeShop.

- [Rubik's Guides](https://rubiks.com/en-US/solve-it/) (<https://rubiks.com/en-US/solve-it/>)



3X3 Cube

From the puzzle that started it all, Rubik, comes guides for puzzles of all shapes and sizes.

[Cubing Terminology](https://www.cubeskills.com/tools/glossary) (<https://www.cubeskills.com/tools/glossary>)

10+ Cubing Terms Every Cuber Should Know!



J Perm ✓

1.46M subscribers

Subscribe

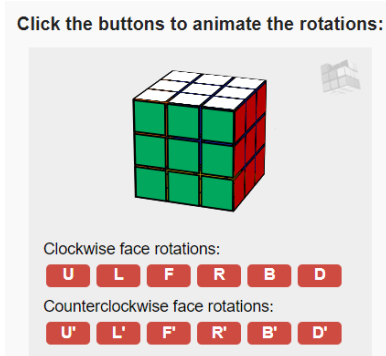
If you're going to hang out with speedcubers, you should learn the lingo. The above link goes to Feliks Zemdegs' glossary. The famous YouCuber–J

Perm–explains the [10+ Cubing Terms Every Cuber Should Know](#) for us visual learners. For more, there's [Part 2](#) and [Part 3](#). So true. Don't DNF, learn the terms.

Speedcubing

Once you have mastered the beginner's method, there are a few ways to get faster. You can 1) get faster/smoothier with your finger tricks, 2) get more efficient with your turns with algorithms, 3) practice, practice, and more practice.

- **Cubing Notation**

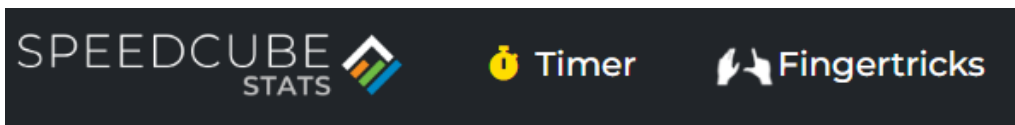


In order to read algorithm tutorials, you'll need to learn cubing notation. There are 6 letters to represent the faces of the cube. There are even more advanced rotations for speedcubing.

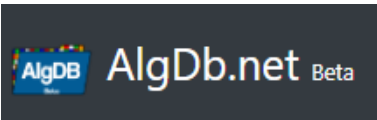


On [Ruwix](https://ruwix.com), there's a fun animation and an interactive widget that allows you to visualize the rotations.

<https://ruwix.com/the-rubiks-cube/notation/>. You can find another one on [SolveTheCube](https://solvethecube.com/notation/) (<https://solvethecube.com/notation/>). If you prefer a video, check out [J Perm's Full Notation Guide](https://youtu.be/24eHm4ri8WM) (<https://youtu.be/24eHm4ri8WM>).

- **Finger Tricks Database** (<https://speedcubestats.com/library>)



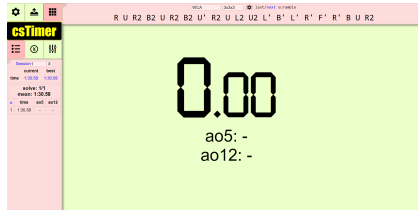
- **Algorithm Database**

-  Algorithm Database (<http://algdb.net/>)
-  J Perm Algorithms (<https://jperm.net/>)
-  SpeedCubeDB (<https://speedcubedb.com/>)

