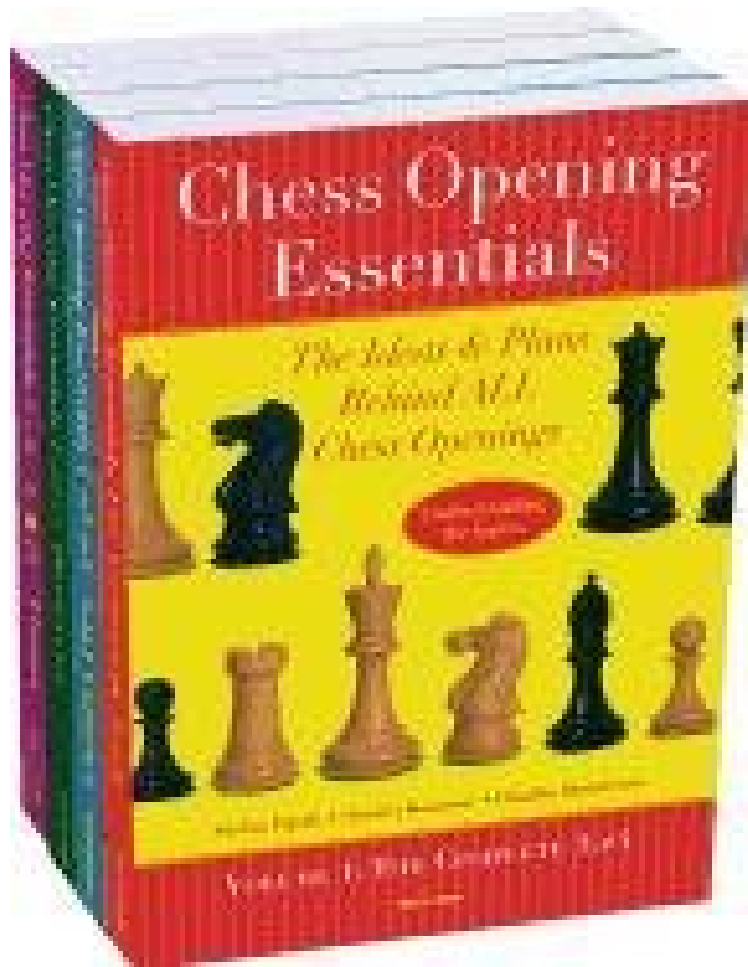


[Mobile pdf] Chess Opening Essentials: The Complete Series (Volumes 1 - 4)

Chess Opening Essentials: The Complete Series (Volumes 1 - 4)

Stefan Djuric, Dimitri Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni

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Stefan Djuric, Dimitri Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni : Chess Opening Essentials: The Complete Series (Volumes 1 - 4) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Opening Essentials: The Complete Series (Volumes 1 - 4):

5 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Opening Tabiyas - Just Enough Detail By Randall K Julian
Beginners are coached against spending too much time studying the opening. In the beginning it's tactics, tactics, tactics. But if you have been working on tactics every day and know some basic endgames, then knowing some of the ideas and plans behind the openings is a good idea - as long as you don't over do it (your class-level opponent is not going to cooperate anyway). If you are a fan of Dan Heisman's Novice Nook (A Guide to Chess Improvement: The Best Of Novice Nook and know about his idea of Opening Tabiyas, then these are the books for you. Dan has even put a series of videos on ICC using these books as the basis giving improving adult beginners some opening training. I can highly recommend these books and the Dan's books and videos. If you are a class player these are just right. 1 of 1 people

