

101 Checker Puzzles MENSA



Synopsis

Hone your skills and analytic powers with 101 brilliant checker strategies and come out ahead every time. Divided into beginning, middle, and endgame tactics, each puzzle showcases a different board layout, with a description of what's happening. Put yourself in the player's place to work out what each game-clinching move could be. There's a tip on every page, solutions, American Checker Federation rules, a glossary, and a special fold-out checker board!

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars See all reviews (4 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

At 144 pages of thick high quality paper for only \$7.95 retail in 2000, this book is a great value. The SPIRAL binding is great, because the book lies open flat to any page, and the binding never cracks with use and age. Any concerns that a traditional glue binding is better than spiral are unfounded, even backwards: spiral is better. It is hard for a chess player to adapt to the checkers notational scheme. I presume that experienced checkers players have learned it and therefore like it. But the cause of checkers is harmed by this needless initial learning curve, as it acts like a barrier to entry. The answers/solutions in the back of the book are written in paragraph format, with the moves buried in the text. This loosely reminds me of the silly verbal notation used by Philidor and Staunton in their now ancient chess books. But the answer explanations are good. Further each puzzle is introduced with a sentence or two that quickly orients the reader, and I found I like those sentences. At the bottom under each puzzle there is a upside-down italicized hint, that I also like. The eye does not accidentally read these hints, and they are surprisingly well gauged to be helpful hints without

being give-aways to the answer. The layout of the book is a little suboptimal. There is only one puzzle per page, each being 71 mm square. This left enuf room on the page for the correct first moves to the puzzle two pages earlier: but the extra space is instead left blank in the actual layout. This forces the reader to flip to the back to find the solution (disruptive and tedious). Each puzzle has a title above its two sentence introduction. Most titles tell which color in next to move: "White Paves a Winning Way", or "Black Makes White Turn Pale".

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