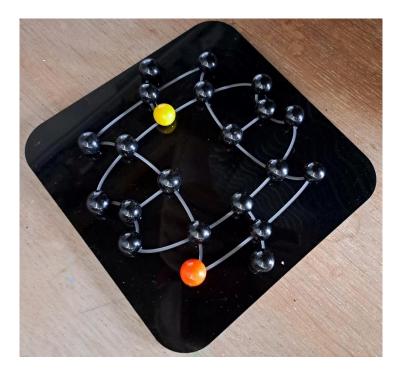
Gravity Trap

2008, Mike McManaway, published at Colour of Strategy and Gigamic

The game is played on the following board, with 22 'bases' connected by curved lines:

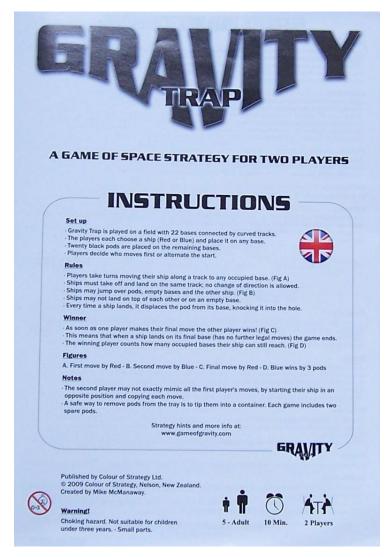


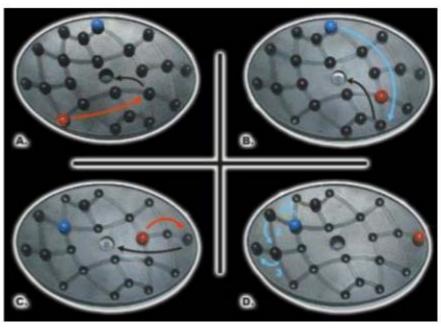
Rules

- Each player places their spaceship (red or blue) on any base. The 20 black spheres are placed on the remaining empty bases.
- Players take turns moving their spaceship along one of the lines where their spaceships are (changing direction is not allowed).
 - Spaceships may jump over empty positions, empty bases, or the other spaceship.
 - They must land on an occupied base (i.e., with a black sphere); they may not land on another spaceship or on an empty base.
 - Each time a spaceship lands, it displaces a sphere from its base, which is captured.
- When a player's spaceship makes its last possible move, the other player is the winner.

There is a note that forbids mirror strategies, i.e., the second player places his stone on the opposite side of the board and just copies the first player moves. In these cases, it would be better to find a ruleset where mirror strategies were impossible, instead of just ruling it out this way.

The official rules:





The review of Jeux Soc:

It offers us here a two-player game that's somewhat reminiscent of Isola. The goal is to move around a shared board while gradually eliminating its spaces. As soon as a player can no longer move, their opponent wins.

In Gravity Trap, you need to study the grid carefully. Movement is not limited to adjacent spaces — you may move as far as you like along the drawn lines, provided you don't change direction. You're not blocked by any marbles you may fly over; the only restriction is that you must land on a space occupied by a black marble.

The magic of Gravity Trap also lies in its components. The game board is very slightly curved, so that the black marbles that are dislodged gently roll toward the central black hole, where they disappear. At the end of the game, you simply turn the board over a container to collect all the marbles again.

Another very nice touch: the game comes with two extra black marbles. That way, you'll only have to move the Henri III sideboard to retrieve the marbles that rolled behind it once every three games!

