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What is Kakuro?

Kakuro is a Japanese logic puzzle (also called Cross Sums) that involves inserting a digit from 1 to 9 into each empty cell such that the sum of the numbers in that row or column matches the clue associated with it, and no digit is used twice for that clue.

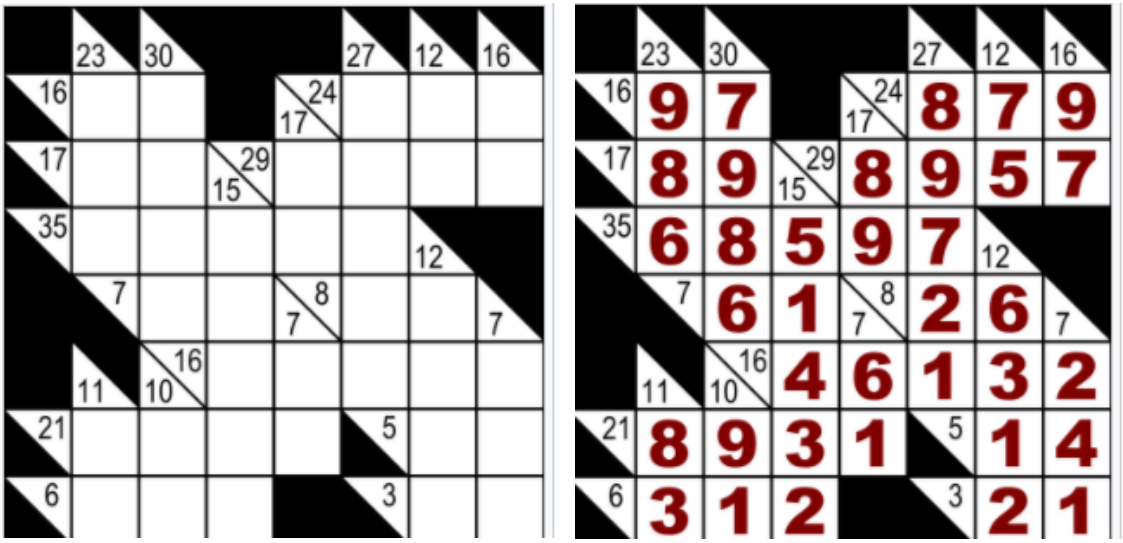

Figure 1: Normal unsolved and solved Kakuro puzzle

What is Kakuro Blend?

Kakuro Blend is a twist on the classic Kakuro. It is played almost the exact same except it uses colors instead of numbers. Players insert colors given into each empty cell such that the mixture of those colors in that row or column matches the clue associated with it, and no color is used twice for that clue.

