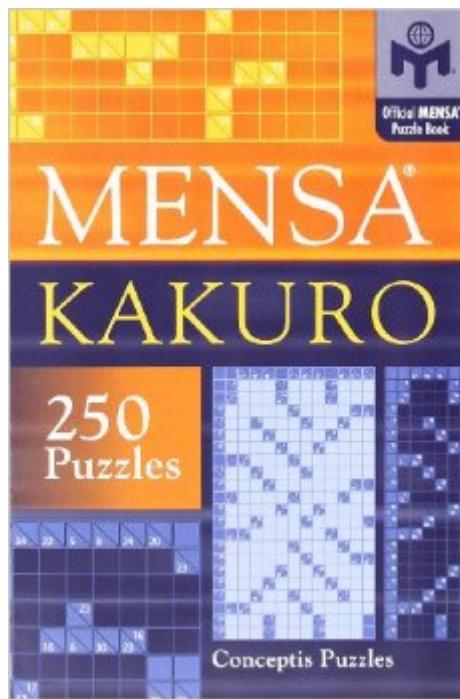


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# Mensa® Kakuro



## Synopsis

What could be more appealing to Mensa members; or anyone who enjoys a good challenge; than a cunning test of intelligence and logic? That's exactly what these 250 puzzles provide. The trick to kakuro is in making it all add up: the game begins with a grid that looks like a crossword, except that some squares contain small numbers in the corner. Fill in all the empty boxes using the numbers 1 to 9 without repeats so that the sum of each horizontal set of digits equals the number in the black triangle to its left, and the sum of each vertical set of digits equals the number in the triangle above it. The kakuro puzzles start out simple; and get more difficult as the book progresses.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (97 customer reviews)

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## Customer Reviews

I started out doing Kakuro as "Cross-sums" in the Dell Math and Logic Puzzle Magazines, and they quickly became my favorite puzzles. When I went to find a book of just Kakuro puzzles, though, I found that most of the puzzles were far smaller than anything I was accustomed to. Considering that I can do one of the larger ones in about fifteen minutes, I couldn't imagine the smaller puzzles being very engrossing. This book has respectable large puzzles to solve, though, and a good number of them. They're not so easy I don't have to really ponder them occasionally, but they're not so difficult that I find myself forced to work by trial-and-error, either. Really excellent book.

I too have done Cross-Sums for many years and have been frustrated with the lack of challenging books for the experienced. My search is over. Finally a collection that feels like it was put together

by someone that actually does these puzzles. There are no small, easy or medium puzzles here. From the first puzzle you will be satisfied. The number of puzzles included is exemplary. This book will cure your addiction.

This book is put out by the producers of the Belt series books (White, Green, Brown, and Black), with the same 12 x 21 grid. The puzzles are challenging without being too difficult. If you liked the Belt series books, you'll like this one as well.

Since the puzzles are hard (challenging?) I find the paper quality in this book to be poor. If I can't see the solution right away and need to mark in some possibilities, I find that the paper deteriorates when I erase and does not erase cleanly. There are other books out there that have paper that stands up to erasing nicely. The difficulty aspect is awesome for those looking for puzzles that take awhile to complete. What good is a puzzle that is finished in just a few minutes? You won't find those in this book. Update 12/12/11: I am tossing away this book after doing over 175 puzzles in it. I find that the puzzles from about 165 on have too many possible solutions to eliminate numbers that go in the cells. I don't want to have to guess at a number and move forward only to find I chose the wrong number out of the possibilities and have to retrace my steps and erase.

I've been doing the Dell Cross Sums for years and have completed at least 15 of their 100 puzzle collections. When I saw this Mensa collection, I thought I'd give it a try to see how it compared to the Dell. In the Dell books, the puzzles progress from easy to hard, so I decided to do the last puzzle in the Mensa book first, just to see how bad the worst would be. It polished it off in about 20 minutes, so my initial thought was that the puzzles in this book would be too easy. Well, I was right about the progression from easy to hard - I was able to work through the first 50 or so in short sessions of about 10 to 20 minutes each - but I'm now on 208, and can tell you that the last 20 or so have gotten progressively almost brutally harder. These are requiring multiple sessions to complete, and are really taxing. I've actually thrown up my hands on a couple and moved on. 05/05/2013 Update. I just completed the last puzzle. From 208 to about 243, I started to pull my hair at how difficult these had become. In their wisdom, the publishers seem to have made the last few easier, which probably explains why the first one I did (#250) didn't seem so bad. I knocked off the last 6 fairly quickly. The size and format of this book is very nice and an improvement over the larger but thinner pages in the Dell collections. Also, the ink in the Dell books erases along with your pencil marks - not so with the better print quality of this Mensa collection. Both the Dell Cross Sums collections and this Mensa

edition offer a large supply of puzzles to occupy the Kakuro enthusiast. Those who say these are too easy for them, should probably find another past time, like rocket science, or nuclear physics to occupy their time. The rest of us will reap many hours of enjoyment and entertainment from this Mensa Kakuro book.

I have been totally frustrated by most of the Kakuro books available. Almost all of the books are designed for beginners and only include a handful of challenging puzzles. For me, that meant the majority of the books weren't very usable because the majority of the puzzles are so easy. This is a great choice for people with some experience in Kakuro; not too hard but still a challenge. A definite must have for the Kakuro addict.

I consider myself good at puzzles. Not excellent, not a master, but pretty good and certainly well above average. I've been doing Sudoku and other logic puzzles for years and don't shy away from the hard ones. Then I came across Kakuro a few months ago. I really enjoy Kakuro much more, so I went looking for a book and bought this one which seemed the best. Well, it might be the best but it is too advanced for me. The book claims that the puzzles get harder as you go along. I found them hard from the start, too hard. Only buy this book if you are fairly advanced and have a good deal of experience in doing Kakuro puzzles. I'm giving this book a 3 star rating because I think it really is too hard for a newcomer and is not appropriately positioned as such.

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