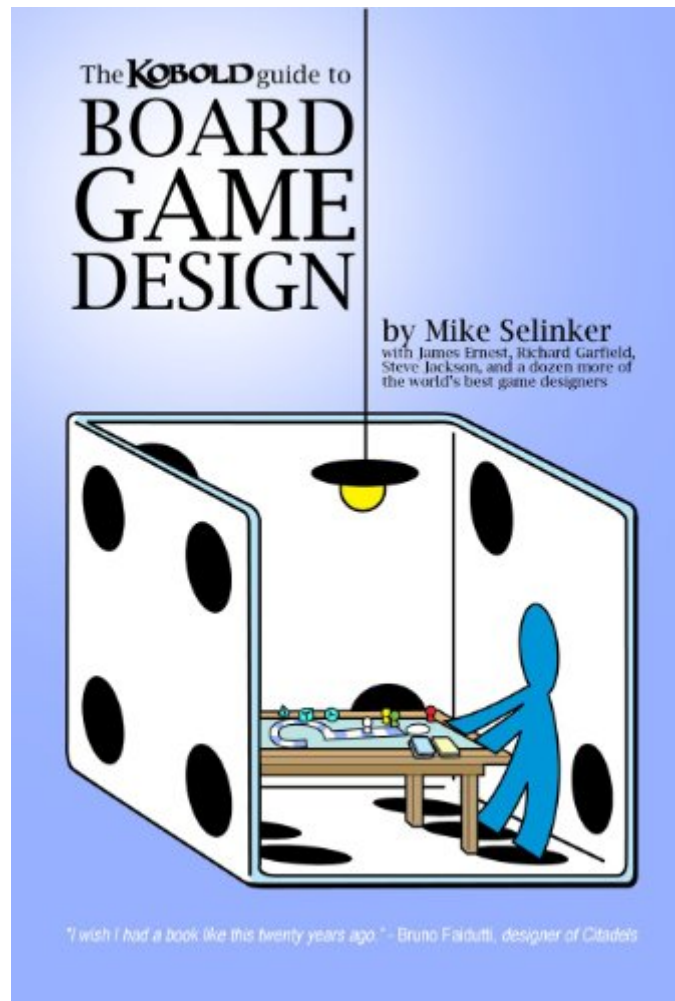


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# Kobold Guide To Board Game Design (Kobold Guides To Game Design Book 4)



## Synopsis

Pull up a chair and see how the world's top game designers roll. You want your games to be many things: Creative. Innovative. Playable. Fun. If you're a designer, add "published" to that list. The Kobold Guide to Board Game Design gives you an insider's view on how to make a game that people will want to play again and again. Author Mike Selinker (Betrayal at House on the Hill) has invited some of the world's most talented and experienced game designers to share their secrets on game conception, design, development, and presentation. In these pages, you'll learn about storyboarding, balancing, prototyping, and playtesting from the best in the business. Featuring a cover and interior art by John Kovalic, the book's 15 contributors include: Richard Garfield (Magic: The Gathering) Steve Jackson (Munchkin) Dale Yu (Dominion) James Ernest (Kill Doctor Lucky) Lisa Steenson (Redneck Life) Whether you're a game enthusiast who wants a deeper understanding of the hobby, an aspiring designer looking to break into the industry, or a seasoned pro who knows there's always more to learn, there's something for you in the Kobold Guide to Board Game Design.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I don't know why but the kindle edition is missing content, in particular the chapter by James Ernest "Let's make it Interesting" is missing!!! Hopefully someday the publisher will fix this.

This book is packed full of tips and tricks from some of the very best board game designers working today. It not only will work as a primer on where and how to start your own design, but will also allow you learn what works and what doesn't. Don't be fooled though as this isn't just a book that talks about cards, dice, and boards - it also dives into the human element and how to hook your target players into not only loving your creation, but replaying time and again! If anyone has EVER been interested in designing board games you have to read this book!

