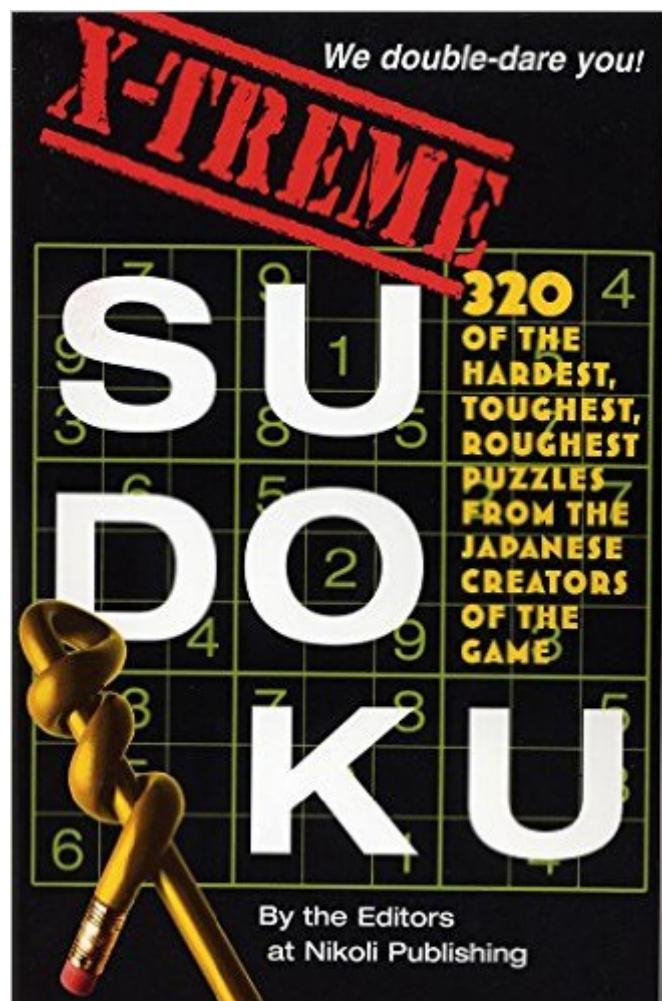


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## X-Treme Sudoku



## Synopsis

The next step, like having a whole book of just Saturday Times crossword puzzles. Even more fiendish, even more fun, X-treme Sudoku proudly presents 320 puzzles rated "Difficult" to "Very Difficult." These are the toughest, knottiest, most demanding Sudoku out thereâ "prepare to have your brain cells crackle, your pencils melt, your mind obsessed with numbers and squares. No one is better than Nikoli at rounding up such a collection. A Japanese puzzle and game company that started the Sudoku craze over twenty years ago, Nikoli is known for creating the only handcrafted puzzles around. As Tim Preston, publishing director of Puzzler Media, Britain's biggest seller of crossword and cryptogram puzzles, has said: "It is a matter of great pride to get your puzzle into one of Nikoli's magazines. Handmade puzzles are much better. . . . It gives you the satisfaction that you are pitting your wits against an individual who has thought about what your next step would be and has tried to obscure the path." For X-treme Sudoku, the puzzle-makers at Nikoli went out of their way to obscure the path. There are puzzles with entire boxes empty. Puzzles with whole rows left blank. Puzzles that form mysteriously beautiful symmetries, but demand a calculating logic to solve. For the X-treme solver, paradise.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

...to computer generated sudoku after you start playing these. I don't know what it is, but somehow, these handcrafted puzzles don't only look so much cooler, they're actually funner! The book comes with two levels of challenge - creatively titled "Difficult" and "Very Difficult." Even though I'm

relatively new to these puzzles, I'd posit that the former really should be called "Moderate," using the standardly accepted levels of difficulty. My only gripe with the book is that I wish the page's measurements were bigger, but that's personal preference. Nonetheless, this is a great buy with 320 puzzles, and it'll likely last you a long time!

I've been addicted to Sudoku now for about four years and discovered the Nikoli series a couple of years ago. I've completed a few thousand Sudokus including all the Nikoli books: Original Sudoku One & Two, More Original, Expert, and X-Treme (twice now). They are a pure joy and obviously created by craftsmen whose wicked wit shows through. Nikoli Sudoku have made me laugh and wince. A simple puzzle might mean that you spend 30 minutes finding the first key and then the puzzle unravels or a hard puzzle may mean that you get the first dozen numbers immediately and are then stymied for half a day. Easy or hard, Nikoli Sudoku leave me feeling satisfied. What frustrates me about other Sudoku books is the number of times a 'hard' puzzle is just hard because you are forced to trial and error endings, where you are stuck with no where to go and have to start trying to pick one of a pair in order to discover a bust. In a book like X-Treme Sudoku by Nikoli I might be forced to that inelegance once or twice but even then on review I can see that there was a way to solve the problem. It might require 3 or 4 levels of indirection, but that's what 'hard' Sudoku are should to be about. Nikoli Sudoku can be very personal, I feel like they are a game between me and another human being. They are now the only Sudoku I do.

The Nikoli books are really the best Sudoku books out there. They select puzzles which can be solved using logic rather than the really esoteric methods you can find out about on Sudoku web pages like X Wing and Swordfish. This tends to make them more fun because they are hard yet with enough effort can be solved. They also have a brief but helpful section with some strategy. How many books have you bought which are half worthless because you don't enjoy working the simple puzzles any longer? Well, these books are specifically made with only the tougher puzzles so you get more fun for your money. Otherwise the criticisms are true: it's a small book, which can be good since it takes up little space yet bad because you'll have trouble opening it very wide to write in since it's small and fat. If only they made it in a spiral format I'd give it 5 stars. It probably has few reviews because they aren't sold everywhere but they're worth the effort to find and certainly worth purchasing. Printed on good paper, too, in case you need to erase or make pencil marks in the boxes.

I bought this book after reading the claim on the cover that one could find some of the "hardest, toughest, and roughest puzzles" within. I must say that I am generally disappointed with the level of difficulty on these puzzles. I've completed about 10 so-called "difficult" puzzles, and about 5 rated as "very difficult", and have found most of these puzzles to be rather simple. Most of these puzzles can be solved with lower-level techniques such as naked pairs (and triples) and intersection removal, and maybe an X-wing here and there. The puzzles, which are handcrafted rather than computer generated, look aesthetically pleasing as they are placed symmetrically and create some pleasing patterns. However, this book was purchased with the belief that the book would make good on its claims of the difficulty level, and in that regard I have to feel let down. Skip this book and look at the Extreme Sudoku series by Antoine Alary and the Absolutely Nasty Series by Frank Longo for some truly diabolical puzzles that will challenge you.

If you want a challenge and do Sudoku often or on vacations like I do, you will like this. I love that there are difficult puzzles and very difficult ones. This is my third book and I will order more of the same. There are so many puzzles you don't remember them and it's like a brand new book every time. This isn't for wimps.

I stopped playing Basic Sudoku because the computer generations were so poorly devised and horribly repetitive. Paper, binding and grid size have great quality. There is a quiet elegance that respect the pencil user :)

Good sudoku puzzle book. I appreciate the hand made puzzles. I try to see how the maker created each puzzle since I like to make my own puzzles. I do not believe the puzzles are so difficult that they should be called extreme, but they are fun to solve. I am more interested in how the puzzle designs were developed. I have tried most sudoku puzzle books and I find the Nikoli Publishing books to be the most entertaining. This is my second copy of "X-Treme Sudoku". The first copy I completed 25% of the puzzles and left it with a pencil at a summer camp for the next visitors. I missed the challenge so much I bought another copy.

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