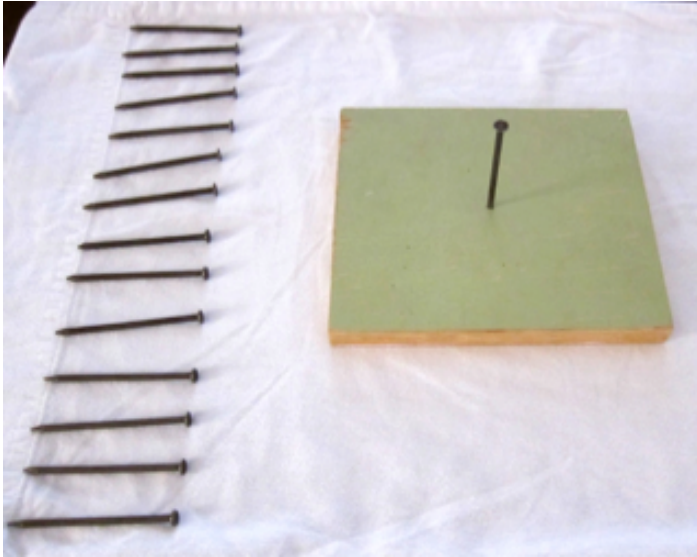


Nail Balance Puzzle

Place the small square of wood with the nail in it on the desk and place 14 large nails by the square. The puzzle works with any size nails but for students its easier for students to use larger nails. Ask the student to balance all fourteen nails on the head of the nail that protrudes from the board.

Start



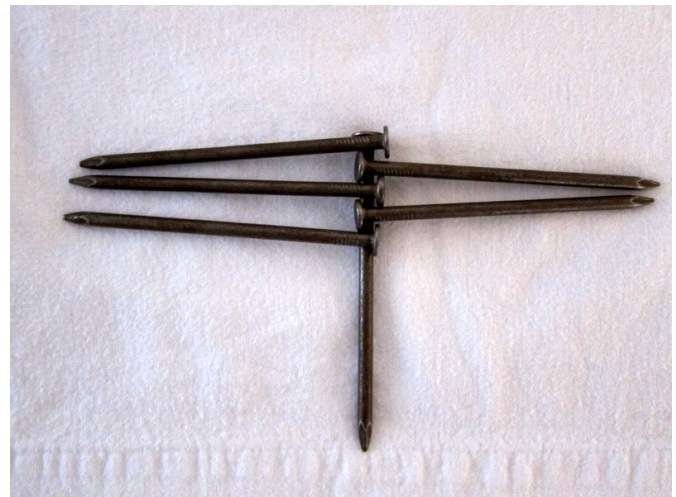
Solution



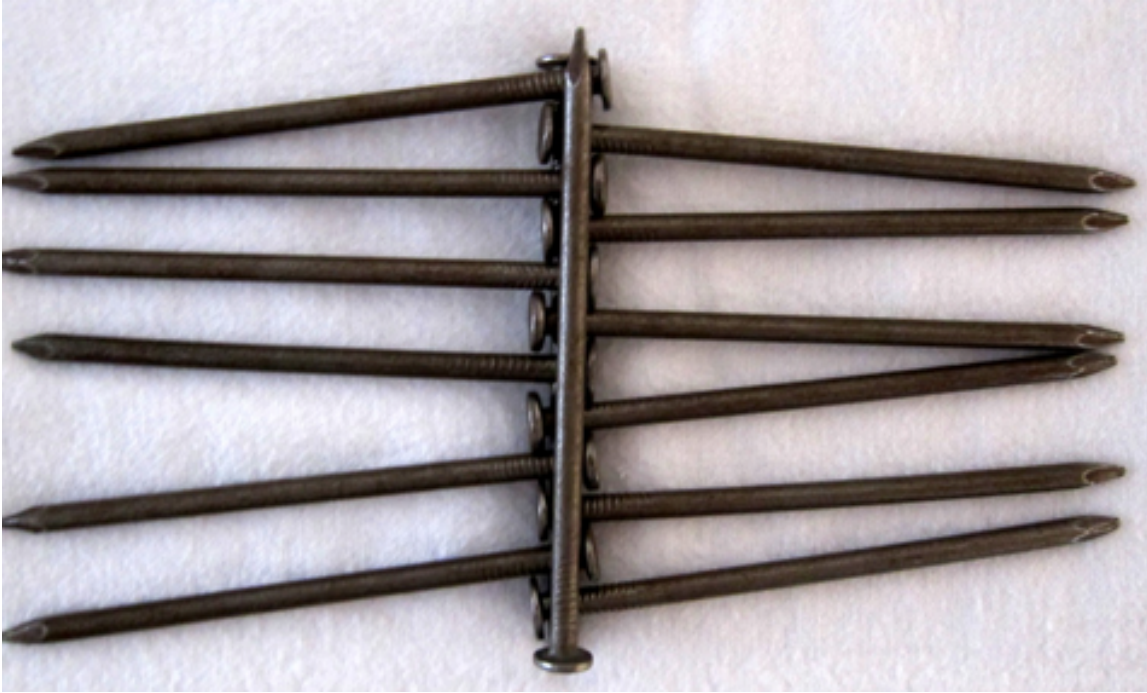
How it is done

Begin by placing one of the 14 nails down on a **flat surface**. We will call this nail the **backbone**. Then placing a nail on top of the backbone so its head is at the top and the nail is at right angles to the backbone. See the picture below.

Then continue placing nails on the backbone, alternate placing every other nail in the opposite direction so the the heads of the nails are very close to each other. See the picture below.



Place a second backbone nail on top of the nails with its head in the opposite direction as the other backbone. Be sure the backbone is between all the nail heads as shown below.



Now for the hard part.

Carefully pick up the nails by holding both ends of the backbone in your fingers. Go slow and the nails will lock together (place) and place the middle of the lower backbone on the nail that is hammered into the board.

