# Mr. Driller FAQ/Walkthrough

### by SloDeth

Level G-Dinosaur

Updated to v1.0 on Jan 31, 2001

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Regular Walkthrough ADV Walkthrough --SET THREE--Level H-Ammonite Regular Walkthrough ADV Walkthrough Level I-Mansion Regular Walkthrough ADV Walkthrough --SET FOUR--Level J-Lab Regular Walkthrough ADV Walkthrough 5. This Space Reserved For Future Use 6. Contact Info E-mail address ICQ # Web Page Copyright Info \_\_\_\_\_ 0. Introduction \_\_\_\_\_ \*\*\*\* What is Mr. Driller? Mr. Driller is a great puzzle game released by Namco, makers of games such as Soul Calibur and the Tekken series. It is described as a cross between Dig Dug and Tetris, but there's much more to it. Give it a rent if you're curious. This game also came out on Playstation and Game Boy Color, but this guide is specifically for the Dreamcast version of the game. \*\*\*\*\*\* Is this the latest version of the guide? Maybe. My personal web site(go.to/SloDethFAQs) will always have the latest version of my guide. www.gamefaqs.com will have any new versions of my guides within a day or so, and vgstrategies.about.com is also reliable. If you found it at any other web site, it might not be the latest. \*\*\*\*\* Can I use this guide on my website? It depends. Here's how it is: YOU MUST E-MAIL ME(slodeth@iname.com) AND ASK FOR PERMISSION!

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- v1.0 January 31, 2001 Fixed the guide up for public release. This will be the final version if I don't start getting some feedback on it...I'm a little discouraged here.
- v0.9 January 12, 2001 First version. Complete, except for the final walkthrough for the Lab.

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2. Basics(i.e. what's in the instruction book but you are too lazy to look) =========

Here's the deal...you are Mr. Driller. Downtown is in serious trouble because colored blocks are coming out of the sewers and overrunning the city! It's your job to dig underground and find the root of the problem!

On the game board, you can drill(destroy a block) in any direction in your quest to reach the bottom.

Each level has four, three, or two colors of blocks. When any blocks of the same color touch each other, they bind together into one larger block. These larger blocks will create roofs for you while you dig.

If a goup of four or more blocks falls at all, or if it comes in contact with another block of the same color, it will be destroyed. This can easily cause some dangerous chain reactions!

In Arcade and Survival Mode, you'll also find air capsules. These restore 20% of your air, which gradually decreases as you play. When your air reaches 0%, you die! Not only will these capsules save your life, but they're worth big points. The first capsule is worth 100 points, and every next one is worth 100 points more. If you want big points in Arcade Mode, get as many air capsules as you can.

Another element of the game is the X-block. These brown blocks can only be destroyed with five drillings, and it will cost you 20% of your air. NEVER destroy these unless it is absolutely necessary! Do whatever you can to avoid these.

As you get deeper and deeper in the game, you'll find more X-blocks and the air capsules are harder to ger(usually surrounded by X-blocks). To get these, you

must destroy the X-blocks with a chain reaction(good) or drilling(bad, waste of effort). If you can get some X-blocks to form a group of four or more and you get them destroyed, you'll have access to the air capsules and a boost to your score. You'll probably get pretty desparate for air near the bottom, so work fast.

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I don't have much in the way of strategy for this game. This is one of those games that you can't learn by reading about it...you have to play it! Thus is the way with most puzzle games...just look at the lack of good FAQs for Tetris. I can't even beat Survival Mode...

- -As the reviewer over at IGN said, the trick to this game is finding a balance between drilling downward like a maniac and planning your moves slowly and strategically. This is almost purely a matter of opinion...think about it: what do you do when you're running low on air in the depths of the game? Do you want to drill rapidly, looking for an easy capsule to grab, or do you want to waste time and your precious air, trying to get that tough air capsule? Either way, you could get killed.
- -As you drill straight down, be careful when you move to the side. All the blocks above you will fall on top of you. If you're lucky, the first falling block will bind with another block of the same color on the way down, creating a nice little roof for you.
- -The rounds with only two colors of blocks can get pretty crazy with the rapid chain reactions. Make sure you don't have any blocks over your head while you drill and fall downwards. Once you reach the bottom, you can probably collect a handful of air capsules if you destroyed most of the blocks.