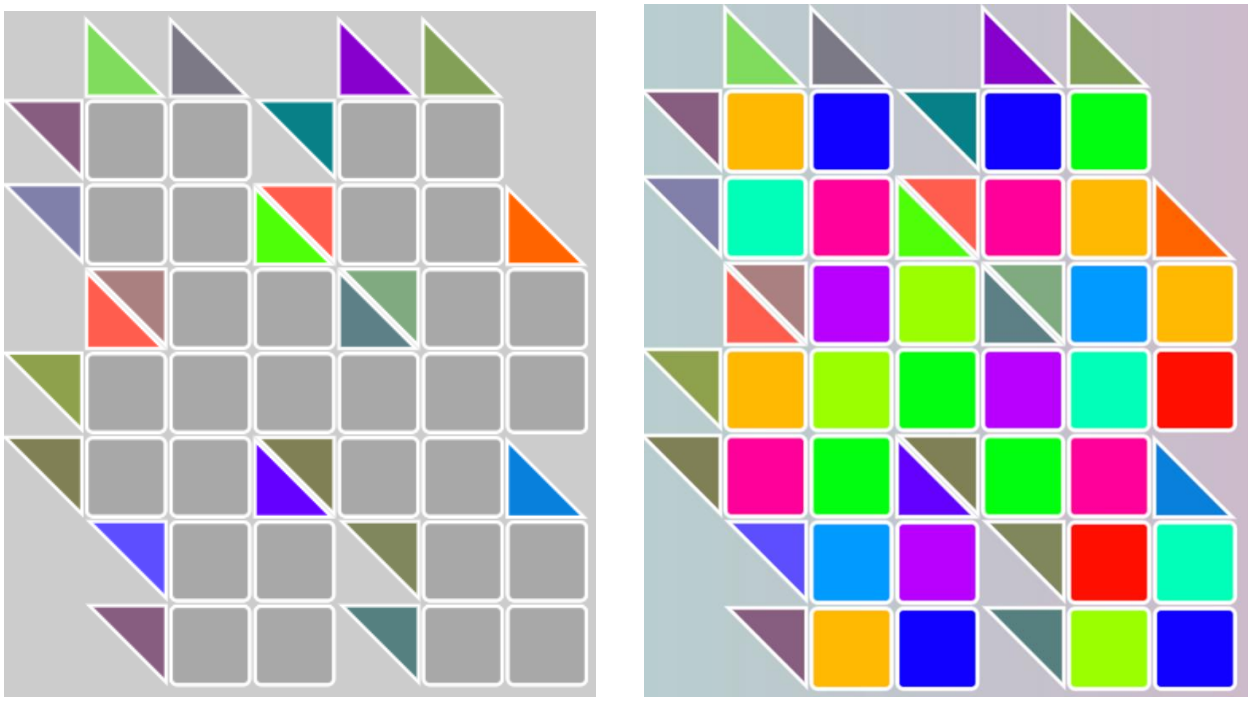

Figure 2: Unsolved and solved Kakuro Blend puzzle

If you're are thinking that this is impossible because there is no way a normal person would be able to predict how certain colors would mix especially when there are 3 or more colors that need to mix, do not worry. There are certain key features that will that make this puzzle game very doable that will be discussed later.

How to Play

As mentioned before, the goal of Kakuro Blend is to fill every empty cell with the correct color so they mix and match their given clue with no duplicate colors for that clue. It will be better understood looking at a full screenshot of the game.

