CAN YOU BEAT ELEVEN CLUES?

G4G11

SUDOKU BECOMES SLIDOKU

The photograph shows a new kind of puzzle called SLIDOKU, combining a conventional 9x9 SUDOKU with 9 sliding block puzzles (eight 3x3 small trays of 8 pieces each and one 3x3 big tray with 8 small trays). There are 17 clues on the bottom of the big tray that never move and ELEVEN cross-hatched clues that indicate the correct position of that piece in the small tray.

Using conventional SUDOKU methods, there are insufficient clues to provide a unique solution. However SLIDOKU has additional sliding block puzzle parity constraints that provide extra information to allow a unique solution.

CHALLENGES!

What is the unique solution?

What is the smallest possible number of clues in a SLIDOKU, bearing in mind that you have to give at least one clue on the bottom of the big tray for each of the eight small trays and nine clues for the lower right 3x3 square? What is the minimal number of additional clues? Can you beat ELEVEN?

G4G11 gift from Simon Nightingale, neurologist and metagrobologist. Shrewsbury UK.

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