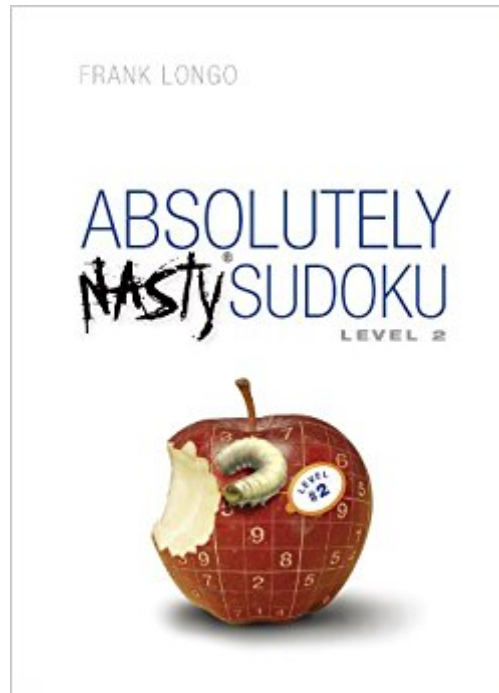




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# Absolutely Nasty Sudoku Level 2



## Synopsis

Even more interaction; this time used in combination with other procedures; and a lot more heavily than in the first book.

## Book Information

Series: Absolutely Nasty™ Series

Spiral-bound: 159 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 55 customer reviews

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## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent book, with lots of difficult puzzles. One really nice thing about this series as a whole is that it provides you a clear path of improvement. If you are using the Mensa Guide to Solving Sudoku: Hundreds of Puzzles Plus Techniques to Help You Crack Them All or Mastering Sudoku Week by Week: 52 Steps to Becoming a Sudoku Wizard (which is actually my favorite), this is a great series to have alongside. One problem I have with most Sudoku reviews is that they are not specific about what techniques are and are not required, so I will attempt to list here all the ones I've found required in the book. Book 1 in the series started relatively easy - about as hard as a typical "hard" puzzle in other books. Book 2 (this book) starts basically the way book 1 left off, requiring the following types of techniques: \* Elementary techniques (cross-hatching, single cell, single candidate) \* Locked candidate elimination \* Naked pairs, triples, and quads About halfway through, however, the puzzles get considerably harder. In the second half of book 2, you will find puzzles requiring: \* X-wings: LOTS of them, some puzzles requiring two different X-wing patterns \* Non-unique (or "Gordonian") rectangles \* XY-wings I would say the majority of the puzzles in the second half require at least one X-wing each. This was actually a nice little bonus for me, as I was looking for a chance to practice X-wings. I will do reviews of the further books in the series as I

get to them, including required techniques. The book is spiral bound, which is very nice. I am going to amend my initial impression and review to say that I really like having the cover continue over the binding. Although it would be slightly easier to have it lay flat without the cover there, the space makes a perfect place to store your pencil when you are required to do non-Sudoku activities. Some might dislike the concept of paying for Sudoku books at all - countering that puzzles are available online for free - but I think there's great benefit in having a book you can take with you. Overall, a great series of books. Start by buying the one that applies to you and get going improving your Sudoku!

I found the title "Absolutely Nasty Level 2" misleading. I thought that the title would mean different levels of "absolute nastiness," but instead the puzzles are simply intermediate level. My experience has been that a Level One rated puzzle is usually meant for the beginning Sudoku aficionado; Level Two, intermediate; Level Three, advanced; and Level Four, Master. Prefacing levels with "Absolutely Nasty" changes the whole expectation! I was very disappointed when I received the book, tried a puzzle and finished it in a few minutes. I stuck the book in a box I keep for the grandkids to store their games in. However one day, after finishing my last "difficult" Sudoku book, I was desperate for something...ANYTHING....Sudoku, so I dug out the NOT Absolutely Nasty Level 2 book. Flipping through it, doing a puzzle here and there, I found that, to my surprise, the book actually INCREASED in difficulty, even though no mention of increasing difficulty was noted in the title. The last half actually DOES have some more difficult puzzles that require more "intermediate" or "advanced" strategies. Still not "absolutely nasty" as I was hoping for but at least more entertaining than it initially seemed. Perhaps the author should consider renaming the book to more accurately reflect its difficulty level, as well as a notation that the book contains both intermediate and advanced (or whatever definitions he wishes to give his levels) levels. This book is simply (pun intended) way too easy to be called "Absolutely Nasty!" What I like BEST about this book is the quality of the material. The spiral binding, which makes "sudoku-ing" so much easier to do while sitting in bed: the lovely quality of the paper, which is smooth and easy to erase without tearing; and the large easy-to-read puzzles. I wish more Sudoku books were made this well! In fact, I'll probably try other books in this series simply because I love the way the book is made! One more point about Sudoku in general. I had a stroke a couple of years ago and ended up with some cognitive deficits, especially in my short term memory. When I started doing Sudoku puzzles and Kakuro puzzles again, it wasn't long before I noticed that my brain felt more "organized." Speech came easier, my short memory REALLY improved, and reading/retaining a knitting pattern (which had become VERY

difficult) became possible again. I went from not being able to hold 3 numbers in my head to being able to hold 9 plus numbers in my head. While working Sudoku puzzles is just plain fun, the added benefit of "brain training" is AWESOME!!!!

OK, Nasty Sudoku level 1 had a number of puzzles I thought were reasonable, some that were tough but solvable after giving it a day to sink in and some that were tough enough that I cheated on. So far Level 2 seems to have fewer reasonable puzzles - quite a few tougher ones and I suspect a bunch that I'll cheat on. Frank Longo lets you get 36-45 blocks filled but then -- that's it -- road block! I've learned to look for a number of the sneaky twists he uses but on some, even after a day or so, I'm stuck. He warns you right up front - so beware. :-)

This series is for those looking for truly difficult and challenging Sudoku puzzles. This series starts with difficult puzzles and get progressively more difficult with higher numbered book. The most challenging puzzles are in the fourth book. If you are looking for TRULY difficult and challenging Sudoku puzzles THIS IS THE ONLY SERIES YOU'LL FIND.

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