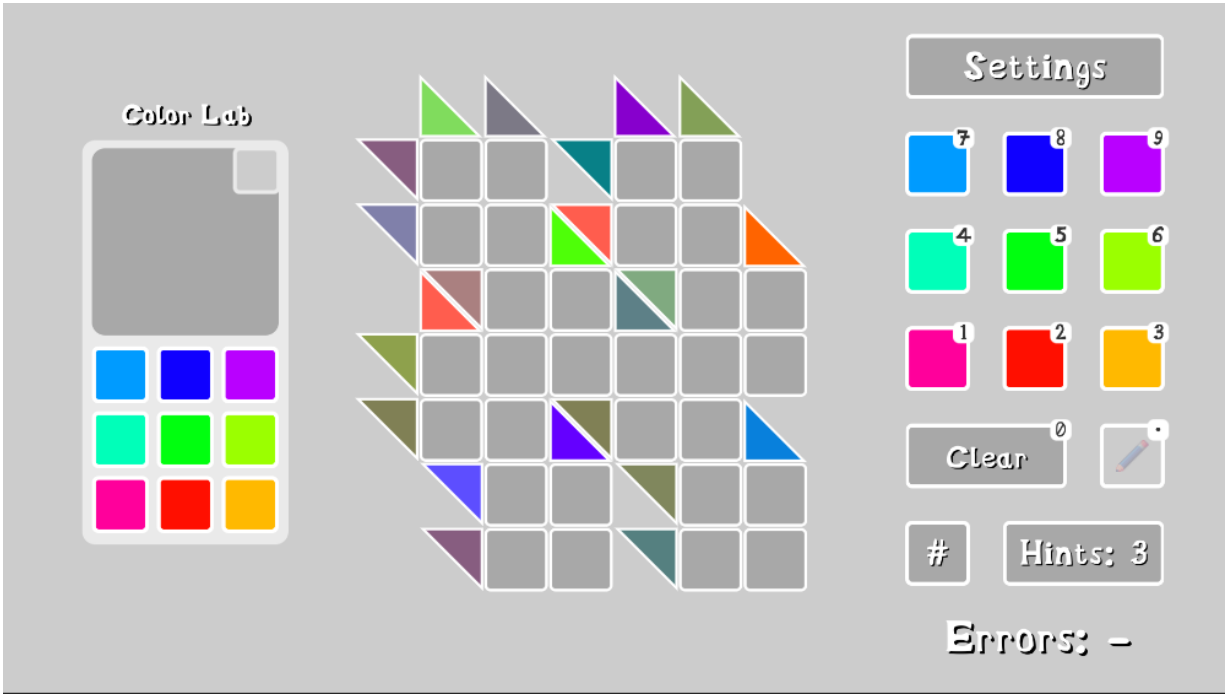

Figure 3: Full screenshot of Kakuro Blend game

As one can see, there are many buttons and features and at first glance, it is pretty confusing. We will go through all these features to make it less difficult.

Grid Cell

You can think of each cell on the grid as a button. To fill the cell, you must first select it with your mouse then select a color to fill it with. Once you first select a cell, you can then move around the grid with the arrow/WASD keys.

Triangle Color Clues

To know which colors should be selected for each grid, you should look at the color clues in the triangle. Every grid cell is an answer to both a horizontal color clue and a vertical color clue, and that grid must mix with one or more other colors to correctly match the clue.

Color Buttons

To select a color for a grid cell, you must either press them with the mouse or use the number hotkeys on your keyboard/keypad that are shown on the top right corner of each color button. The clear button acts the exact same way as the other color buttons.



Figure 4: Color button area

As you play through more levels of the game, you'll notice that these colors change ever so slightly, so you do not get used to these colors and the how they mix. These colors are also always equally distanced around RGB (red, green, blue) color wheel. There will be levels where two of these colors look almost the exact same, specifically the greens, but I assure they are as different as any other two colors and mix differently with different colors.

Pencil Mode

Pencil mode allows the player to input 1 to 9 colors into a grid cell as possible solutions without actually committing to a color. This is helpful when deciding which color goes where and should be used a lot, especially in the harder levels. You can turn on and turn off pencil mode by clicking the pencil mode toggle or using the 'period' hotkeys on your keyboard/keypad.



Figure 5: Pencil mode toggled off and on



Figure 6: Grid cells using pencil mode

Error and Hint Buttons

The error and hint buttons are not completely necessary to complete these puzzles, but they are extremely helpful. The error button (denoted by '#') can be used every 20 seconds to show how many wrong answers you have on the grid. This will not show which cells have wrong answers. The hint button can be used 3 times per puzzle and is used to delete all the errors on the grid. To best utilize these, you should always use the error button before the hint button, so you do not waste a hint if you have no errors.



Figure 7: Error and hint button with error number shown

Settings Button and Menu

When you press the settings button, you will be taken to the settings menu, where you can choose to see the controls, resume the game, or leave the game. You can also adjust the music and sound volume. It should be noted, when/if you exit a puzzle, your progress will save, but your possible solutions using pencil mode does not save.



