

My favorite board games

First of all, I'll introduce myself. My name is Vasilij and I'm a 35 years old guy with many hobbies and talents. Currently employed as a janitor, I am also a father of two small children. In addition to board gaming, my other hobbies are football – or soccer (I play in an amateur league), sim racing (big racing and tech fan) and I also play other video games. When time allows it (pretty rarely).

On top of that, I spend a lot of time working on my website [Victory Conditions](#), which is something I enjoy, especially doing research on the games and compiling best of lists. There are so many board games out there and browsing through them, reading reviews and then writing articles makes me feel like a kid in a toy store.

When it comes to board gaming, I do most of it with my partner or alone. I've had a gaming group in the past (my cousins mainly) which we're trying to re-ignite, but we're all adults now and time for hobbies is always limited. We will get together eventually! 😊

My life situation is largely reflected in the selection of the games on my list. You'll see games that are very good for two player and that don't take too much time, rank high on my list.

Well, and the fact that I don't really own that many board games (around 20 currently), because I don't like to hoard games without playing them properly. What I buy, I buy with the intention of playing it a lot.

Here is the list:

Number 7: **Cuba**

First, a confession. I only played Cuba once, but I absolutely loved it. It's an economic worker-placement type of game, set in a pre-revolution Cuba. You manage a plantation, produce rum, tobacco and other things, trying to sell them to ships at the highest price possible.

We played it as a 2 player game and my girlfriend wasn't overly excited, so I didn't push this one further.

I'm saving Cuba for when my group starts playing again, but I have played it's simplified brother, [Santiago de Cuba](#) a lot more. It suited mine and my girlfriend's playing habits more.

Number 6: **Kahuna**

[Kahuna](#) is another game, right up our alley. Short and simple 2 player game, but still strategic enough that your choices matter. Oh, and the lovely exotic beach theme makes you feel just like on a vacation in the middle of the Pacific ocean.

Number 5: **Settlers of Catan**

You don't forget your first love and [Catan](#) is mine. I haven't played it in years (except digital versions), but we played the hell out of this with our group. Memories of shouting, trying to get rid of those pesky sheep will never fade. ☺

[Read my review of Settlers of Catan here](#)

Number 4: **Scythe**

Another confession time. I have only ever played the digital version of [Scythe](#). And I played a lot of it – dozens of hours. Against AI and also online. I absolutely love the art, theme and engine-building mechanics. It's Jamey Stegmaier's best game, in my opinion.

I do regret not having the physical version, since not all the expansions are available for the digital edition (looking at Rise of Fenris in particular), but owning Scythe is high on my bucket list.

[Read my review of Scythe here](#)

Number 3: **Scrabble**

This has long been one of the favorite games for us, the main reason being that we're so evenly matched.

My girlfriend is a professor of our native language and has a very rich vocabulary. I lack on the vocabulary side a bit, but I'm very competitive and always try to play optimally, blocking and opening those x2 and x3 slots to best suit me.

Our different playstyles create interesting matches that often go down to the last couple of words.

Number 2: **Mage Knight**

Epic single player puzzle (we did try it with 2, but she didn't really enjoy it) was long time my favorite game. [Mage Knight](#) is almost a perfect game for me. Full of meaningful choices and analysis, lovely theme and just the right amount of random factor.

It's arguably one of the best single player experiences, but for me it does come with a flaw. I takes a lot of time to complete a game – I'm talking about minimum of three to four hours.

You can imagine when was the last time I had so much free time, so unfortunately Mage Knight is not on the table as often as I would want.

[Read my review of Mage Knight Ultimate edition here](#)

Number 1: **7 Wonders: Duel**

This one is our latest acquisition and it has quickly become our favorite. It takes two minutes to set up and less than thirty to complete, which makes it a perfect unwind game after the kids finally go to bed.

Moreover, despite its simplicity, it's full of strategy and options and the theme is great. I do have a soft spot for the Antics, though. ☺

We don't have the Pantheon expansion yet, but we're definitely going to get it at some point.

How do you like my list? Do we share a similar taste? I'd love to hear from you and to find out about your favorite games.

Feel free to contact me at vasilij@victoryconditions.com at any time.

Have an awesome day,

Vasilij.