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3. Time Attack Mode

In this mode, you must complete each level within a certain time to clear it. These levels each have set designs, so you'll probably end up memorizing the level before you beat it. Each level is filled with clocks, which decrease your time by a set number of seconds. You'll need to collect most, if not all, of these to complete the level in good time. Also, destroying X-blocks in this mode will add five seconds to your time. Don't do it!

When you begin the game, you only have access to levels A-D. When you complete those, you'll get access to E-G. Complete those for H and I, then complete those for the final course J. After you complete J, you'll get to start all over again on the ADV courses! These are mirror images of the old courses, and their target times are much, much lower.

I created this walkthrough solely because these levels are VERY, VERY DIFFICULT to beat! I couldn't find any good advice for these levels, so I spent hours and hours figuring them out for myself. For each level, I will do my best to explain the best path through each level. First, I will explain the basic ideas and strategies behind the level. Then, I will detail the path through the normal and ADV course. They are exactly in reverse of each other, but I decided to write them both out anyway. You just might need it... GENERAL STRATEGY

As soon as you begin a level, don't worry about the time at all! I guarantee that every time will be OVERWHELMING at first. If you start a level by worrying about the time, you'll only get frustrated.

Start each level by exploring it slowly. Try to find the best path through the level. Even if you plan to follow my walkthrough word-for-word, you will still memorize the path through the level eventually if you plan to succeed.

YOU choose when to start the level! Even when the START! blocks fall onto the screen, the timer doesn't start until you start drilling. Don't start until you are mentally prepared.

Your goal is to get to the bottom as quickly as possible. Unfortunately, you can't drill that fast! In each level, you need to collect the clocks, which subtract time. Also, note that FALLING is much faster than DRILLING. Try to drill into big blocks and follow their paths. Also, don't drill into blocks that you don't need to.

To beat the target time, you must move constantly. For starters, learn to drill constantly. Every level begins with around 50 feet of downward drilling, so it's an important skill. Learn the rhythm for pressing the A button that has Mr. Driller drilling constantly.

When you reach the bottom and you know you didn't finish quickly enough, press START and choose RETRY. You can start over without going through the screens. Do the same thing when you die. As soon as you get flattened, you have a few seconds to choose RETRY.

Regular Goal: 15.00 sec ADV Goal: 10.00 sec My ADV Time: 9.92 sec

BASICS: This level is just an introduction to Time Attack, so it shouldn't be too difficult. Drill your way to the bottom, moving left and right to try to get those clocks.

Regular Walkthrough

Drill down 50 feet. Go right to the hole and the clock. Drill down to the next hole, then drill left and down to the clock. Drill down and walk right to the next clock. Drill down, left, and down, then walk left, then drill down and left to the next clock. Drill down to the next yellow block, then go right to the next hole and clock. Go down and over to the yellow T-shaped block. Drill it and follow the path down, then drill down twice and drill right to fall on the four clocks. Drill down to the next hole, then walk right to the next clock. Drill down to the blue block, walk left, then drill down once and left once to the clock. Drill down twice, walk right, then drill right to the next clock. Drill down, left, down, right, then drill all the way down to the bottom.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down 50 feet. Go left to the hole and the clock. Drill down to the next hole, then drill right and down to the clock. Drill down and walk left to the next clock. Drill down, right, and down, then walk right, then drill down and right to the next clock. Drill down to the next yellow block, then go left to the next hole and clock. Go down and over to the yellow T-shaped block. Drill it and follow the path down, then drill down twice and drill left to fall on the four clocks. Drill down to the next hole, then walk left to the next clock. Drill down to the blue block, walk right, then drill down once and right once to the clock. Drill down twice, walk left, then drill left to the next clock. Drill down, right, down, left, then drill all the way down to the bottom.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Level B-Classic \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Regular Goal: 17.00 sec ADV Goal: 12.00 sec My ADV Time: 11.21 sec

BASICS: This level is pretty simple once you figure out the path. There are enough big blocks to form a nice path to the bottom. You shouldn't have a problem with this level.

