The Contraption Shuffle

Three cards. One improbable invention.

MATERIALS
18 cards / draw one

MECHANISM
18 cards / draw one

MISSION
18 cards / draw one

01 / SEPARATE, SHUFFLE, DRAW

Shuffle the three piles separately and place them category-back up. Draw one green Materials card, one blue Mechanism card and one red Mission card. Turn them over to reveal your challenge.

02 / READ YOUR CHALLENGE

Use [MATERIAL] to build something that uses [MECHANISM] to accomplish [MISSION]. With 18 choices in each pile, there are 5,832 possible draws.

03 / MAKE IT WORK

The material must be a main ingredient. The mechanism must do useful work. Demonstrate the mission. Small working models and strange interpretations count.

04 / MAKE IT YOURS

Use supporting supplies, glue, tape, string and ordinary fasteners as needed. Stuck? Keep two cards and redraw the third. Compare different builds from the same draw.

PRINT, CUT, PLAY

Print the card PDF on US Letter at 100% / Actual size, double-sided with a long-edge flip. Each odd page shows the category backs. The next even page shows the nine challenge faces.

Print pages 1-2 first and check alignment and size. Each cut card must measure 2.5 x 3.5 inches. Cut on the fine grid lines; round corners if desired. Nine cards fit each sheet.

If your printer cannot duplex cardstock, print fronts and backs separately and mount them together. Use stock your printer supports.

Print shop: use the bleed PDFs or 300 dpi PNGs in the print pack. Trim is 2.5 x 3.5 inches, with 0.125-inch bleed on every side. Confirm the shop's own template before ordering.