James Earnest has been an inspiration to me for quite a while so I was interested to see what he had to say on the subject. I found his opening chapter to be inspirational and profound in the sense that he got into the psychological heart of the game design process. Richard Garfield's chapter "Play More Games" was something that I was already doing for the reasons he outlined but it was reassuring to hear the designer of one of the world's most popular and influential games make the same points. I have admired Mike Selinker's brilliant (although a bit underplayed, I haven't played the new version though) Betrayal at House on the Hill for quite some time which has served as an inspiration for a project of my own. It was interesting to see a book put together by him and who and what he thought was relevant to put in. The reason I bought the book though was to get my hands on the chapter written by Dave Howell. Dave has an unpublished manuscript "The Golden Guidelines of Game Design" which is the most brilliant and profound piece I've ever seen on the subject. He has condensed part of his manuscript into the chapter "Stealing the Fun" in the present work and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the topic.

I had this book on my wish list for awhile before I finally ordered it. First of all, the content of the book is fantastic. Great concise articles with lots of good information. Some of this information I've already seen (such as the Steve Jackson article) on the web. It doesn't have any of the current information that you will find through blogs on the web about Kickstarters and more current information. With that being said, the information is still very timely and valuable. I thought it was well worth the money and really enjoyed the read. I also was impressed with how well the book was edited. I think I only found two typos in the whole thing, and they were very minor. Now the only reason I gave it 4 stars was that the print quality was bad. I've never seen a book curl up so easily.

After reading the book over a week, it looks like I'd given it to a 2 year old to play with. The book stays together, however the paper is really thin and the cover has no thickness to snap back into place. I've never had a book do this.

A fantastic book for anyone even remotely interested in board game design. The strong point in this book is that it's not all written by Mike Selinker. He's really more of an editor/compiler. The book consists of a couple dozen short essays about where to start, how to playtest, how to approach a publisher, common traps to avoid, and other great topics. The variety of perspectives gives the book great validity and legitimacy. You can bet that the guy who designed Magic: The Gathering will have a different view on game design than the guy who designed Fluxx (both of whom contributed to this book). Solid book, 5/5, highly recommended.

Easily one of the best books on design I've ever read. As others have mentioned, this isn't really a "How-To" book and not even specific to board games, but a collection of essays on what to expect during each phase of the development process. The essays by Richard Garfield and Dave Howell are fantastic and Howell, who I had not heard of before, has become a real inspiration. If you're interested in, or are doing any kind of development in the game space (AAA video games, indie games, board games, etc) this is an invaluable book.

In summary, keep rules simple and logically oriented towards the objective of the game, then do play testing and revision as much as possible (plus go out and get a broad range of experience with what games are out there so knowledge of what kind of changes can/should be done.) I thought that the material was pretty basic and the writing a little wordy. All in all, the material is oriented towards a person who hasn't given much thought to just what gaming is, who is his target audience, and hasn't played a wide range of tabletop games.

First and foremost let me state that I really enjoyed this book. I decided I would purchase a book on game design as I play enough of them, and have often thought about what goes into making a game. I also enjoy mathematics/computation so I thought it'd be interesting to see if that plays a roll. This book give a very good general idea on what goes into game design. Some chapters list specific examples of what each essay writer terms a "bad" or "good" game as well. This is very helpful to get some concrete examples. I feel more enlightened in the process of designing a board game from start to finish. For the price of the book, it is a very good purchase. The thing I am not a

fan of is the little content that exists for how to create the board game itself. I have seen some other, beefier books out there that may cover this more. The other qualm I had with this book was the number of spelling errors. I believe I found a few in every chapter save two or three. It was ironic as some of the essays written talked specifically about proofreading the rules and write-up of the game to ensure it had no spelling/grammatical errors. Overall, the book is a great introduction to the design process, and I would definitely recommend it to those interested in such a thing.

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