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The Mah Jong Player's Companion



Synopsis

Since the arrival on the market of Patricia Thompson and Betty Maloney's two previous books, THE GAME OF MAH JONG ILLUSTRATED and IMPROVE YOUR MAH JONG, a wide range of hands from many parts of the world has been sent to them. In this player's companion the authors have put together a cross-filled reference guide where over 120 hands, illustrated in colour, can be quickly identified by following the flip-top headings on each page. A full synopsis of each hand is included. The extra hands give an international flavour to the book, adding new interest and challenges.

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Customer Reviews

This book has COLOR pictures of all the hands I knew and then some! The group I taught to play fell in love with this book, although it has slowed down play as everyone looks up new hands to try. I love all three of Thompson & Maloney's mah jong books. This is truly for the die hard fan of the game who is always looking for a new hand as well as for the slightly advanced beginner. Seeing the hands helps. The book also breaks the hands into a short list used to start with and then a longer list of even more beautiful mah jong hands.

I thought this book would help me understand the American version of Mah better and it did not. It lists many hands and the hands are titled ... but this means nothing to someone who only plays the American version who purchases a new card each year. That said, I am sure it is my ignorance in not knowing what was meant by the title...I am sure this book would be helpful to those playing the

game perhaps known as Chinese Mah...and has information on scoring that I didn't know existed. Again, this is probably due to my ignorance of the game but I would never have purchased it had I known it was different than the American version. In a nutshell, had I read the reviews I would have known this and not purchased the book!

We use this book constantly and find it excellent; however one of the hands has caused a bit of discussion. I would like to contact one of the authors to ask their advice if this is possible. Here is the query in case someone else can help me. The hand is called "The Professors" and consists of three mixed chows, one of each dragon and a pair of one's own wind. To me that seemed very straightforward but not to one of the other players. The illustration in the book showed, 6 circles, 7 bamboos, 8 characters; 4 circles, 5 bamboos, 6 characters; and 2 circles, 3 bamboos, 4 characters; plus one of each dragon and a pair of one's own wind. I went Mahjong with the three mixed chows plus one of each dragon and pair of my own wind, but they weren't in the order as illustrated in the book ie: each set being circles, bamboos, characters. I can't remember the exact order of my rack but one set was 3 bamboos, 4 characters and 5 circles, the other might have been 2 characters, 3 bamboos and 4 circles etc. I was told that I should have collected the tiles in the same order as shown in the book. The book didn't specify any specific order although on some of the other hands it does specify, "chow 7, 8 & 9 in each suit" etc. My question is:, " Does each mixed chow have to be in the same suit order, circles, bamboos, characters or is it acceptable to have the mixed chow with the numbers sequential and one of each suit but not necessarily have the suits in the same order?"

THE MAH JONG PLAYER'S COMPANION is an excellent book for beginners and beyond. All hands are shown in colour making it easy to understand as well as it is indexed so you can look up hands that can be made from tiles you have been dealt. It includes scoring and strategies on how to place your tiles so others don't predict your hand. It includes organising a tournament and answers questions to the rules of the game. The index is divided conveniently into RUNS, CHOWS, PAIRS, WINDS, DRAGONS, BAMBOO CHARACTER AND CIRCLE SUITS, and many more. I would highly recommend this book for new comers to Mah Jong.

I am a beginner to Mahjong and this book may be a little advanced for me, but it is handy to have as a reference. We play a very simple version on Mahjong until we get better, but I was able to play one of the hands from this book the first time out. Everything is clearly illustrated.

As neophytes at the game of Western Mah Jong, the four of us at the table often play with a copy of The Mah Jong Player's Companion in our laps. The colored pictures are extremely helpful when trying to formulate a hand or when trying to change one.

This is a great book for Mahjong players! Everyone in my group loves this book! After mastering traditional mahjong, this is a perfect book to try new games. The pictures are great and the games are a lot of fun!

I just learned to play Mah Jong this summer. This book has helped me learn several more "hands". The pictures are a great help and even some of my long-playing friends have learned more by using this book. I highly recommend this book.

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