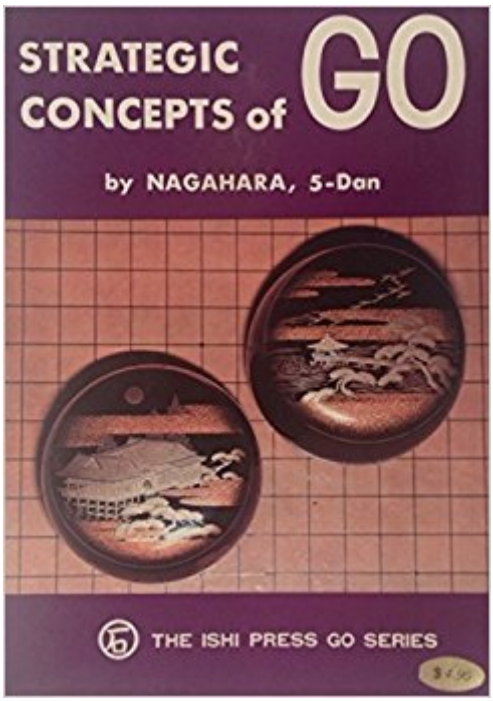
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Strategic Concepts Of Go



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Synopsis

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Book Information

Paperback: 137 pages

Publisher: Ishi Press; 1st edition (February 1, 1972)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 4871870065

ISBN-13: 978-4871870061

Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 3 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #535,324 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 inÃ Â Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Gaming > Strategy #62125 inÃ Â Books > Health, Fitness & Dieting

Customer Reviews

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A great book for the beginners and intermediate level players.

It is one of the first Go books I read. These are fundamental concepts that every player needs to know. Reviewing them periodically is also helpful as you progress. I was missing it so I purchased a new copy to share with people who want to learn more about go.

I was a beginner the first time I read this book and it literally went right over my head. In fact, I actually couldn’t finish it because I lacked sufficient knowledge and experience for it to make practical sense to me. This is really one of the mysteries of Go - how can a game with so simple a set of rules have so many levels of skill and understanding.Well, it’s been quite a few games and books since then, so it’s time to open ’Strategic Concepts of Go’ once more. I would like to brag, and say it was now a breeze to work through, but that is hardly the truth. This time I did finish the book, though, and everything actually made sense. On several occasions I had sudden realizations about defects in my play and ways to improve. I could even cope with many of the puzzles. But it is

absolutely not easy reading. Not because it’s poorly written, Nagahara does his best to present some fairly complex topics, but because there is too much to think about for just one or two passes through the material covered. Expect to reread this book regularly as you make your way to the Meijin title.Nagahara focuses on eight different strategic contents - miai (relationship between two points), aji (potential threat), kikashi (forcing moves), thickness, korigatachi (frozen shape), sabaki (development), furikawari (exchange of territory), and yosu-maru (probing techniques). The reader will forgive me if the translations are not much more explanatory than the Japanese terms - some of these concepts elude brief explanations. Even for readers that are familiar with the terms, this will probably be the first time you are exposed to these techniques as ways of determining and controlling the progress of the game across the entire board.The second half of the book is consumed in the presentation and explanation of some 72 problems, few of which are straightforward. Explanations are very careful, however, covering many alternatives. These are quite different from the ’how does white save his two stones’ kind of problems, and will quickly get you thinking about the entire board, rather than just simple action. I found the second reading left me with a better sense of how the opening game segues into the middle game and as well as a feel for the timing of certain moves.Who should read this book? Someone with a couple of hundred games under their belt who is in the 1 to 10 ki ranking range should be able to understand the material. I think the book would remain valuable to any serious player throughout their playing career. I certainly expect to reread it several more times.

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