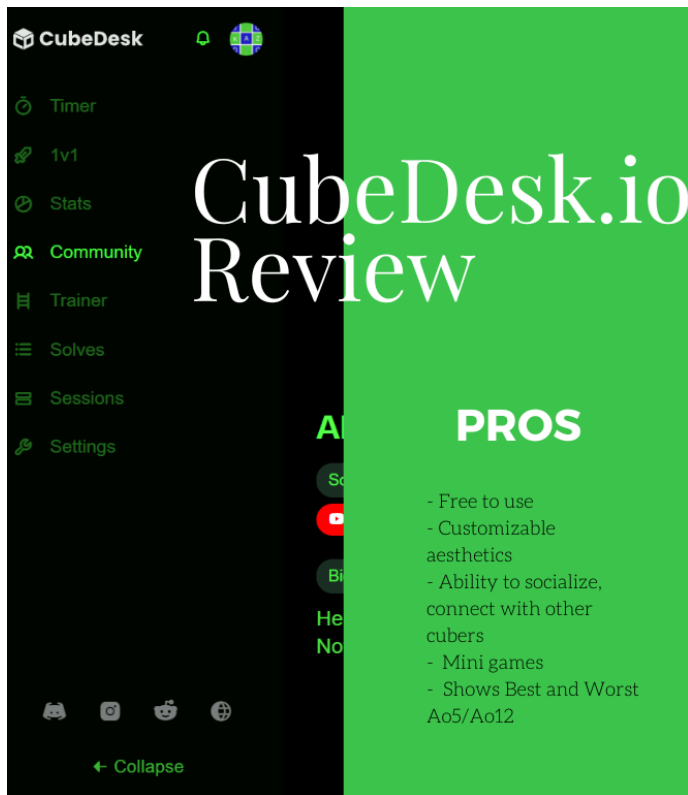
- **Cube Timers**

- Online

- csTimer (<https://cstimer.net/>)

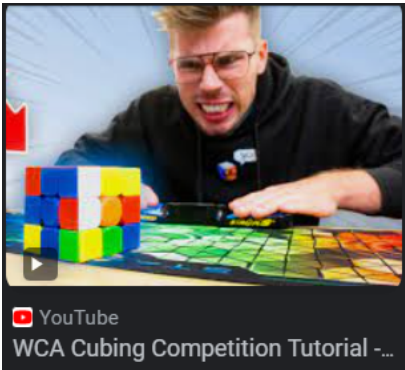


- CubeDesk (<https://www.cubedesk.io/home>)



- Speed Stacks Stack Mats are [used in WCA competitions \(www.speedstacks.com\)](https://www.speedstacks.com).
 - Generation 3 Pro Timer, Generation 4 Pro Timer, or Generation 5 Pro Timer

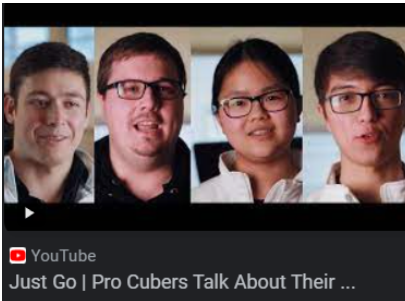
Competitions



WCA Cubing Competition Tutorial from YouCuber CubeHead. Be sure to watch this video before going to your first competition.

<https://youtu.be/8dSuMG--wm8>

Videos/Movies about Speedcubing



Just Go | Pro Cubers Talk About Their First Competition - Cyotheking video describes going to a WCA competition.

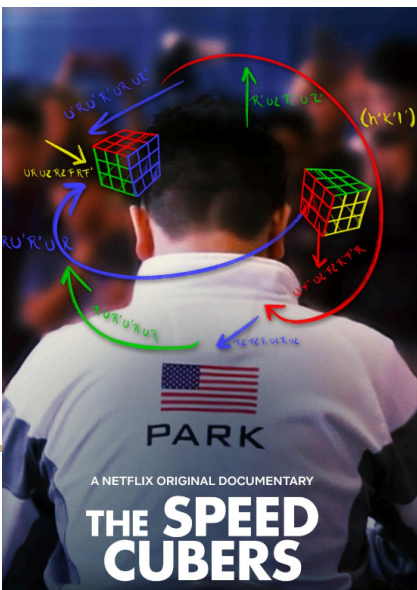
<https://youtu.be/TOJ2dXahS1Q>



Why We Cube | A Speedcubing Documentary

Documentary by Chris Olsen about the competitive world of speedcubing.

