**Twin Helicenes Twist Benzene**

**Significance:** The authors report a new approach to construct distorted benzene rings by constraining a benzene ring between two opposing [5]helicenes. Double helicene 5 was synthesized via a tandem intramolecular phospha-Friedel–Crafts reaction. By X-ray crystallography, the central benzene ring of 5 was found to possess a bending angle of 23°, and the sulfur atoms were found to be in a cis arrangement.

**Comment:** Distorted double helicene 5 can be desulfurized with triethylphosphine to yield bis(phosphine) 7, which could find potential use as a C$_2$-symmetric ligand for bimetallic complexes, following separation of enantiomers.

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**SYNFACTS**

**Category:** Synthesis of Materials and Unnatural Products

**Key words:**
- aromaticity
- helical structures
- ligand design
- Friedel–Crafts reaction