\_\_\_\_\_ Regular Walkthrough \_\_\_\_\_

Drill down 50 feet. Go left and drill down the big blue block to the next clock. Drill down and walk towards the right to the next clock. Drill down and walk right to the next clock. Drill right and follow the path all the way, then drill left and follow the path to the next clock. Drill left, walk left, then drill left to the next clock(drilling down would save time, but you can't grab the clock). Drill down though the big yellow, pink, then blue blocks. Drill right, then follow the path to the clock. Drill left twice to the next clock. Drill through the big blue, yellow, blue, then pink blocks to the bottom of the level.

-----ADV Walkthrough \_\_\_\_\_

Drill down 50 feet. Go right and drill down the big blue block to the next clock. Drill down and walk towards the left to the next clock. Drill down and walk left to the next clock. Drill left and follow the path all the way, then drill right and follow the path to the next clock. Drill right, walk right, then drill right to the next clock (drilling down would save time, but you can't grab the clock). Drill down though the big yellow, pink, then blue blocks. Drill left, then follow the path to the clock. Drill right twice to the next clock. Drill through the big blue, yellow, blue, then pink blocks to the bottom of the level.

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* Level C-Armory \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Regular Goal: 23.00 sec ADV Goal: 15.00 sec My ADV Time: 14.90 sec

BASICS: This is where it gets serious. You can't fake your way through this

one. There are four groups of X-blocks in this level that surround a handful of clocks. You must get some other X-blocks to collide with them to make them disappear and unlock the clocks. The best way is to drill a path under them, then find a safe place to await the avalanche.

Regular Walkthrough

Drill down 50 feet. Go left all the way, then start drilling down. Drill right when you get to the ]-shaped red block, then drill all the way right to the hole in the X-blocks. Wait for the structure to fall, then go left and collect the five clocks. Drill left, then drill down. Drill down for a ways, then start drilling against the stairstep of the X-blocks. When you start drilling under the X-blocks, drill to the right but stop before you drill the final yellow block. The structure will fall, but before it does, go back to the left and drill the single green and yellow blocks. Also, drill the double green block above you. Allow the clock to fall on you, then quickly go right and collect the clocks. Go right and drill down, near the side with the X-blocks. When you reach the bottom, drill left to and through the yellow single block, then go back right to the hole. Catch the clocks as they fall. Drill down the right side, switching right and left as you have the chance to hit a double block. Drill to the left through the triple-yellow block, then go right to the hole. Grab the clocks as they fall, but when you reach the rightmost clock, stop! Wait for the 2-sec clock to fall, then continue walking left. When you reach the last clock, drill down through the big blue, green, blue, then pink blocks to the bottom.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down 50 feet. Go right all the way, then start drilling down. Drill left when you get to the ]-shaped red block, then drill all the way left to the hole in the X-blocks. Wait for the structure to fall, then go right and collect the five clocks. Drill right, then drill down. Drill down for a ways, then start drilling against the stairstep of the X-blocks. When you start drilling under the X-blocks, drill to the left but stop before you drill the final yellow block. The structure will fall, but before it does, go back to the right and drill the single green and yellow blocks. Also, drill the double green block above you. Allow the clock to fall on you, then quickly go left and collect the clocks. Go left and drill down, near the side with the X-blocks. When you reach the bottom, drill right to and through the yellow single block, then go back left to the hole. Catch the clocks as they fall. Drill down the left side, switching left and right as you have the chance to hit a double block. Drill to the right through the triple-yellow block, then go left to the hole. Grab the clocks as they fall, but when you reach the leftmost clock, stop! Wait for the 2-sec clock to fall, then continue walking right. When you reach the last clock, drill down through the big blue, green, blue, then pink blocks to the bottom.

Regular Goal: 22.00 sec ADV Goal: 16.00 sec

My ADV Time: 15.62 sec

BASICS: This level is very confusing. You have to make choices of your path in many, many places. There's no way to get all the clocks here, so try to pick the path with the easier clocks.