<https://youtu.be/1oZY2e25VUw>



The Speed Cubers

A Netflix documentary that follows the journey of speedcuber greats—Max Park and Feliks Zemdegs. A must see for any aspiring speedcuber.

<https://www.netflix.com/title/81092143>

First Comp Tips:

- Before the comp:
 - Get a good night's sleep. Competition day is a LONG day!
 - Make sure your cubes are set up before the comp. You might bring a spare in case something happens to your main.
 - Familiarize yourself with [judging](#). You will be expected to help with judging during the comp. Don't sweat it. It's fairly easy. You'll be shown how. You might also be asked to be a runner or scrambler.
 - Familiarize yourself with the competition environment: using a cube cover, inspection, using a Stackmat timer, scorecard (DNF, +2), types of cubes allowed/regulations.
https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/files/WCA_Competition_Tutorial.pdf
 - If the venue allows it, pack snacks/drinks.
 - If you practice with ear plugs, pack those.
- Day of the comp:
 - Arrive early, register on time, get your schedule. Pay attention to when you'll be solving or judging. Find a practice table.
 - If it's your first comp, be sure to attend the tutorial at the beginning.
 - Keep track of your cubes. Know how many you brought. If the center cap comes off, consider putting your name there. A lot of cubes look alike. It's not uncommon for them to get mixed up or go missing.
 - Talk to other cubers in the community. Everyone is welcoming and friendly, even the "famous" cubers.
 - Meet the organizers and delegates. They're approachable and open to any questions that you might have. Be sure to thank your delegate. It takes a lot of work to organize a comp.

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- Keep calm and cube on. It's common to do a little worse in comp than at home.
 - Relax and have fun.
 - Follow this Reddit thread for more tips:
https://www.reddit.com/r/Cubers/comments/21bpew/competition_tips_and_tricks_for_beginners/

Cubing Community

- **Online Communities**
 - Reddit [r/cubers](https://www.reddit.com/r/cubers)
 - [SpeedSolving](#) message boards
 - [West Coast Cubing](#)
 - World Cube Association [Forum](#)
 - [Ruwix](#) twisty puzzle wiki
 - [Cubing Moms](#) Facebook Group
- **Podcasts**
 - [Speedcubing 101 for Parents of New Speedcubers](#)
- **In-person Communities**



World Cube Association

(<https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/>)

- List of Competitions:

<https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/competitions>

- Competition regulations:

<https://www.worldcubeassociation.org/regulations/>



CubingUSA (<https://cubingusa.org/>)

- Organizes National and Regional Championships
- [State Rankings](#):

(https://cubingusa.org/state_rankings#/s=all/a=1)

“Create an account on the WCA website and link it with your WCA ID. Log in to the CubingUSA website. Edit your account and set your home state. Since this also affects Regional Championship eligibility, you can only do this once per year.”



[Hawaii Cubing Community](http://www.hawaiicubingcommunity.org)

(www.hawaiicubingcommunity.org)

- Helping to grow the cubing community in Hawaii
- Organizes group practices/scrimmages, service projects, meet ups, and assists WCA delegates with organizing competitions.
- Facebook group
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/805912043768978>
- Discord Group <https://discord.gg/qCOE6ds96X>
- Email: hawaiicubingcommunity@gmail.com
- Instagram:
<https://www.instagram.com/hawaiicubingcommunity/>
- YouCubers
 - [Matty Hiroto Inaba](#) (aka [@thecubingiedi](#)). Hawaii's own, world ranked (#6 for 3x3 Ao5), speedcuber.
 - [JPerm](#) "I make videos so you can get faster!"
 - [Tingman](#) "Welcome to the home of the tingman. And his kids. We're all about community, unique challenges, wholesome cubing stories, and stuff that makes you smile. Whether or not you've ever touched a Rubik's Cube, there's something here for you!"
 - [TheCubicle](#) "The official YouTube channel of TheCubicle.com. Subscribe for new product overviews, how-to's, giveaways, and more!"

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- [Speedcube Shop](#) "Find the latest in speed cube and twisty puzzle reviews, tips and tricks, and videos on speedcubing and cubing"