Black Belt Sudoku® (Martial Arts Puzzles Series)
Taking a page from karate - another Japanese art - each title in the series is graded by colour: White Belt for easy, Green Belt for medium level, Brown Belt for hard, and Black Belt for the super-tough solvers. Each title also contains 300 puzzles.

**Synopsis**

Don’t be fooled by the title - if you are looking for challenging Sudoku puzzles, this is not the book for you.

..but more of a medium gray. If you are looking for "Fiendish" or "Tough" puzzles, you will be bored here.

Apparently ANYONE can get a black belt if this book is any indication. The 21st puzzle I solved completely by inspection, didn’t write ANY number possibilities in at all, which is totally unacceptable for an allegedly hard level sudoku book. If you enjoy challenging sudoku puzzles skip over this book. The Second Degree Brown Belt book was more challenging, though by far my favorite Sudoku book to date is "Sudoku Genius" by Tom Sheldon ISBN 0-452-28750-2.

I love Michael Rios Sudoku. His games are fun and challenging but not so hard that you have to write in all the "helpers" to solve them. I have done several of his books and am back to doing
Brown and Black Belt for the second time.

Although this book is titled "Black Belt", the puzzles are equivalent to my daily paper's easy or medium puzzles. All 300 puzzles use the same basic logic rule and many have the same layout so that they actually become monotonous instead of challenging or even interesting. Many of the logic rules typically used to solve difficult puzzles are not even used here. Definitely a disappointment.

If you are good at sudoku, you can start with the brown belt book, work your way up to this one, and then continue on to the second-degree black belt, third-degree black belt, or the beyond the black belt books. There are also easier books (white belt, green belt, etc.) but I haven’t tried them. I really loved this one- it's very fun and just the right level of challenge.

These puzzles are both straight forward to solve and lack variety in the logic required to solve them. They don’t come close to rising to the more challenging puzzles found in the London Times or the New York Post. To call this book "Black Belt" Sudoku is, in my opinion, misleading.

I did not buy this at , but from a bookstore, as I felt the immediate need for some challenging Sudoku. Did the first in the book, which I’d grade as somewhere a little more difficult than easy.. Not at all challenging. So I went and did the last two, as I’d hoped difficulty would increase as you went further in the book. No change in difficulty. There is nothing "super tough" about these Sudoku, and if that is what you are look for they you will be feeling ripped off if you buy this book. Thus, the value of all the books in this series is called into question for me and I will never again buy any Sudoku by Rios. For some challenging Sudoku, I recommend a book a did buy from , Will Shortz’s "Terrifying Sudoku".

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