



(from <https://boardgamegeek.com/boardgame/188465/otrio>)

Is that all there is to it? Afraid so...

Philip DeWalt

@Mudsharkbytes

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I am SO glad I bought this for cheap at a thrift store.

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I've noticed the game on shelves for some time and it looked really enticing, but it was kind of pricy, so when I saw one at the thrift store I snapped it up.

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When I read the rules it's a understatement to say I was disappointed. "That's it?" I thought? Tic Tac Toe? Seriously?

And, yes, that's all it is. Admittedly an attractive looking variant, but still just tic tac toe with more pieces. If reduced like one reduces fractions, playing Otrio is like playing three games of TTT simultaneously, and the first game that wins takes it all.

It's a shame, too, because the board and pieces are nice. The board looks like it started out as an IKEA cutting board. The pieces fit nicely in their circular niches. Too bad gameplay is such a disappointment.

Had the game used four spaces and four different size rings, it might've amounted to something, because considerably more strategy is involved with four in a row games (It would've had to change its name to Oquarto), but three in a row is a permanent win for whoever goes first, so the game is solved from the outset.

But even then, four in a row games of similar ilk have already been done, and done well, with games like "Gobblet" and "Score Four" to name a few.

Otrio is the very embodiment of meretricious. Pretty to look at, vacuous otherwise.

Shelby Babb

@San Dee Jota

Feb 28

I'm curious: have you played with more than two players, and have you played two player with two colors each (apparently earlier versions of Otrio don't say to do that in two player games)?

I've played a lot of variants, and while the first player has a heck of a strong opening move (center middle), it's not a certain win once you have four colors in play. (Three is playable, but it turns into a bit of a round robin of blocking exercises from my experience)

Regardless... yeah, it's a TTT variant. Chess this isn't.