Contents: 60 colored wooden blocks, 1 wooden plinth and 1 cloth bag

Setup: Put all the blocks into the cloth bag. Place the plinth on a level surface. You are now ready to play Tumba!

Rules For Building: The most important rule to remember is that you may only build color on color. This means that you may only place your block on another block if the section (or sections) of those blocks that will be in contact with each other are of a matching color. Blocks may be placed on their sides (Figure 1) or on their ends (Figure 2). You may also bridge across several blocks (Figure 3) as long as you always obey the color on color rule.

How To Play: Decide who will start the game, then play will proceed clockwise.

Without looking, the first player reaches into the bag and removes a block. The block is then placed horizontally into one of the three grooves on the plinth. If the player chooses to place the first block in one of the parallel grooves, another player, on their turn, may place a block in the other groove on the plinth. The next player blindly draws a block from the bag and builds upon the block(s) placed by the previous player. Play continues in this manner, remembering that the point of contact with the block beneath must be the same color.

You may test the balance of the structure by gently placing the block where you intend to build, so long as you do not let go of the block. Once you let go of the block you cannot touch it again. You may use one or two hands when placing a block.

NO PLAYS and CHALLENGES: If a player declares that there is no available space for them to make a play (no color match available, or if in their opinion the result of placing the block on the color match available will result in the structure collapsing) they call “NO PLAY!” It is then up to the other players to decide if in fact this declaration is true. If the “NO PLAY” is validated, then the player may return the block to the cloth bag and draw another one to make their play. However, if the other player(s) declare that a play is available, then they call out “CHALLENGE!” The player who called “CHALLENGE” now has to take the block from the player who called the “NO PLAY” and attempt to place the block. If they do this successfully then the player who called the “NO PLAY” is eliminated from the game. However, if the challenger causes the Tumba structure to collapse while making their play, then the other players call out “TUMBA!” and that player is eliminated. So think hard before you declare a “NO PLAY” or a “CHALLENGE”!

Winning The Game (2 or more players): The winner is decided by a process of elimination. When a player placing a block causes the structure to collapse (“TUMBA!”), then this player is eliminated. All the blocks are returned to the Tumba bag and play restarts with the remaining players. The last player left is the winner.

One Player Game: See how high you can build before you cause the structure to fall (“TUMBA!”). Along with the fun of the personal challenge, you will improve your technique and strategy for games against other players!