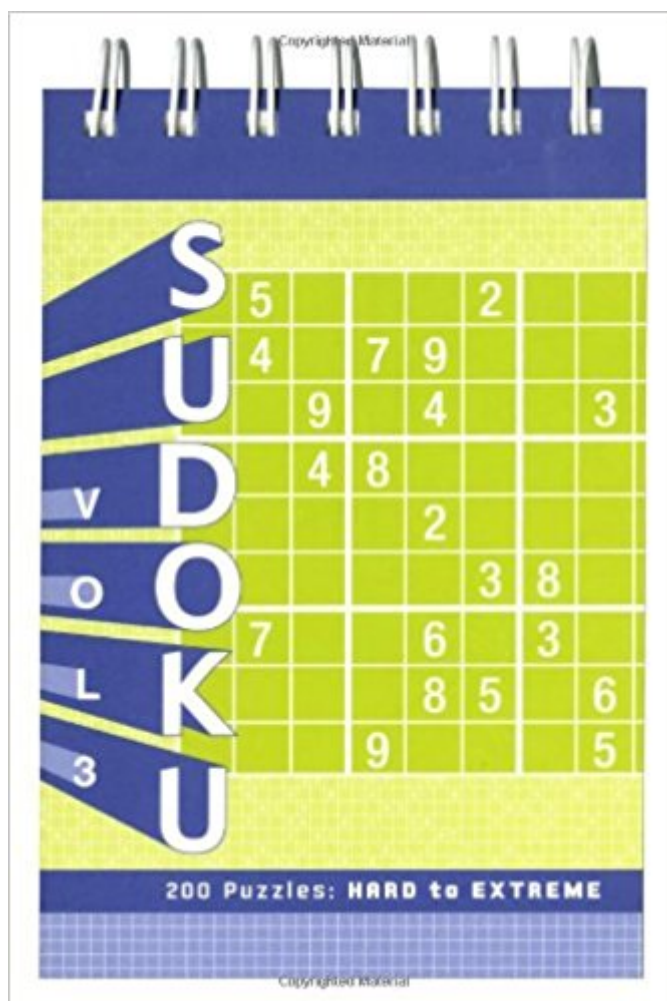


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Sudoku 3: 200 Puzzles: Hard To Extreme



Synopsis

Perfect for sharpening concentration and reasoning skills, here are 200 all-new Sudoku puzzles that build in difficulty level from hard to very challenging. A musthave for every on-the-go Sudoku sleuth!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Zachary is a programmer and professor of biophysics at Columbia University, U.S.A.

I really like doing Sudoku to keep mentally sharp. I no longer buy the Sudoku magazines because they are way too easy for me. I do Sudoku, and play Bridge to stimulate my mind. I will be 61 years old next month, and want to keep Alzheimer's and dementia at bay. I can solve a medium Sudoku in about 7 minutes, and a hard Sudoku in 10-13 minutes. I really enjoy the challenge of the extreme, Grand Master, and super grand master levels of difficulty. Some take me 40-50 minutes to solve. Most people are doing Sudoku THE WRONG WAY! They read books on solving Sudoku and think the only way to solve hard Sudoku is to use the full possibility matrix. THE FULL POSSIBILITY MATRIX IS NOT YOUR FRIEND. IN FACT IT CAUSES MORE PROBLEMS THAN IT SOLVES! Why do you think strategies like X Wing, XY wing, star fish, squirm, and about 60 other strategies were invented? Because the possibility matrix PUTS SO MUCH GARBAGE ON THE PUZZLE YOU CANT SEPARATE THE USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE USELESS TRASH!! only use three strategies and solve level 6 Sudoku puzzles. I'm not going to argue with success. Try my method. I think you will be surprised.

1. Cross hatching. This is the first Sudoku strategy everyone learns.
2. Streamlined possibility matrix. If you see two places a number can go in a row or

column inside one of the boxes use pencil marks. Other than that don't worry if a number can go in 8 different cells. It's not worth your time. If you can avoid the trap of the possibility matrix you will start seeing pairs and triples that you couldn't see before because there was so much garbage on the page.