found the following review helpful. A Decent Value By David Millier
The back matter clarifies who the audience is intended to be: 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. A tool for club players to test and review their opening repertoire. A reference to which advanced player keep returning. As a club who has unofficially become advanced (possibly near Expert strength), I dont know that I will be returning to this set except for when I begin using new openings, but this set is very good for giving some of the ideas in certain lines. Any inkling that these volumes are sparse on explanations is not far off. I have complained to myself in a number of places in the text about the omission of an explanation for moves. I think the set does a good job of commenting effectively on most of the critical moves in lines. There are a number of things I like about this set and some things that I dont like, but, overall, I think you are getting a decent value out of these, if you are using them to begin the learning process or want a compendious reference set. I have waited really until very late to begin learning openings, and so I cant say for sure, but it seems to me that this set is fairly exhaustive over all openings and variations. For this reason, the expansiveness of the volumes, one cannot expect in-depth commentary from relatively so few pages, especially considering that the volumes include games to illustrate the openings. The illustrative games are one of my complaints about this set. There is no explanation given on the moves in the illustrative games. For this reason, I highly, highly, highly recommend that opening-learners use this set in tandem with Everymans Starting Out series for the openings that you want to play in tournament games. That is to say, this set is not a one-stop-shop for tournament-strength players. However, if you want to get an idea of how play lines that you have no interest in studying, this is a great set. It elaborates in a way that most wish the Modern Chess Openings would. In that way, this is much better than the ever-cryptic MCO, though the MCO has more lines evaluated, if you are looking to do your own research and want to be a little creative in your next tournament. The text in these books is fantastic. The pages are nice to look at, they have clear printing, and make use of different colors in text and in the diagrams to highlight and emphasis different ideas or key things to pay attention to. If you are familiar with the aesthetically pleasing nature of Lev Alburts later books, and you like those, then it is worth knowing that these volumes are on about the same par. My only complaint with the text is that the authors denote where every piece is coming from in addition to where it is going. For example, the first two moves for white in the Sicilian are written as e2-e4 and Ng1-f3. I found this horribly annoying and distracting, sometimes making the wrong piece moves on the board or in my head, because I tend to glance at the book to determine move orders. I imagine that theyve done this to better serve the beginner, casual, and weaker club players, because the cost of the extra ink must have been noticeable in their bottom line. In short, the set is a good companion for studying openings for USCF/FIDE tournament play, but it could be a good one-stop-shop for beginners and casual players who seek less explanation than upper-level club and advanced players desire. 1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Decent Value By David Millier
I really teetered between four and five stars for this book, and I just cant give it five. The deciding factor is that I think Emms is a little bit unclear in his writing in some places, dropping a misplaced pronoun with sentences like And hes fine. There wasnt anyone being talked about, in particular, previously, so who is he. I havent had this problem with the other Starting Out books (Ruy Lopez, Caro-Kann, and Dutch), so its certainly not me. This happens in in a few places in the text, but it isnt rampant or anything. The major reason the book pushed me on the side of 4 stars is that I think it is a monumental task to put this book kind of general introduction to the Sicilian together, and it is an achievement just doing so, as John Watsons blurb says, but it is nearly impossible to do a great job with this project. I felt some of the lines of discussion that were given on lines was a bit too much and overly complicated for a Starting Out book. Compare this to others in the Starting Out series, and I think youll come away from each variation with the key ideas, objectives, and popular mentalities that go into plan construction for that variation. In Emms book, my take away was decent, but much vaguer in some cases. Finally, the minor detraction I havent mentioned is that Emms includes games that do not represent the latest in theory, but that are, as he says, some of the funner games. Thats okay, but the idea of including practical games as concrete examples is to show the execution of ideas mentioned in the body of the chapter. Therefore, not only are the ideas in a variation sometimes vague in a section or chapter, but the practical games dont serve as a presentation for the ideas. Aside from these downsides, I think this is a good book to launch yourself into play against the Sicilian or to employ the Sicilian. Everyman has an excellent recipe in this Starting Out series, and they are typical so good as a first introduction to an opening that I think it is nearly a waste of time to habitually remark on all of the positives, but Ill list a few. The books in this series, Emms included, are well organized, the diagram choices are exceptions, the content is relevant to popularly played club games AND to the international scene, the lightbulb indicators (symbols used in the text) are usually extremely helpful, as are the boldfaced notices for dangers, and the books are reasonably sturdy. I havent found a better first-introduction to the Sicilian, and I trust Starting Out by name.

The Complete Series of an accessible primer and a reference book about chess openings. Gives a flavor of how every opening works and points at various middlegame plans that apply after the opening has ended. Provides a solid foundation to build your opening repertoire on. Explains what you should be trying to achieve, with clear indications

for further study.