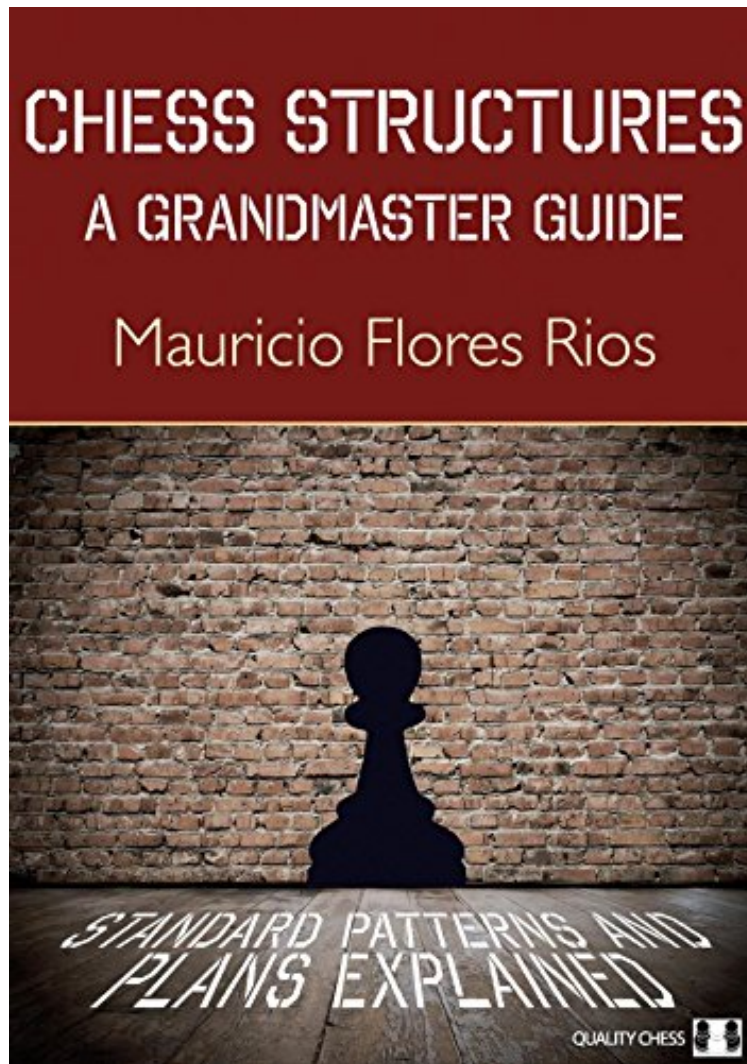


(Read free) Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide

Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide

Mauricio Flores Rios

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Mauricio Flores Rios : Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide:

43 of 43 people found the following review helpful. A great book By Chess Master The previous reviewer wrote a great review, so I'll just add or emphasize a few points.. Like the previous reviewer, I also view the target audience as 1800-2300 players. I also very much like the way the material is organized and presented. I also believe that the French defense section could be significantly improved if longer. There was no discussion of the French structures that can arise from the Winawer, McCutcheon, Burn, Rubinstein variations, for example. The three French Defense structures examined include one that typically arises from the Tarrasch with e6/d5 vs d4; one from the Steinitz variation after 7.

Be3 cd4; and the d4/e5 vs e6/d5 structure (whether arising from the Advance French, Advance Caro-Kann, or some other opening). Despite this minor reservation, this is a great book, and in my opinion should be an early contender for Chess Book of the Year. 64 of 67 people found the following review helpful. Excellent monograph on modern strategic chess. By A. Ali. This is another sterling offering from Quality Chess. This 464-page book has been authored by a 24-year-old Chilean GM. It looks at strategic plans for white and black in the context of five "families" -- 1) d4 and ...d5, 2) Open Sicilian, 3) Benoni, 4) King's Indian, and 5) French. Each of these families is further subdivided thematically, with each theme receiving a chapter. For instance, d4 and ...d5 is divided into the isolated pawn, hanging pawns, Carlsbad formation, Caro-Kann formation, Slav formation, Stonewall formation, and Grunfeld centre. This first family alone takes up 125 pages of carefully annotated games, each with its own "lesson objective" and "final remarks." In a sense the book is like the tomes, "Mastering the Spanish" by Danny King and "Mastering the King's Indian Defence" by Bellin and Ponzetto except that it covers several structures and its coverage of each is perforce more brief. Flores argues that books on general chess strategy only take one so far. To get to the next level of expertise it's necessary to know what motifs and other strategic elements are important for a given pawn structure. The style and quality of annotation is reminiscent of Mihail Marin -- i.e., insightful and a perfect blend of explanation and variational analysis. Flores claims he looked at over 20,000 games to select the ones he analyses in his book. They are (virtually) all grandmaster games of the last few years (2006-2014). As with Jon Edwards' excellent "Sacking the Citadel," this book has been written with the help of ChessBase. In this case it means 1) identifying common pawn structures, 2) using ChessBase to find the games with a given pawn structure, 3) looking for common motifs and strategies, 4) finding the games that best exemplify them, and 5) annotating those games carefully and summarising the lessons. Target readership? Probably USCF 1800-2300 though players lower than 1800 and higher than 2300 can also expect to learn something. This is a book of enduring worth, like the trilogy of annotated games of Judit Polgar (also published by Quality Chess). If you are serious about your chess, buy a copy. Sell the family silver, remortgage your house, "do what you gotta do" to buy the book. My complaint is that the book is too short. It could easily have been three hundred pages longer. In particular, the section on the French -- at around 50 pages -- is woefully brief. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. A must have !!! By Donald Lacroix. If you are rated 1500+ then this is a must book as part of your studies. The author breaks down the pawn structures via the different openings themes. Covers all the major openings, easy to read and follow. The exercises at the end of the book will only help you improve that much more in this complex understanding.

Mauricio Flores Rios provides an in-depth study of the 28 most common structures in chess practice. In *Chess Structures: A Grandmaster Guide* you will find: Carefully selected model games showing each structure's main plans and ideas. Strategic patterns to observe and typical pitfalls to avoid. 50 positional exercises with detailed solutions.

About the Author Mauricio Flores Rios is a grandmaster from Chile. He achieved the title at eighteen, and is a regular member of Chile's Olympic team. Mauricio combines his career as a chess player and trainer with his PhD studies in Mathematics at the University of Minnesota.