

# Game Review



## The Antoni Gaudi Tile Game

Designed by Oriol Comas and Jep Ferret

This is a very attractive game based on the hexagonal tiling designed in 1904 by famous Spanish architect Antoni Gaudi for an apartment building in Barcelona. The game was produced in 2002 in honor of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gaudi's birth.

There are 84 hexagonal tiles in the set. Each tile is divided into three segments. The segments are colored green, orange, or blue. In some tiles all three segments are different colors, while others have all three segments the same color, and others have two segments one color and the third segment a different color. However, there are also stylized representations of "animals" on the segments—starfish, conch and jellyfish, in each of the three colors. The segments from three different tiles will fit together to create a completed picture of one animal in a particular color.

There are two sets of cards, six for colors and six for animals. Before the game starts each player randomly draws an animal card and a color card, keeping the draw hidden from the opponent(s). The game can therefore be played by two to six players. The two cards that a player draws represent his objective in terms of building completed patterns of a particular color or a particular animal. Lastly, there are six sets of markers, one set for each player participating. These are used by the players to mark the scoring patterns they have completed.

A three-color tile is placed face up in the center of the table to start, and the remaining 83 tiles are placed face down and shuffled. The players take three tiles each from this pool. They take turns to place one, two or three tiles onto the table, drawing from the pool to complete their hand of three tiles after each move. Each tile played must continue the pattern of tiles already placed on the table, like dominoes, except the tiles must match in both animal and color. If two or three tiles are played they must touch each other, except that three tiles may not be played in a compact group. In addition, to place two tiles, a player must complete at least one animal pattern, and to place three tiles, the player must complete at least two animal patterns. Each time a player completes a pattern that is either his color or his animal, he puts a marker on it. The game ends as soon as the pool is empty, and one player has used up the tiles in his hand. The players score one point for every animal pattern on which they have a marker. An extra point is scored for each pattern that matches the player's objective both in color and animal. Note that a player does not score for patterns matching his objective that are completed by an opponent.

Although the rules state that each player should keep his objective hidden from the others, a player's objective can quickly be deduced from the placement of scoring markers. Nevertheless, we found it difficult to utilize the knowledge of an opponent's objective as most of our attention was taken by completing patterns in our own objective rather than spoiling an opponent's chances. It becomes even more difficult to play a spoiling game as the pattern on the table becomes larger and more complex. We only tried the game with two players. I can imagine that playing to prevent multiple opponents from scoring is impossibly difficult.

Gaudi reminded me of other gentle games we have

reviewed in these pages, such as *Siesta* and *Ta Yü*. It is an absorbing and beautiful game with somewhat the feel of a jigsaw puzzle. I hope to have the opportunity to try it with more than two players in the next month or two. I suspect that it will prove to be a relaxing social game. It is well worth trying to get hold of a copy if you would enjoy a tile game with an interesting artistic and local flavor. – KH

Publisher: CASA Consultors I Arquitectes SL, Passeig Cordelles, 16, 3r. 2a, 08290 Cerdanyola del Valles, Spain.

The Antoni Gaudi game can be obtained from [http://www.gaudi.club.com/tenda/productes.asp?id\\_familia=0051&lang=eng](http://www.gaudi.club.com/tenda/productes.asp?id_familia=0051&lang=eng).

Price: US\$49/€49.