3. Fill It In. Every once in a while stop and look around at the 9 boxes, rows, and columns. When you see a box, row or column almost solved see what is missing and see if you can solve this one box, column or row. The tiniest little bit of information may be the keystone that makes the rest of the puzzle fall like a bunch of dominoes. My sister was a firm believer in the full possibility matrix even though I kept telling her my way was better. So I challenged her to a race on two copies of a medium puzzle. She gave the start command, and I had my copy of the puzzle solved before she had written down the full possibility matrix. Her expression was BUT YOU CANT BE DONE. I told her to print two copies of the same medium puzzle and I would do it again. After I beat her the second time she saw my method had some merit. Highly recommended 5 stars

The puzzles are hard. What I do not like is that the size is too small for me to enter options in the cells. I wish it were the size of a Will Shultz puzzle book.

They are not joking with that "Extreme Grandmaster" difficulty rating. I bought this for my mom who is an avid Sudoku puzzler, she does about two to three 5/5 star difficulty puzzles per day. She could get exactly zero of these. These puzzles are incredibly hard. The 4 skill categories range from "On the Brink of Tears of Frustration", to "Resent your Children and Their Gifts", to "Give up on your Dreams" to "Let the Dog Chew it, so You Can Have a Plausible Excuse to Throw it Away" This is not so much a fun game book, it's more of a way to demoralize your relatives with what masquerades as a fun gift. To all curious buyers, good luck on becoming the Magnus Carlsen of sudoku.

I had previously been somewhat disappointed with this book's companion, "Sudoku 2: Medium to Hard," because its three puzzle levels were much easier than their labels would suggest (Medium, Expert, Grand Master). I did like the small, lightweight, spiral format, though, which made it easy to work on the puzzles almost anywhere, so I took a chance on moving up to "Sudoku 3." The three levels in Sudoku 3 are Expert, Grand Master, and Super Grand Master. If the first five Expert level puzzles I have worked on are any indication of difficulty level, I expect the difficulty of the puzzles in Sudoku 3 will better reflect their labels than those in Sudoku 2 do. Those five puzzles have been more challenging than the Grand Master level puzzles included in Sudoku 2. I enjoy solving Sudoku puzzles with a wide range of difficulty. If you do, too, and have purchased one or the other and you

like its small, spiral book format, consider getting the companion volume, too. Just ignore the apparent overlap in puzzle difficulty suggested by the labels Expert and Grand Master used in both. If my early experience with Sudoku 3 holds true, all of its puzzles will be more difficult than the hardest ones in Sudoku 2.

I love these little pocket size Sudoku books. Big enough to work, with plenty of room for notes, or possible numbers, and small enough to stick in your purse and have with you all the time. I love the spiral flip. I wish more companies made these. Some of the puzzles in the hard to extreme are very challenging. I would love to see more of the puzzles before this. These take me a long time to figure out and finish. I have done the second book twice. It is nice though to buy a buy of puzzles and then not have to skip thru the first 33 - 50% because they are for beginners. Excellent Sudoku book, so is the one before this.

Certainly hard! You will have to start applying logic tests and if-then scenarios to complete some of these puzzles. These aren't for the faint of heart, they aren't your newspaper sudoku, and they frequently take a veteran sudoku'er at least 45 minute to complete. The book itself is great! The binding at the top works well for both right- and left-handed individuals. No more reaching your hand over the binding. The book is small and easily portable in a purse, book bag, or large coat pocket. The printing is clear, high quality, and large, giving you plenty of room for scratch work in the margins or in the puzzle itself. The answers in the back are tough to find, but I usually don't need them.

Nice idea, not perfectly executed. It is nice and portable. The flip concept is perfect. Love the quality paper. But the puzzles themselves are too small to write all the possibles in a cell. It would have been so much better to use some of the white space of the page margins to make the puzzles much larger. As it is, the portability is confined to my photocopying an enlargement and putting a couple of pages in my purse.

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