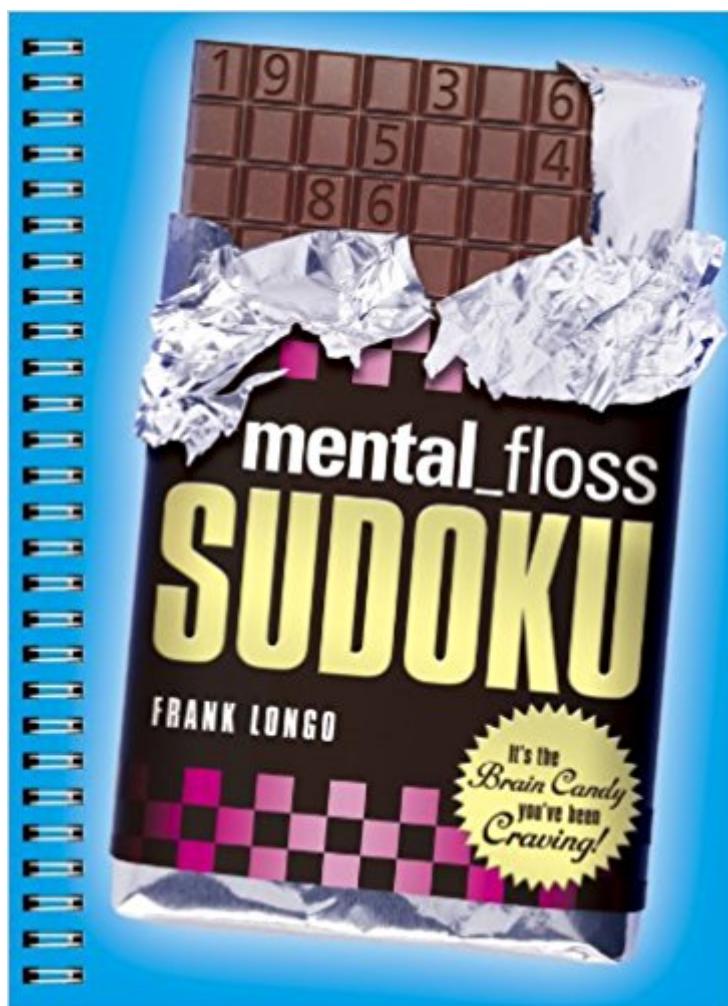


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# Mental\_floss Sudoku: It's The Brain Candy You've Been Craving!



## Synopsis

Sudoku super-master Frank Longo and *mental\_floss*, the magazine for trivia lovers, bring fans a collection of superb puzzles sure to stimulate the brain. Longo's puzzles are always top-notch, and because these increase in difficulty as the book goes along, they're perfect for helping solvers build their skills.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Frank Longo has had more than 3,000 crossword puzzles published since 1993, and in the past few years has turned his attention to the sudoku craze. He has published over 90 sudoku books, including *Oy Vey! Sudoku*; *10x10 Sudoku*; *Mensa® Absolutely Nasty Sudoku Level 1, 2, 3, and 4*; *The World's Longest Sudoku Puzzle*; *The Sudoku Code* (coauthored with Francis Heaney); and *Mensa® Guide to Solving Sudoku* (coauthored with Peter Gordon).

I like Sudoku. I like to work different levels of puzzles depending on the amount of time I have, my energy level, and my general mood. That makes Frank Longo's *mental\_floss* Sudoku just about the perfect Sudoku collection for me. Puzzles run from "warm-ups" and "very easy" (which, despite their labels, are not slam-dunks for newbies, but which next-level players should easily master) to "very difficult." The most difficult puzzles in the book are quite challenging for me. These don't seem to require the most complex Sudoku solving techniques, but that's more than fine with me. At the time of this review, I have attempted about half the puzzles at each level in the book, and I have a couple of observations. First, other Sudoku collections I have purchased by more anonymous puzzle

constructors tend to feel somewhat repetitive in structure. That means once I have identified a pattern in one puzzle, it makes solving others much easier. I have yet to discover any of Mr. Longo's Sudoku construction "fingerprints" in this collection, making each puzzle a new experience. Second, the range of difficulty itself doesn't seem to me to be as wide as the labels would suggest. For the most part, each section of puzzles does get progressively more difficult, but the additional challenge is not tremendous. [Surprisingly, I have found the "warmups" — presumably the easiest puzzles in the book — to be a bit more challenging than the next level — "very easy" puzzles.] I love the spiral format. Standard-bound puzzle books are fine for solving at a desk or sitting up, but can get incredibly awkward and unbalanced when laying down and holding the book in one hand, particularly when solving puzzles near the beginning and end of the book. Since I often solve while reclining or laying down, the spiral format is a blessing.

Bought this for my husband who is always doing Sudoku puzzles and this is a good one. He really likes that it has the spiral binder wonderful.will look for more like it!

First of all, I absolutely love this book! The ability to easily tear out pages is a huge plus, seeing as those pesky left hand pages are never fun to fill out when you're right-handed! One thing to note, there are no separate "levels" to this. It's just puzzles. I have done about 20 puzzles now, and each one is challenging in their own way. No one has been too easy or too hard to complete. That's the downfall of levels - the easy ones are TOO easy and the difficult ones are nearly impossible. This one is just right in the middle! Perfect!

These are so good. I especially like that they aren't beginner or difficult. All seem to be right in my zone of challenging but not impossible. Highly addictive summer activity. And it's nice to get away from cell phone games and go old school by the pool. Just holding a pencil makes me feel smart again. ;-p

My favorite sudoku book. I buy a new copy every couple months. Yes, of the same book. The plot never was a surprise anyway... What I LOVE is the high quality paper (bright white! heavy weight! NOT cheap newsprint! No bleedthrough with a standard papermate InkJoy pen!), the spiral binding that lays flat, the font size that suits me (two games per page, fairly standard paperback size book), and a difficulty level the suits me. (I have no idea how to discuss difficulty level usefully...this goes to

the level where you need to isolate three numbers in one row, that are all in the same square, without actually knowing which order those three are in, in order to be able to solve the other numbers in the row...See? Not sure if that makes any sense to anyone else! I cannot yet solve the ones at the very end, as the secret there still eludes me.) My go-to sudoku book for so many reasons... Happy sudoku-ing!!!

My father is an intermediate Sudoku puzzle solver. I gave it to him for his birthday and he loves it. He's on a long trip so it's great to have for the airplane. Also excellent for waking up and winding down before bed.

Challenging but do-able. Purchsed for our long plane trip over the summer. Kept us busy, better than playing sudoku on screen. Nothing beats pencil/paper.

I've been doing sudoku puzzles for years, and this book meets all of my important criteria: thick and bright paper, easily erasable, spiral bound, no wasted space, puzzles are big enough to write several small numbers in a space, and puzzles get slightly more challenging as the game continues. I'm on puzzle 67, so I haven't finished the book, but what I have done has been very fun! I usually work a puzzle when I'm going to bed and when I wake up. Most of the time, I get so engrossed that I do somewhere between 2-4 puzzles in a sitting. I highly recommend this book. Enjoy!

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