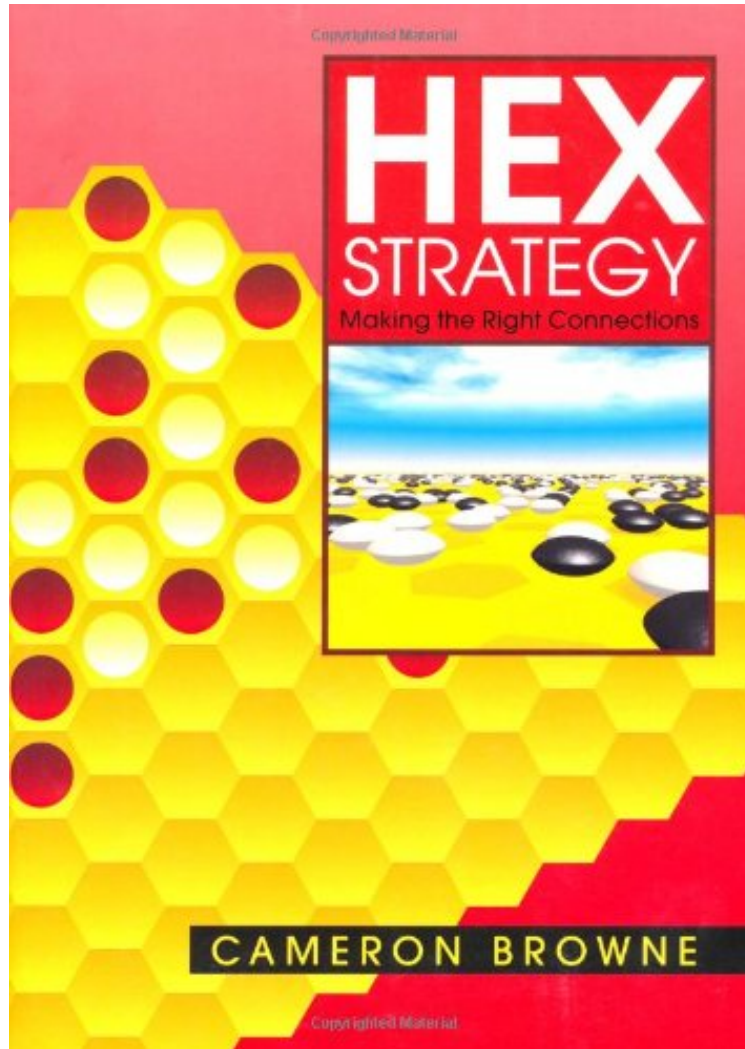


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Hex Strategy: Making the Right Connections

Cameron Browne

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11 of 11 people found the following review helpful. A Minute to Learn: A Lifetime to MasterBy R. J. ReidHex is a deterministic, zero-sum, abstract board game. If you know what this means, and appreciate such games, then you will find the game irresistible. The rules are so simple that you can "see" far down the strategy tree. Draws are impossible. Hex was invented independently by two eminent mathematicians, Piet Hein and Nobel Prize winner John Nash (the latter of A Beautiful Mind fame). The feel of competition that this game provides is intense; one player compared it to a "knife fight in a phone booth." The game demands your best efforts, and rewards them.If you are talented mathematically, there are chapters which deal with the game in a way that appeals. If not, you will still love to study

how the book progresses from the simplest templates to tactics to overall strategy. Annotated games are given, as well as quizzes and problems. Game of expert play are taken from the internet. Hex programs are discussed. There is a rich treatment of the variants and offshoots of the basic game, although perhaps basic 11 x 11 hex is probably still the best of the bunch. The author creates a rich vocabulary to describe the different aspects of the game, and while the reader may have to slow his reading occasionally and ponder, he will find everything in its proper order and will find that everything makes sense. I found a useful collection of blank boards of different sizes at the back of the book which I photocopied to make studies of the games I have now in progress on the net, and thereby explore the different possible avenues of play by using pencil-and-paper diagrams. Anyone who enjoys abstract games such as chess and go will be cheating himself by not exploring the richness of this book, and the richness and challenge of this game. There are a few typos here and there, but relatively few, and not very distracting. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A Good Start By Robert Mathews This book is a good start for beginners at the game. It could have used some editing to eliminate the typos and garbled strings of play. Some of the annotated games and puzzles leave one a little short as to why the game or puzzle is now won or solved. At least we learned about bridges, ladders, templates, etc., so it's worth having. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Best reference for Hex By Cuc Hex has very simple rules but is more profound than chess. The writers make a good effort to explain the basic strategies and go more into detail about best play. A knowledge of these principles will increase the playing level of any Hex player. Up to date, this is the best Hex reference.

Hex Strategy is the first book to offer a comprehensive look at the game of Hex, from its history and mathematical underpinnings to discussions of advanced playing techniques. This is first and foremost a book on strategy aimed at providing sufficient knowledge to play the game at any level desired. Numerous examples illustrate an algorithmic approach to the game. Hex Strategy is a book for board game enthusiasts, recreational mathematicians and programmers, or simply those who enjoy games and puzzles.

It is quite the best single-game book I have seen. If you love abstract games it is essential reading. -- Kerry Handscomb, Abstract Game Magazine, Autumn 2000. The book is a must for any recreational mathematician. -- Ian Stewart, Scientific American, September 2000. The first in-depth examination of Hex and how to master it. -- Mark Chadborn, Oce Image Magazine, January 2001. The only substantial study of the game so far... highly recommended. -- D. V. Feldman, Choice: Currents for Academic Libraries, October 2001. From the Author Invented by Piet Hein and John Nash, two of this century's greatest mathematicians, Hex continues to intrigue board game players and mathematicians around the world. This book is an attempt to draw together everything known about Hex that is relevant and interesting to the player, from basic and advanced strategies to puzzles. I hope "Hex Strategy" conveys my enthusiasm for this wonderful game.