## Regular Walkthrough

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Drill down 45 feet. Go down the left path to the first clock. It won't save that much time, but drill to the right until you get to the 3-sec clock. Go back left, drill through the double blue and the big yellow blocks, then grab the clock. Take the left path here. Drill down to the ]-shaped green block, then drill it and follow the path around. Drill straight down and take the clock. Drill through the bigger blocks to the next clock. Drill to the next big opening and take the clock. Go right and drill downwards as soon as you get off the X-blocks. Once you hit the big yellow rock, go right and drill down. Get to the next opening and take the clock. This place marks a tough decision between right and left. The left path looks a little quicker, but I always choose the right path instead. Anyway, go right and drill down the zigzag. After you drill the big blue block, go to the bottom without worrying about any clocks on the left side.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down 45 feet. Go down the right path to the first clock. It won't save that much time, but drill to the left until you get to the 3-sec clock. Go back right, drill through the double blue and the big yellow blocks, then grab the clock. Take the right path here. Drill down to the ]-shaped green block, then drill it and follow the path around. Drill straight down and take the clock. Drill through the bigger blocks to the next clock. Drill to the next big opening and take the clock. Go left and drill downwards as soon as you get off the X-blocks. Once you hit the big yellow rock, go left and drill down. Get to the next opening and take the clock. This place marks a tough decision between left and right. The right path looks a little quicker, but I always choose the left path instead. Anyway, go left and drill down the zigzag. After you drill the big blue block, go to the bottom without worrying about any clocks on the right side.

Regular Goal: 21.00 sec ADV Goal: 19.00 sec My ADV Time: 18.67 sec

BASICS: This one isn't too hard. Once you figure out the strategies for using the X-blocks, you'll find that the path is easy to find and execute. The ADV time is only two seconds shorter than the regular, so it won't take too long to beat this one the second time.

Regular Walkthrough

Drill down to 65 feet. Drill right quickly, then drill down to 80 feet. Drill right and left as you wait for the X-block to fall. Drill down to 120 feet, then wait for the X-block to fall. Move over left once, then drill down to 235 feet. Drill right and wait for the reaction. You'll begin falling. Some time after 300 feet, you need to switch to the column directly right of you to grab a clock, then switch back once you grab it to grab another clock. Once you have all those clocks, move to the column right of the center. Drill your way through big blocks to the bottom.

## ADV Walkthrough

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Drill down to 65 feet. Drill left quickly, then drill down to 80 feet. Drill left and right as you wait for the X-block to fall. Drill down to 120 feet, then wait for the X-block to fall. Move over right once, then drill down to 235 feet. Drill left and wait for the reaction. You'll begin falling. Some time after 300 feet, you need to switch to the column directly left of you to grab a clock, then switch back once you grab it to grab another clock. Once you have all those clocks, move to the column left of the center. Drill your way through big blocks to the bottom.

Regular Goal: 20.00 sec ADV Goal: 17.00 sec My ADV Time: 16.85 sec

BASICS: This level is difficult, but it's not too complicated. You won't have a problem with multiple paths here. This may be the first Regular level that really stresses you out. Good luck...

Regular Walkthrough

Drill down to 70 feet. Drill right, down, right, down, left, down, then left. Zigzag your way through this place. Stay in the middle of it-you don't need to move a full square to fall. Subtle movements will get you down quickly. At 180 feet. drill down twice and left twice. Go down the steps here quickly. At 255 feet, drill down to the next open area. In here, you need to drill up while under the yellow block, then quickly go left before the X-blocks crush you. If you don't move fast here, you'll die. At 280 feet, drill straight down to the next open area. When you exit it at 325 feet, drill straight down until you find the next X-block formation. Quickly go all the way left to get the clocks, then back right before it crashes down. Drill down thrice, left twice, then down to the exit.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down to 70 feet. Drill left, down, left, down, right, down, then right. Zigzag your way through this place. Stay in the middle of it-you don't need to move a full square to fall. Subtle movements will get you down quickly. At 180 feet. drill down twice and right twice. Go down the steps here quickly. At 255 feet, drill down to the next open area. In here, you need to drill up while under the yellow block, then quickly go right before the X-blocks crush you. If you don't move fast here, you'll die. At 280 feet, drill straight down to the next open area. When you exit it at 325 feet, drill straight down until you find the next X-block formation. Quickly go all the way right to get the clocks, then back left before it crashes down. Drill down thrice, right twice, then down to the exit.

 Regular Goal: 23.00 sec

ADV Goal: 17.00 sec

BASICS: Hmm. This level is very hard. Each section has multiple paths and tricks, so nothing will be easy about this level. Good luck.

