Brief summary of strategy classification of block design test

Three basic strategies:

1. Analytic strategy: the displayed design is mentally segmented into units corresponding to block faces, then the blocks are directly placed, one by one, to match each unit.
2. Global strategy: the design is viewed as a whole and is not differentiated into units corresponding to black faces; instead, the blocks are manipulated until they match the pattern or seem to "click" with adjoining blocks to reproduce the design.
3. Synthetic strategy: the designs presented to the subjects are made up of gestalts. Groups of blocks that form a simple geometric figure such as a triangle or a diamond. The gestalt is a form or structure that cannot be reduced to the mere juxtaposition of elements.

Difference between gestalt strategy and non-gestalt strategy:

1. Analytic strategy: segmentation of the pattern and the orientation of the bicolored blocks. The placement order is independent of the pattern.
2. Global strategy: no operations of segmentation and orientation. The design is adjusted as it is built, by trial and error.
3. Synthetic strategy: place the blocks in the order that confirms the gestalt of the design.

Index to differentiate synthetic strategy and analytic strategy:

1. The placement order: the placement order of synthetic strategy is dependent of the pattern, while the placement order of the analytic strategy is independent of the pattern.
2. The number of times the subject refers to the design: subjects with synthetic strategy refer little to the design, while the subjects with analytic strategy rely often on the design, even refer to the design after placing each block.