

Patrick Ponce

3x3 US National Champion



This excerpt was taken from a recent solve analysis by Patrick Ponce. 3x3 solve analyses are done on an average of 5 video submitted by the client. The coach watches the video, reconstructs the solves to gain a better understanding, and then explains in detail ways each solve can be improved. The full version of this analysis was 4 pages in length.

x2 y

D U2 L F' y R' F R D

I have a hard time understanding why you didn't solve the cross using the much easier approach of D L R' F R' D. It saves you two moves and leaves with a free pair right in front of you, something that I bet would have saved you in the long run in terms of flow.

U2 R U' R' y' L U L'

I really like the way you solved this pair, as it was inserted into the back left slot. Try to make a habit of filling this slot first when/if you get the chance.

y' U2 R' U' R U' R' U R

I am a bit disappointed to see that you didn't see the blue/red pair. It would have been a good option since you wouldn't have had to rotate and you also finish the F2L with the two open slots facing you, which is always favorable.

U2 R U2 R' y' R' U' R U2 R' U R

Once you noticed the edge orientation of the final two F2L edges, you should have immediately made the y' rotation (without making any other moves). As for the pair itself, it was solved very inefficiently, which is always bad to see. The optimal solution would have been y' U2 R' U2 R U R' U' R

U L' U2 L U' F U F'

This solution is fine, I liked to see that you didn't rotate.

U' U' U' R U R' U R' F R F' R U2 R' U'

It is clear that there seems to be an issue with LL recognition. I think this is a result of your relatively high TPS.

- As far as themes in your solving go I see a trend of picking inefficient crosses, being very unsure of what your solutions are, lots of inefficiencies in your F2L, and overall poor lookahead which leads to substantial pauses in between pairs and in your Last Layer.
- I think toning down your TPS would definitely help you out. Although it seems counterintuitive, the point is that the flow in your solves would increase and make your look ahead much better, which in turn would reduce your pauses and give you better times overall.
- I highly highly highly recommend going through all your F2L cases from every angle and making sure that your solutions are both quick and optimal.