Regular Walkthrough

Drill down 55 feet. Go right once, then drill down to the 4-square pink block. Drill left through the blue, then the yellow block. Drill down to 120 feet, which is the same height as the 2-second block. Move left, then wait for the 3-second clock to fall. Climb the X-block to get the 3-second clock, then go over to the 2-second clock(drill through a block or two, if your timing is different). Drill down to the blue L-block, and follow its path. Drill left and downward to get to a very large blue block, then follow its path to the next clock. Drill down to the next X-block. Drill left and then drill down to the next X-block, then repeat. Follow the only path(right and downward) to the tall yellow block, and follow it down. Drill right and around this group of X-blocks until you are under the 3-second clock. Start drilling down, and the X-blocks will dissipitate and the clock will fall on your head. Drill left into the T-shaped green block, then continue down to get a 2-second clock. Continue right and downward to get the next clock. Go all the way left and drill the final big blue block. Follow its path down, then drill right and down. Wait for a final chain reaction to leave you at the bottom.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down 55 feet. Go left once, then drill down to the 4-square pink block. Drill right through the blue, then the yellow block. Drill down to 120 feet, which is the same height as the 2-second block. Move right, then wait for the 3-second clock to fall. Climb the X-block to get the 3-second clock, then go over to the 2-second clock (drill through a block or two, if your timing is different). Drill down to the blue L-block, and follow its path. Drill right and downward to get to a very large blue block, then follow its path to the next clock. Drill down to the next X-block. Drill right and then drill down to the next X-block, then repeat. Follow the only path(left and downward) to the tall yellow block, and follow it down. Drill left and around this group of X-blocks until you are under the 3-second clock. Start drilling down, and the X-blocks will dissipitate and the clock will fall on your head. Drill right into the T-shaped green block, then continue down to get a 2-second clock. Continue left and downward to get the next clock. Go all the way right and drill the final big blue block. Follow its path down, then drill left and down. Wait for a final chain reaction to leave you at the bottom.

Regular Goal: 25.00 sec ADV Goal: 17.00 sec My ADV Time: 16.13 sec

Congratulations! You've completed seven levels, but you're only halfway through! Level H and I are 1000 feet deep each, and Level J is 1500 feet deep. These final levels will involve many more chain reactions. You'll spend most of your time falling and desperately trying to grab clocks.

BASICS: In this level, you spend your time falling as chain reactions occur one after the other. Finding a good path through this level was very difficult. Don't try to get all the clocks in this level...it's a waste of time.

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Regular Walkthrough

Drill down 60 feet. Drill right, then down. Wait, and you will land on a clock. Hold left until you collect two more clocks. Move to the right, then grab the clock in the center when it appears. Move back left and find another clock. This part of the level is pretty dangerous, so be careful and take your time. When you can reach it, take the 2-second clock in the center and continue moving right. You should stay in the column directly right of the center and drill until you can grab the clock to your left, then move further right until you find the path to the bottom.

For the second half, drill left down the center to the first clock. Wait for a reaction to start, then continue drilling down to the next clock. Continue drilling down until you can grab a clock on your left. Grab it and move back to drilling down the center. At one point, you have to wait for a chain reaction. Once it happens, drill like mad until you go through a huge yellow block. Move left(under 2 X-blocks) and drill down to a 2-square blue block. Drill it and move left to get a clock. Drill and move right and down to the next clock. Drill down twice, then move right to the final clock. Drill down to the bottom.

ADV Walkthrough

Drill down 60 feet. Drill left, then down. Wait, and you will land on a clock. Hold right until you collect two more clocks. Move to the left, then grab the clock in the center when it appears. Move back right and find another clock. This part of the level is pretty dangerous, so be careful and take your time. When you can reach it, take the 2-second clock in the center and continue moving left. You should stay in the column directly left of the center and drill until you can grab the clock to your right, then move further left until you find the path to the bottom. Your time here should be under nine seconds.

For the second half, drill right down the center to the first clock. Wait for a reaction to start, then continue drilling down to the next clock. Continue drilling down until you can grab a clock on your right. Grab it and move back to drilling down the center. At one point, you have to wait for a chain reaction. Once it happens, drill like mad until you go through a huge yellow block. Move right(under 2 X-blocks) and drill down to a 2-square blue block. Drill it and move right to get a clock. Drill and move left and down to the next clock. Drill down twice, then move left to the final clock. Drill down to the bottom.

Regular Goal: 14.00 sec ADV Goal: 12.00 sec

My ADV Time: 10.62 sec

BASICS: This level is very simple one you figure out the tricks. The level is filled with elevator-like X-block formations. The chain reactions happen so that you can move from one elevator to the next to the very bottom of the level. Besides one part in the second half, you'll understand it quickly.

