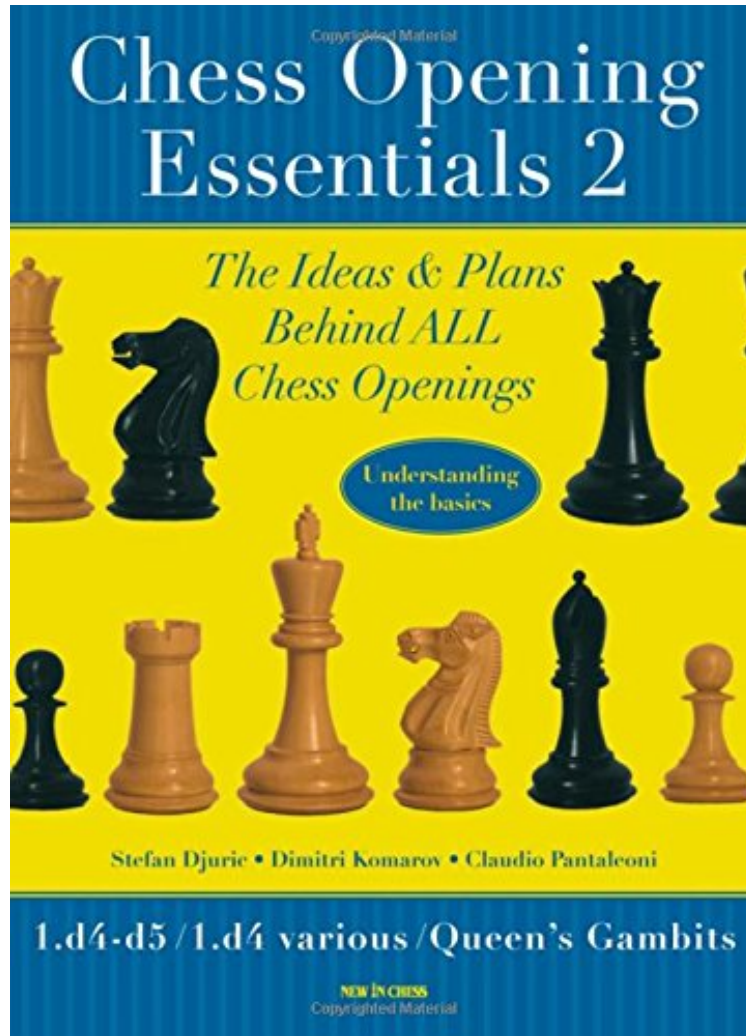


Chess Opening Essentials: 1.d4-d5 / 1.d4-various / Queen's Gambits, Vol. 2

Stephan Djuric, Dimitri Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni
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Stephan Djuric, Dimitri Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni : Chess Opening Essentials: 1.d4-d5 / 1.d4-various / Queen's Gambits, Vol. 2 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Opening Essentials: 1.d4-d5 / 1.d4-various / Queen's Gambits, Vol. 2:

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. The title tells the reader precisely what this is.By Timothy N. dePlumeAs its title suggest, this book (and the others in its series) provides an "essential" introduction to all the openings it covers, and it does so very well. This series does not supplant specialized openings texts. It provides main lines, albeit usually not very deep, and explains why they are the main lines. I've played tournament and online chess for 40 years, and with some success, but I admit to being largely ignorant of how best to respond in many, many

opening lines. It's a good idea to know the essence of each opening you may face. I enjoy the little synopses that broadly evaluate white's and black's prospects, such as "this line offers excellent practical chances, mainly because few tournament players know the theory," or "white's piece activity looks impressive, but it's hard for him to formulate a plan and it's not clear that black has anything to fear," or "this defense is far better than its reputation would suggest." What it lacks in encyclopedic coverage it makes up for with succinct, insightful commentary. In an age of terabyte databases and hyped-up "Win with the Reverse Caro-Kan Attack" texts, the simplicity and directness of this series is a breath of fresh air. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. comprehensive, well laid out, and understandable

By R. J. Hunter

The same comments apply to all four volumes, and I recommend getting them all if you get any. I don't have an official rating, but other players tell me I'd probably be around 1400-1500 so bear that in mind when reading my comments. These books go way beyond anything I will need in the near future, but they are laid out in a way that makes them easily accessible. Many chess books are so dense that you need to be an expert to keep track of what they are talking about, but these ones break the variations down into small enough pieces that you can follow each one. Each opening is subdivided in a way that makes sense, and these are books that you can actually skim through or browse without getting bogged down. I'm not expert enough to memorize dozens of openings. I play on general principles but I do want to get three or four moves into the game without falling into some obscure trap, and I think these books are good for finding a generic opening strategy that suits you and which you can adapt for when you aren't sure what to do. The one thing I really find annoying the absence of an index. For example, if there is a cross reference to the 'Tarrasch Defense' I would like to be able to find it.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I use it at least once a week!

By madtactics

I play chess for fun and try a ton of different openings... I like to mess around with everything to see what I should focus on or play in a tournament. This series is perfect for my needs. I reference it at least once a week for my correspondence games online and make sure I reread sections on whatever openings I plan on playing right before a tournament.

highly recommended.

This volume helps beginners to develop a solid understanding of fundamental opening ideas, gives casual players the ability to choose the opening that suits their style and taste, is a tool for club players to test and review their opening repertoire, as well as a reference book to which advanced players keep returning. The authors do not propagate forcing tactical variations to be memorized mechanically, but explain what you should actually be trying to achieve when playing the opening of your choice. By highlighting important moves and key positions in color, Chess Opening Essentials helps you to get out of any opening in good shape and gives you a foundation on which to build your repertoire.