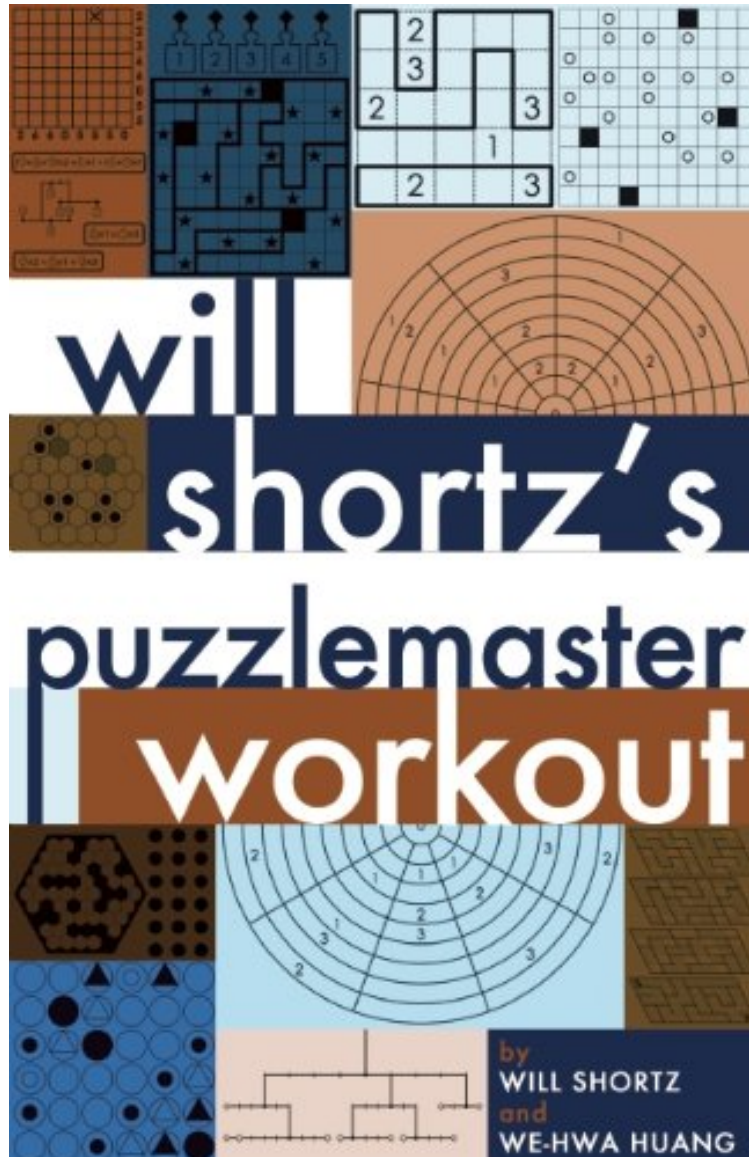


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Will Shortz's Puzzle Master Workout

Will Shortz, Wei-Hwa Huang
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Will Shortz, Wei-Hwa Huang : Will Shortz's Puzzle Master Workout before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Will Shortz's Puzzle Master Workout:

13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Welcome to the world of logic puzzlesBy PuzzleMATAfter literally a decade of waiting, Will Shortz and the USPC gang finally release another World Puzzle Federation (WPF)-based logic puzzle book. I assume the general aim of the book is to welcome new comers to the field of WPF-style

logic puzzles. The book begins with the Training section, containing puzzles written by Wei-Hwa Huang, these puzzles are for new comers to get the hang of new variants that they may be unfamiliar with. Then you are presented with puzzles from the US National Championship, the actual test used to select the USA team members to the annual World Puzzle Championship (WPC). Lastly, puzzles from the actual World Championships are given. With a healthy number of hints, tips and full solutions, essentially this is like a guided handbook from starting out trying to solve a puzzle type, improve your skills at it, and then sending you off the actual WPC. Every puzzle is given a 'benchmark' or the solving time you are trying to aim for. There's the beginner's goal, the expert's goal and the record time displayed by the test solvers. I should mention here that the test solvers are a batch of world champions so expect to see a record time of something like 34 seconds for a puzzle that usually takes 10+ minutes. Now you might be eager to know, what kind of puzzles do appear in this book. Although the list of logic puzzle types easily extends to over 100 or even 200, or even more including plays on variants, it is no surprise that a WPC participant may be exposed to over 100+ puzzle types in one sitting. That's not very welcoming for one who's starting out, so this book narrows that list down to just over 20 and includes some variants in the mix. Here are some random examples you may/may not be familiar with: Spot the Difference, Minesweepers, Tapa, Japanese Sums, Honey Islands, Star Battle and a lot more. I highly recommend this book for those who are new to and interested in this community of logic puzzlers. For experts, you can enjoy comparing your times against Snyder and Mebane. Considering the amount of puzzles the USPC has access to, I wish to see more in published form.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good choice to buy from your local bookstore
By Charlie This book is difficult, but not frustrating, and there are many puzzles that I've never seen anywhere else. I'm still not entirely sure how to do the "tapa" puzzles.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A puzzle lover's delight
By TechGuy When you get a great review from Ed Peg, what more can I say. I just want to add that my copy of the book contains a printing error. Page 166 of the solutions is missing. I'll be trying to track it down online and will follow up if successful.

Each section of this book offers 22 puzzle types, with similar puzzle types grouped together and several puzzles referring to a tutorial in the back of the book. Hints help readers through sticking points, and at the bottom of each puzzle page a note tells readers where to find the solution for that puzzle. Solutions are provided in an interweaving order, so readers are unlikely to accidentally see the answer to the previous or subsequent puzzle. Finally, each puzzle has three target times next to it: Par for a best guess on how long an average solver will take; Expert for how long an average participant at the WPC would take; and the Record time, the best time logged among all of our testers. These times are, of course, just for fun, but if you find yourself achieving the Expert time regularly, we highly recommend trying your country's national championships!

About the Author NPR's Puzzlemaster Will Shortz has appeared on Weekend Edition Sunday since the program's start in 1987. He's also the crossword editor of The New York Times, the former editor of Games magazine, and the founder and director of the American Crossword Puzzle Tournament (since 1978). Wei-Hwa Huang is an award-winning American puzzler and member of the U.S. Team for the World Puzzle Federation. Huang was a member of the United States International Math Olympiad team in 1992 and 1993, where he was awarded a Silver Medal both years. Huang was a Putnam Fellow in 1993 and has won the annual World Puzzle Championship on four occasions: 1995 and 1997-1999. He also won the 2008 Sudoku National Championship.