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Stratego

You are the commander-in-chief of a real army – *your* army to be precise. You deploy your troops. You alone devise how to wield your strike power, without neglecting your defences. Planning an attack from the right, but is your left flank not vulnerable as a result? Is your flag properly protected?

And above all, do you know what your opponent is up to?

Box contents:

- 41 Red Army Pieces 41 Blue Army Pieces
- 2 Label Sheets
 Board
 Screen
 2 Sorting Trays for Pieces



Stick the gold stickers on the red pieces and the silver stickers on the blue pieces as shown.

Three games:

Three different games can be played with this version of Stratego: Stratego Duel, Stratego Original and Stratego Infiltrator.

If you've never played Stratego before, Stratego Duel is the ideal game to start with. Stratego Original and Infiltrator are for the real strategists. Both games give you total command over a complete army of 40 pieces.

Stratego Duel:

For Stratego Duel, both players need the following 10 pieces:



Flag x1



Bomb x



Marshal x1



General x1



Miner x2



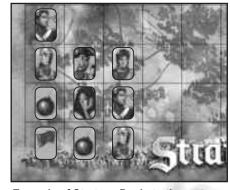
Scout x2



Spy x

The pieces are set up on the bottom four rows of the game board. You can therefore choose from 40 fields for your 10 pieces. You could, for example, position all your pieces at the back in a corner, and then protect your flag with two bombs (see example). The advantage here is that only the enemy miners can capture the flag, because they alone can sweep the bombs. The disadvantage is that your opponent will immediately know where to look for the flag once the screen has gone. You can choose the smartest formation for yourself.

Carefully read the general Stratego rules below. The rules apply to Stratego Duel, Stratego Original and Stratego Infiltrator. You will find it easier to learn to play Stratego Duel because it is played with fewer pieces.



Example of Stratego Duel starting set-up.



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Stratego Original:

All the pieces are used when playing Stratego Original. Each player therefore uses 40 playing pieces. This means that when setting up all the fields, the bottom four rows are filled. The object of the game Stratego is to capture your enemy's flag. It would also be wise to position your flag somewhere at the rear, making it more difficult to capture instantly. You only have six bombs to use as extra protection for your flag. You must divide your high and low pieces evenly across the field so that your opponent has a harder time trying to conquer your army. But your formation must also offer you opportunities to launch an attack of your own...

Example of Stratego starting setup.



Stratego Infiltrator:

Play the game with only 7 Scouts and the Infiltrator (a total of 40 playing pieces). Play as you would Stratego Original, except for the special rules that apply to the Infiltrator: See 'The Infiltrator' p. 6.



General rules:

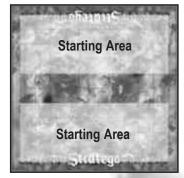
Preparations:

Lay the game board down on the table with the Stratego logo facing the players. The players draw lots to determine who plays red, since red always goes first.

Place the screen on the two middle rows of the game board between you and your opponent. The screen ensures that your opponent cannot see where you position your pieces and provides beginners with lots of useful information. The pieces are all shown from high to low along with the number of pieces of each rank.

Outline of the game:

Both players have an army of 10 (Stratego Duel) or 40 (Stratego Original) pieces, including a flag. You must try to capture your opponent's flag while protecting your own. You first put together a secret formation by placing your playing





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pieces on your half of the game board in such a way as to conceal their rank from your opponent. In other words, you place your pieces with the images facing you and their backs to your opponent. The pieces have a specific sequence: the higher the number, the higher the rank. If a piece with a higher rank takes a piece with a lower rank, the piece with the higher rank wins and the piece with the lower rank is taken off the board. The flag can be conquered by any of the enemy's pieces that can be moved.

The playing pieces and formation:

The players take the sorting table that matches the color of their pieces.

Each piece has its own illustration and number indicating its rank. The field Marshal has the highest rank and has been assigned the number 10, the General has a 9, etc., down to the Spy with the number 1. Only the bombs and flag do not have a number because they have a special role in the game.



You position your pieces on the bottom four rows of the game board. You place them with their backs to your opponent so that you alone can see the illustrations. The two middle rows (with the lakes) remain empty. No playing pieces may be placed here when setting up the game.

Setting up the board is an important part of the game. It determines whether you win or lose. You will find some useful tips at the end of these instructions.

Once the players are ready after setting up their playing pieces, the screen is removed. The sorting tables are placed next to the board. The pieces that are removed from play during the game must be placed here so that your opponent can also see which pieces you have already taken. The sorting tables are numbered so that you can see where to place the pieces taken during the game.

Course of the game:

Red starts. The players then move their pieces in turns. You move a piece to an empty field or to a field occupied by one of your opponent's pieces. The latter option is called an attack. Each player may only move a single piece during his or her turn!

Moving:

You can move a piece one place to the left or right, or one place forward or backward. The Scout (number 2) is an exception to this rule; more details below. Each field can accommodate one piece only; the pieces cannot jump over other pieces and they may not be moved diagonally. The playing pieces may not be positioned in or jump over the two lakes in the center of the board.

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You may not continuously move a piece back and forth between the same two fields. The limit here is set at three moves. It is important then to determine which player began moving to and fro. This player has to stop first too, and this could lead to losing an important piece. The rule is known as the "two field" moves rule.

