



Brand: Ravensburger		Date: 1/20/2015
<i>Puzzle Evaluated: "What If? Santa and Rudolph", "Best of British #11"</i>		
THE BOX (Exterior)		
IDEAL: Sturdy top and bottom, lovely packaging design, box bottom has info on series/artist/puzzle, sides designed for vertical shelving, all important info on box.		10
Subtract points:		
• Box is oversized (hogs space) or too small: -1 to -2 based on severity		
• Flimsy top and/or bottom: -1 for one, -2 if both are flimsy		
• Bottom of box has mini catalog (-1), generic info or is blank (-2)		
• Package can't be opened without damaging box: -1 to -2 based on severity		
• Doesn't have a box side of each length with: image, puzzle name, artist, piece count, brand logo: -1 if one length side has this; -2 if neither do		
• Publication year or puzzle size nowhere on box: -1 for each		
• Artist name nowhere on box: -2		
• Packaging design is ho-hum to poor: -1 to -2 based on severity		
Add points:		
• Artist name and puzzle image name on front of box: +1		
• BONUS POINT: For exceptionally unusual or interesting box: +1		1
FINAL SCORE:		11
INSIDE THE BOX		
IDEAL: Box contains poster or color catalogue. Puzzle pieces are in a sturdy bag, no puzzle dust, fully separated, no image lift or warping of pieces.		10
Subtract points:		
• Only a warranty card or other simple item in box: -1		
• Nothing is in the box but the puzzle pieces: -2		
• Puzzle Dust: -1 to -2 based on severity		
• Pieces damaged: image lift, bent, warping, etc: -1 to -3 based on severity		
• Piece(s) missing: -2		
• Extra piece in box that doesn't belong: -1		
Add points:		
• Other items in box such as a certificate, toy, puzzle glue, etc.: +1 to +2		1
FINAL SCORE:		11

PUZZLE THICKNESS	
IDEAL: Pieces are as thick, dense, and smoothly edged as Ravensburger. (We use Ravensburger for our standard since it's widely known and accepted as a thick, quality brand.)	10
Subtract points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thinner than Ravensburger: -1 to -2 based on severity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pieces are too thin for assembly to be enjoyable: -3 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cardboard feels 'loosely packed' and there's some fraying on edges: -1 to -2 based on severity 	
Add points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pieces are thicker than Ravensburger and as dense and cleanly cut: +1 	
FINAL SCORE:	10
PIECE SIZE AND SHAPE	
IDEAL: Puzzle has a creative, non-grid cut with lots of variety in the shapes. Pieces are a good size to handle (approximately Ravensburger size).	10
Subtract points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pieces are smaller than Ravensburger: -1 to -3 based on severity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pieces are oversized and feel clunky or take up too much space: -1 to -2 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Puzzle has a standard grid cut: -1 to -3 based on variety of piece shapes in grid 	-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too little variety in piece shapes to enjoy assembly: -3 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pieces too small or have sides so thin they're easily damaged: -1 to -2 	
Add points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special piece shapes (bell, christmas tree, etc): +1 to +2 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BONUS POINT: Something unusual in the cut that makes assembly particularly challenging or fun: +1 	
FINAL SCORE:	9
PIECE FIT	
IDEAL: Puzzle has a snug fit that feels good when you place a piece. You KNOW what you've got the right piece in place (no confusion). You can move small groups of pieces without them falling apart. Finish is seamless and attractive.	10
Subtract points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moving small groups of pieces without them falling apart requires care or is impossible: -1 to -2 based on severity 	-1
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • You can think a piece fits somewhere it does not: -1 to -3 based on severity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final finish on puzzle isn't smooth and seamless: -1 to -2 based on severity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fit feels loose and unsatisfying during assemble: -1 to -2 based on severity 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some pieces too small or have sides so thin they're easily damaged: -1 to -2 	
Add points:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can lift the completed puzzle without glue: +1 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special/patented 'fit' that's noticeable and satisfying: +1 	+1
FINAL SCORE:	10

IMAGE REPRODUCTION	
IDEAL: Colors are beautiful and bright, darks are not too dark, lines and details are sharp and high-res (never blurry). The edges of puzzle image are precise and match box image. The finish on pieces is not too glossy (reflective) and feels good to the touch.	10
Subtract points:	
• Glossy surface gets reflective glare in light: -1 to -2 based on severity	
• Finish on pieces feels or looks unappealing: -1 to -2 based on severity	
• Image is fuzzy in places, not as crisp as it should be: -1 to -3 based on severity	
• Colors muddy and less appealing than box image: -1 to -3 based on severity	
• Darks get too dark and/or dark shapes all too alike: -1 to -3 based on severity	
• Edges of puzzle image feel 'off' and/or don't match the box image: -1 to -2	
Add points:	
• Finish on puzzle pieces is unusually appealing: +1	
FINAL SCORE:	10
IMAGE VARIETY AND ARTISTS	
IDEAL: Brand releases a good number of new puzzles on a regular basis, puzzle images represent 'best of genre' and feel fresh and attractive. Brand offers 3 or more categories of puzzles. Brand offers 'new ideas' in puzzle area.	10
Subtract points:	
• New puzzles released sporadically and/or catalog is small: -1 to -2	
• Images in catalog are commonly licensed and previously released: -1 to -2 based on severity	
• Images feel old-fashioned or 'dime a dozen' in genre: -1 to -3	
• I (subjective) would order few to no puzzles from this brand in a year: -1 to -2 based on severity	
Add points:	
• Brand offers 'best of industry' in a specific category: +1 to +2	+1
• Brand commissions a few or all original images for puzzles: +1 to +2	+1
• Brand offers "Puzzle Plus" concepts like Find the Differences, wasgij, Where's Waldo, Challenge, etc.: +1 to +2	+1
• I (subjective) could order 10+ puzzles from this brand a year: +1 to +2	+1
• Brand has 1 or more great puzzle artists that aren't published elsewhere: +1 to +2	+1
FINAL SCORE:	15
TOTAL SCORE	
	76

Online review with pictures here:

<https://jigsawjunkie.wordpress.com/puzzle-brand-comparison-ravensburger/>

