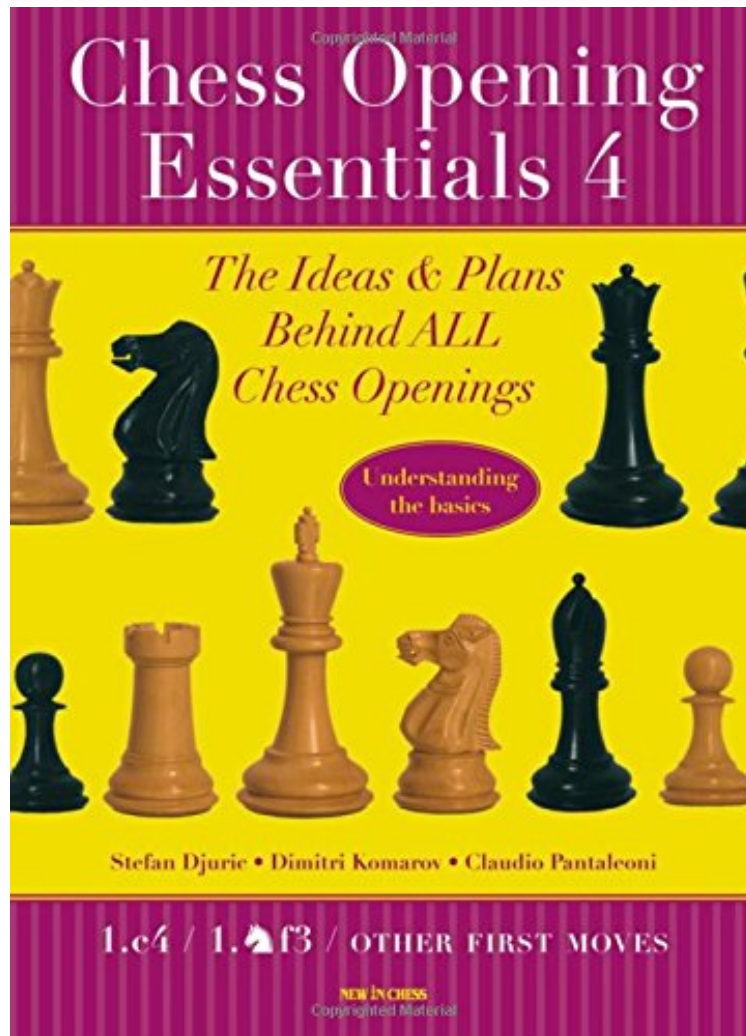


(Download free ebook) Chess Opening Essentials (Volume 4)

Chess Opening Essentials (Volume 4)

Stefan Djuric, Dimitri Komarov, Claudio Pantaleoni

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#125596 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2010-06-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.55 x .76 x 6.88l, 1.30 #File Name: 9056913085320 pages Author: Stefan Djuric Pages: 336 Pages Publication Years: 2010 | File size: 58.Mb

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

34 of 35 people found the following review helpful. Might Be Best of the Four! By Let's Compare Options Preptorial This very fine conclusion to Djuric's four volume opening series might just be the best of the bunch. If you've either purchased or researched the other three volumes (1=e4 openings, 2=d4 d5, other d4's and Queen's Gambits and 3= Complete Indian Defenses (most expensive and extensive volume), you already know that this series is likely the best general overview of openings available today. The four volumes give just enough depth to cover the field, without going into excruciating detail ala an ECO encyclopedia. If you're between 1200 and 1500, or a serious

club player looking to brush up on openings, this is an excellent series. Many advanced players know that overdoing opening study can wreck your game. We do a lot of coaching and recommend that you survey the field, get the most popular openings down to the first six moves, and then work in more depth on your favorites. Memorizing a series of openings is a poor way to improve your chess-- you'd be much better off studying more general structure and tactics with an outstanding middle game book like *Winning Chess Middlegames: An Essential Guide to Pawn Structures*, which BTW, covers some very sweet openings in great detail. Why is this volume the best? First, it's a little less pricey than three. Next, because the 1. Nf3 and 1.c4 openings transpose to nearly all the other openings, you kind of get all four volumes in one here. That's not to say that the authors don't say "see volume two if this transposes into a QP game" etc., but they do give enough transposition lines to make this an excellent "index" for the other three volumes, without spending 100 bucks in a tough economy. To summarize this volume, it covers the "minors" and the popular Nf3 in a lot of breadth with moderate depth. If you're thinking of playing the Najdorf (as a black Sicilian defense or increasingly popular "white plays black with an extra tempo"), V.4 gives you an outstanding snapshot of the variations, with (wonderfully) a lot of "watch out for this trap" advice. Instead of going into endless variations, the authors (wisely) just say "don't do this" and leave it at that. Why spend money and time learning WHY a line is bad? I never understood that, unless you've got limitless time on your hands. That is what makes this series so refreshing-- it is a great intro to the openings without spilling the Informant's guts out on 1,000 useless pages! If you want to explore a line in greater depth, Djuric gives ECOs, so you can just go online and check out endless variations free. If you're a Master and above, this series is great to help with coaching younger players, but also has some nice very up to date ideas. For example, if you're tormented by an extremely complex opening like the Sicilian Najdorf Poisoned Pawn (ECO B97), you'll be pleased to find a number of lead ups and transpositions covered here that will index more specialty books for you. If you're a club player and are looking for a "universal" opening (such as white playing black with an extra tempo), V. 4 gives fun and interesting commentary on "general" lines that work regardless of how black responds for the first 6 moves (e.g. the King's Indian ATTACK, which is the KID played by white with an extra tempo, and goes 1. Nf3 2. g3 3. b2 4. 0-0 5. d3 6. e4, regardless of black's responses! V.4 also covers all the "unusual" other openings not covered in the other 3 volumes, and even treats crackpot openings with respect, albeit not a lot of analysis! This whole series is highly recommended, and if you only get one, V.4, due to all the transpositions of 1.Nf3, is THE ONE. In general, you'd be better off studying pawn structures, middle games and endings than wasting a lot of time on numerous book openings, and the authors (surprisingly) understand this, and give just enough info to let you explore your favorites in more detail, with good general pattern recognition information that will allow you to see general trends and respond with good analysis when the game goes "off book." The real value are the "warnings" about which moves in ALL the openings lead to trouble statistically, and via a tiny bit of analysis, rather than exhaustive variations you'll never see, or if they are bad, not want to waste time on. This is one you won't regret even if your Nf3 ends up a QP or KP game, and ESPECIALLY if you want to try out the more unique Nf3 variations (there are a lot of good ones) that don't transpose, but morph into white playing wonderful black lines (like the Sicilian) with an extra tempo. BTW, we've found that many of these white as black with a + tempo even confuse Fritz! After all, stealing the KI or Sicilian confuses its ply analysis when it thinks you're responding to a Kside attack with a center attack, when you've really got its Qside in your crosshairs!

1 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.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.
A Decent Value
By David Milliern
It seems to me that the individual volumes are of about the same quality as one another, so here is my general review for the set: 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 don't 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 don't

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 can't 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 emphasize 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 they've 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.

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.