

## Tasker Briefing

*Start a 10-minute countdown on the timer and then read this out loud.*

Fearless Astra-Taskers! Welcome to what may be your greatest challenge yet. The United Nations have chosen you for your exceptional record, 5 out of 5 stars on every task you've ever completed. Among the entire Tasker family, you are the choice few whose ratings has never dipped below SLAMMIN', even for a moment. And with that, you have shown yourselves to truly be experts in that most obscure crafts. Furniture Assembly.

The whole world calls on you. You've assembled more furniture than quite possibly anyone else on this planet, and we haven't a moment to lose. As you are well aware from every major news outlet, our alien visitors are on their way, and they have sent something in preparation... It's, well... What you could describe as a "rider". You know, like bands have. How their trailer should be prepared, what colour M&M's are permissible, and the like? Well, it turns out it's not just a human concept.

In their rider, they very explicitly stated they will need a XORS for comfort and relaxation. They included the components, which you now see scattered around you. The problem is, they're going to be here in a little under two hours. Otherwise, we wouldn't have needed to call for Astra-Taskers, would we? You have been chosen to facilitate this on-demand exercise in assembly at breathtaking speed.

Of course, this time your instructions might come off as... Odd.

This has hitherto been classified, but you'll need to know this by now. This is the only reliable form of communication we've had with the aliens so far. Consumables. They send messages this way. Take the message, eat it and swallow it. This will cause you to experience something. Sometimes a familiar memory, sometimes... Strange visions. Some even involve other people besides the one ingesting the consumable.

Their messages sent this way always have a purpose. It's obvious they are deliberate and careful. In this case, our hypothesis is that they correspond to the eight steps needed to assemble the XORS.

So, um... Get to it? Oh, and as I mentioned, we have a really tight deadline. Your robot assistant will help you by ringing a chime every ten minutes... To save time, it should already have started counting down at the beginning of this briefing. When you hear the alarm, ingest the instructions and move on to the next step.

Look. For all we know, this may be some sort of test for humanity's ability to follow instructions and readiness to take things seriously. This is probably a lot, but you have our full faith and support.