

The Hidden Code of Cryptic Crosswords by Francois Greeff (2003-02-17)

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From W Foulsham Co Ltd : The Hidden Code of Cryptic Crosswords by Francois Greeff (2003-02-17) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Hidden Code of Cryptic Crosswords by Francois Greeff (2003-02-17):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A difficult bookBy D. SutherlandThis is an unusual book, and not one I would recommend for novices learning about cryptic crosswords. The author has focussed on clue analysis in a quasi-academic manner, and - as noted by other reviewers - created his own labels for the different types of wordplay. I feel these only confuse matters. There are no cryptic crosswords to try in this book, just hundreds of sample clues taken from a wide range of sources. Some readers may like the notation Greeff has devised for describing clues, but, as a crossword setter myself, I didn't find it very clear or helpful. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. AwkwardBy A CustomerThis book is rather muddled. In an attempt to explicate the workings of the cryptic clue, the author has invented a bewildering variety of terms (e.g. olapsek, parabrebit) that makes the text more confusing than the clues themselves. Poor organization and type design exacerbate the problem. It does list quite a few of the standard equivalencies found in (British) puzzles, and is somewhat useful in that regard, but beginners will find the Random House guide to be much more helpful. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Tough But Worth ItBy ChrisThis book took me a while to get through, but in my view the perseverance paid off. Yes, there are easier books out there, but I personally became a much better solver after having worked my way through it. As compared to the easier books out there that I've read, I found this book taught me less about general clue types, but more in terms of the

esoteric art of *thinking* about clue deconstruction. There are a variety of terms that Francois has made up to describe different types of clues. At first I didn't really understand them. But through persistence, I began to find them both interesting in terms of the way they are derived, and useful in terms of the way they got an intermediate solver like myself to think about clues and individual words in a new way. For example, I'd never paid a whole lot of attention to verb, noun AND suffix concordance until I read Francois's book. A simplistic example of concordance is where you look at either end for the 'straight' part of the clue and if it ends in, say, -ious, then there's a good chance the answer will also end with the same suffix. Since then, by breaking the clue down into "bits", I now scan clues much more critically and effectively. But yes, it did take me a while to get past the mystery of the terms he uses. However, I feel that I learnt quite a lot of slick stuff about deciphering cryptic tricks. So my advice to other intermediates is to persevere with this book. So if you're a beginner looking to buy this book, be prepared that it may take some time to get to grips with. On the other hand, if you're an intermediate who's bought the other basic cryptic solver books, but feels they've hit a plateau, get the heck out there and buy this book and be prepared for an academic breakdown of how to solve clues in a better way :)