Figure 8: Settings button

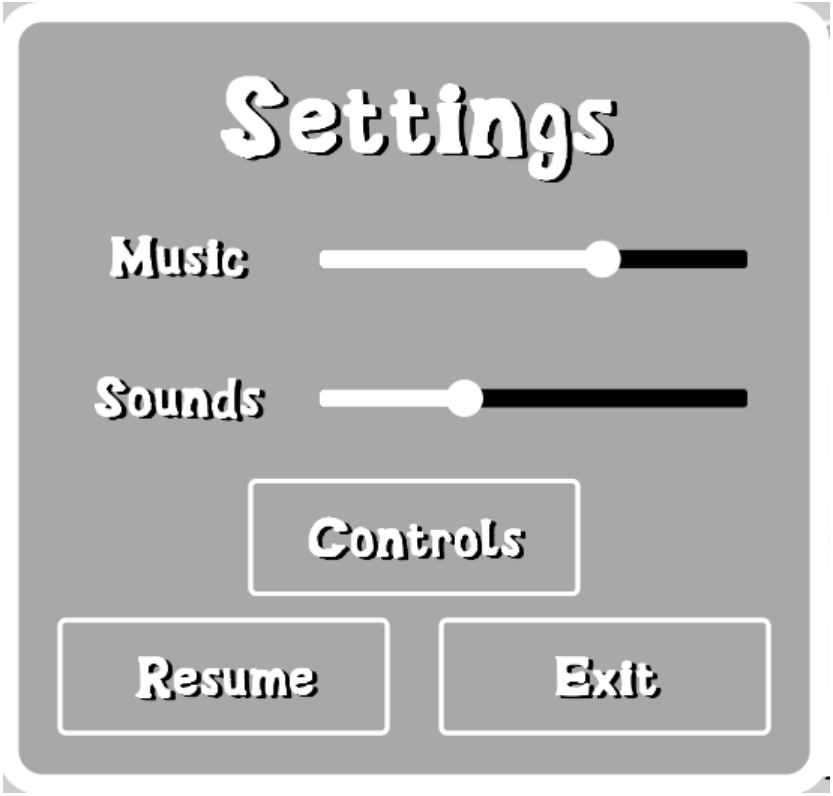

Figure 9: Settings menu

Color Lab

This is the most important feature that will help you through these puzzles. The Color Lab allows you to mix any of the given colors to try and match mixture to the color clue you are working on. In the Color Lab, you can press any of the colors to add them to the mixture and then press them again to take them out of the mixture. It's worth noting that some of these mixtures can look very similar, so to help, color selector can be used to better compare your mixtures with the color clues. Use this by right clicking anywhere on the game screen to select that color, and it will show up in the top right corner of the Color Lab.

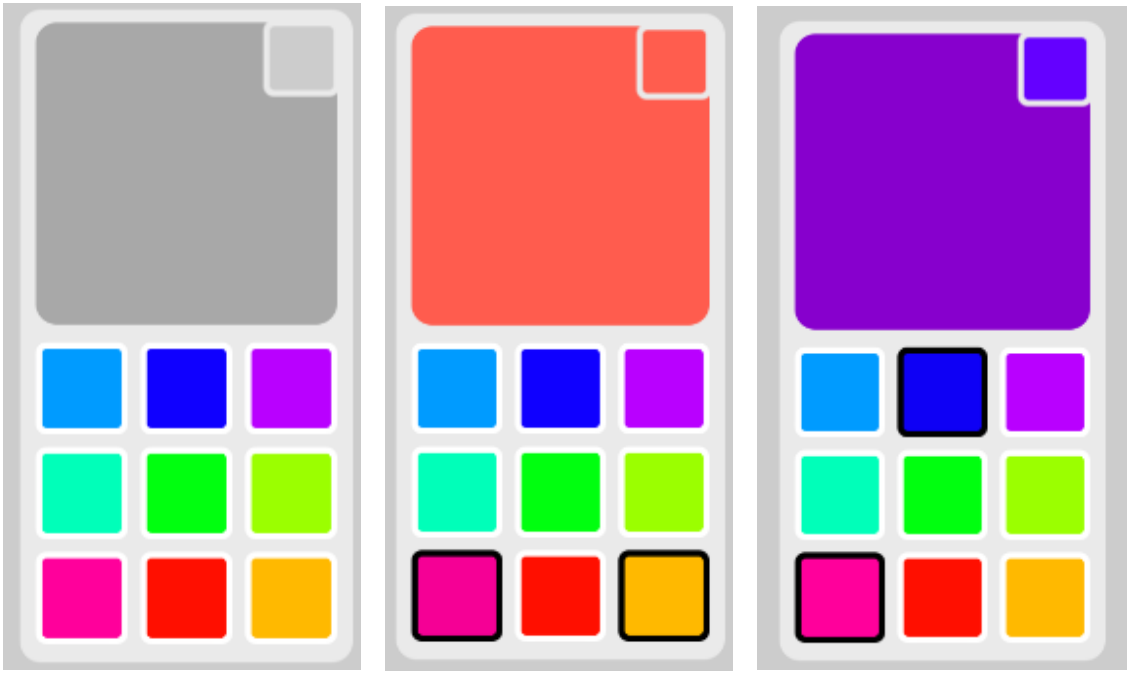

Figure 10: Color Lab Examples

Conclusion

All these features discussed in this manual will help you solve all the 40 Kakuro Blend puzzles. There is an in-game tutorial, accessible from the level select menu if you have to review the rules and components of the game. If have any questions, concerns, or feedback, feel free to contact me at any of the following. I would love to hear from you and what you think of my game!

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