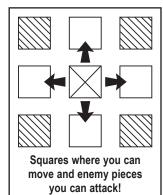
You may also not continuously pursue one or more of your opponent's pieces. If this happens (and extends across more than two fields) the aggressor must stop this at once.

The bombs and the flag may never be moved and therefore remain in the same place throughout the duration of the game.

Special rules apply to the Scouts (2). Scouts can jump over an unlimited number of empty fields. Of course, they can only do so in a straight line, i.e. to the left, to the right, forward or backward. As far as they can as long as the fields are empty, because they cannot jump over their own army's pieces or those of the enemy. Neither can they jump over the lakes. Scouts are the only pieces that can launch an attack from a sizeable distance.



Scout



Attacking:

If one of your pieces is immediately in front of, next to or behind one of your opponent's pieces, you can attack that piece.

Attacks are launched as follows: Take your piece, tap the enemy piece and say the rank (or number) of your piece. Your opponent then says the rank (or number) of his or her piece.

The piece with the lowest rank loses and is removed from the board. If the attacking piece wins, it takes the place of the losing piece. If the defending piece wins it simply remains where it was.

If you attack a piece of the same rank, both pieces lose and are removed from the board. You are never obliged to attack.

As mentioned above, Scouts can attack from a considerable distance. The fields inbetween must be empty, though, and the Scout must move in a straight line. A Scout (2) can therefore eliminate a Spy (1) from a sizeable distance.

The ranks:

The Field Marshal (10) outranks a General (9) and all the pieces of a lower rank. The General (9) outranks the Colonels (8) and all the lower ranks. This applies down to the Spy (1), which holds the lowest rank. The ranks are depicted in the correct order on the screen and are listed at the beginning of these instructions where they are given by name and rank

(and number). It's a good idea to memorize the ranks. Of course, you can play with just the numbers – i.e. my "8" beats your "5" – but it sounds better to say my "Colonel" beats your "Lieutenant".

Bombs and Miners: (3). Any piece that attacks a bomb loses. The bomb stays in the same place. The only exception to this rule is the Miner. If a Miner attacks a bomb it becomes inactive and must be removed from play. The Miner then takes the place of the destroyed bomb.







The Spy (1) holds the lowest rank. Any piece that attacks a Spy wins.

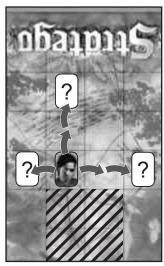
But, the mysterious and resourceful Spy can also be very powerful. If a Spy attacks a Field Marshal (10), she outsmarts him and wins the battle!

This only applies if the Spy launches the attack. If the Field Marshal attacks, it beats a Spy and clears it from the board.

The Flag can be conquered by any piece. This includes a jumping Scout!



Flag



The Infiltrator:

The Infiltrator holds the lowest rank (1). Any piece that attacks it wins. But he does have one special power! The Infiltrator comes into his own when operating on enemy territory where he can use his special power. When in enemy territory, he can 'infiltrate' which means he can attack an enemy playing piece from one or two spaces away. Tap the enemy piece, tell your opponent you are infiltrating and guess the rank of the piece you are attacking.



Infiltrator

If you guessed correctly, that piece loses. The Infiltrator does NOT take the place of the losing piece but returns to the field where he was.

If you guessed incorrectly, the defending piece stays where it was and the Infiltrator returns to the field where he was. Your opponent now knows the position of your Infiltrator!

Note: An Infiltrator can only infiltrate while on enemy territory.

The Infiltrator can infiltrate bombs and the flag.

The Infiltrator can also attack in the conventional way, but remember he has the lowest rank (1).

The winner:

You can win the game by conquering your opponent's flag. You also win if your opponent cannot move anything. This would be the case if your opponent were left with only bombs and a flag, or if bombs block the path of his or her last moving pieces.

Useful tips:

- · Position your flag somewhere in the back row(s). Possibly surround it with bombs so that it can only be conquered by your enemy's Miners (3).
- It may also be a good idea to protect the corner field with your bombs, as if your flag were hidden there. Meanwhile, in reality, your flag may be hidden somewhere at the rear in the centre of the playing field!
- Watch out! Don't put too many bombs in the front line. This would hinder the movement of your own playing pieces.
- · Position pieces with both high and low ranks in the first two rows. A piece is relatively well protected if there is another piece (of at least two ranks higher) behind or next to it. After all, if an enemy Captain (6) beats your Lieutenant (5), you'll need at least a Major (7) to retaliate and win.
- Also position a number of Scouts (2) in the first rows. This will enable you to Scout out advancing troops. But position some of them at the rear as well, to save them for the final showdown. If you are forced to play without any Scouts you may as well be fighting in the dark.
- Position your Spy (1) close to your General (9). If an enemy Field Marshal (10) threatens your General, your Spy can offer it some cover.
- It may be tempting to penetrate uncharted enemy territory with your high-ranking pieces. But the risk is great: If you lose a Colonel or higher ranking piece, this usually leads to defeat.
- · Once you identify the enemy Field Marshal, your General can take any of the pieces that move beyond the cover of the Field Marshal.



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