#### \_\_\_\_\_ Regular Walkthrough

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Drill down 75 feet, then move left into the first elevator. When it stops, drill right and move all the way right to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and move left to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and move right. You need to hitch a ride on this elevator (walk into it at the appropriate time as it falls). When it stops, drill and walk all the way left and hitch a ride on the next elevator. When it stops, drill and walk right to the next clock. When this X-block formation collapses, drill to the bottom quickly. A block is coming down to land on your head, so be quick. Drill to either side if you must.

Drill down to the height of the clocks. Grab the right clock, then quickly go to the left clock and ride this elevator down. When it stops, go all the way right to the next elevator. When it stops, walk all the way left on the platform that forms (cool, eh?) to the next clock. Walk right and grab the clock in the X-block sandwich, then get out of it to the left(drill through the blue block). As the X-blocks fall, walk right to the middle of them until they collapse and you fall for a short distance. Drill left to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and walk right to the next one. When it stops, drill and walk left to the next one. When it stops, drill and walk right to the next one. When it stops, drill left and follow the path to the bottom.

\_\_\_\_\_ ADV Walkthrough \_\_\_\_\_

Drill down 75 feet, then move right into the first elevator. When it stops, drill left and move all the way left to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and move right to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and move left. You need to hitch a ride on this elevator (walk into it at the appropriate time as it falls). When it stops, drill and walk all the way right and hitch a ride on the next elevator. When it stops, drill and walk left to the next clock. When this X-block formation collapses, drill to the bottom quickly. A block is coming down to land on your head, so be quick. Your time here should be under eight seconds.

Drill down to the height of the clocks. Grab the left clock, then quickly go to the right clock and ride this elevator down. When it stops, go all the way left to the next elevator. When it stops, walk all the way right on the platform that forms (cool, eh?) to the next clock. Walk left and grab the clock in the X-block sandwich, then get out of it to the right(drill through the blue block). As the X-blocks fall, walk left to the middle of them until they collapse and you fall for a short distance. Drill right to the next elevator. When it stops, drill and walk left to the next one. When it stops, drill and walk right to the next one. When it stops, drill and walk left to the next one. When it stops, drill right and follow the path to the bottom.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\* Level J-Lab \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Regular Goal: 25.00 sec ADV Goal: 17.00 sec My ADV Time: 16.35 sec

BASICS: They couldn't have made this level much harder. The paths aren't very clear-cut, the clocks seem randomly placed, and it's 1500 feet deep. To make it worse, the times are as restrictive as possible. I spent about an hour just trying to beat this level in Regular, then you need to take off eight more seconds in ADV mode. Luckily, when you reach this final level in ADV mode, you should have improved greatly...but this level will still bring you to your knees. I recommend you try it out, then leave for a week or so until you can gain back your confidence. Play it over and over again, trying new paths until you find the one that you think must be the quickest, then try new ones.

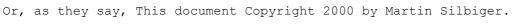
I had a path planned out for this level, but the only way I got my time was by deriving from it. I haven't been able to reproduce this. All I can tell you is that every path you take probably isn't the absolute quickest. When a level is this long and so reliant on perfect timing, there is no way I can find my way through this level perfectly. It's up to you to solve this puzzle yourself! For your reference, I finished the first 500 feet in under 8 seconds and the second 500 feet in under 15 seconds. The last 500 feet have enough clocks to help you make up for lost ground.

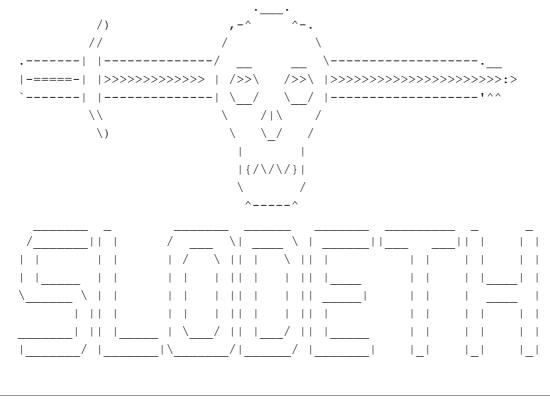
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