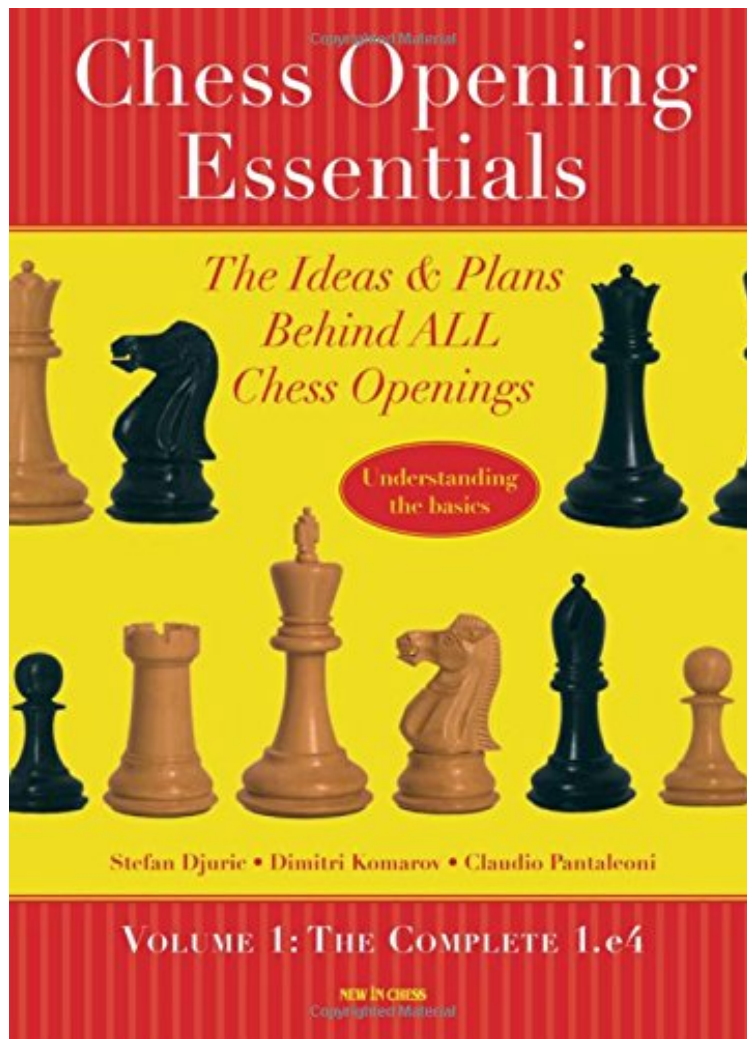


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Chess Opening Essentials: The Ideas Plans Behind ALL Chess Openings, The Complete 1. e4

Stefan Djuric, Dimitry Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni
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12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. OutstandingBy Kelly K. PattersonThis outstanding text of e4 openings is probably the best e4 openings book available. You won't find a better book covering the e4 openings aside from books dedicated exclusively to a particular opening. Providing the reader with crisp and clear introductions and

overviews of each opening, it goes on to give walk-thrus with complete analysis of the various lines of the opening. More so where many books will give you the various lines they don't delve into the philosophy behind the opening, what you are ultimately aiming to accomplish (kingside/queenside attack, destruction of your opponent's pawn structure, etc) that other books, odd as it seems, leave out and don't bother covering. The ideas of each opening, each line, even each move and why you make the move at that point and not earlier or later are all covered. For anyone who has never really understood openings, for an experienced player who wants a clear vision of the openings, or for a novice even who wants to start strengthening their opening game with specific opening skills, this is the book. Until you get to perhaps a 2000+ level and are winning small tournaments and have your own coach, this book will be the coach you've always wanted and needed. Just starting the d4 book now and cannot wait as I know my knowledge will be expanded yet again. Great book in what undoubtedly is a great series. Cannot recommend it highly enough. Buy this book and save time and money. Parents of players and school coaches should all have this in their library. If you are looking for a great gift for that special player in your life, don't hesitate to buy this for them. They will thank you for years to come.

2 of 2 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 is 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.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. easy to follow and well written

By soulboy13
The other reviews sum this book up well. Plain language, easy to follow and well written. One thing to note is that the current version is NOT printed in colour. This didn't make much difference though. I have learned a lot from it and would recommend it.

Most chess opening books are either too detailed or too shallow. Chess Opening Essentials has exactly the right balance and is an accessible primer and a reference book at the same time. It gives a flavor of how every opening works and points at the various middlegame plans that apply after the opening has ended. Chess Opening essentials 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 and 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. They include the main alternative responses and give clear indications for further study.

"I don't think something like Chess Opening Essentials, in this size, yet exist. For players with a rating up to 1900 this book covers a large part of the road." -- Schakers.Info.nl
"It gives an outline of each opening and major variation in turn, explaining the ideas and most popular choices. This reviewer was impressed by the practical advice given in the notes of this well-produced volume." -- British Chess Magazine
"It is about the basics of the opening, about the ensuing middle game positions, and about the plans one should pursue. Ideal for the club player who wishes to improve." -- Nederlands Dagblad
"The amount of information available on chess openings is so gigantic that one gets almost suffocated. In this book all the 1.e4 systems are clearly listed and presented, without losing itself in endless variations." -- Freechess.de