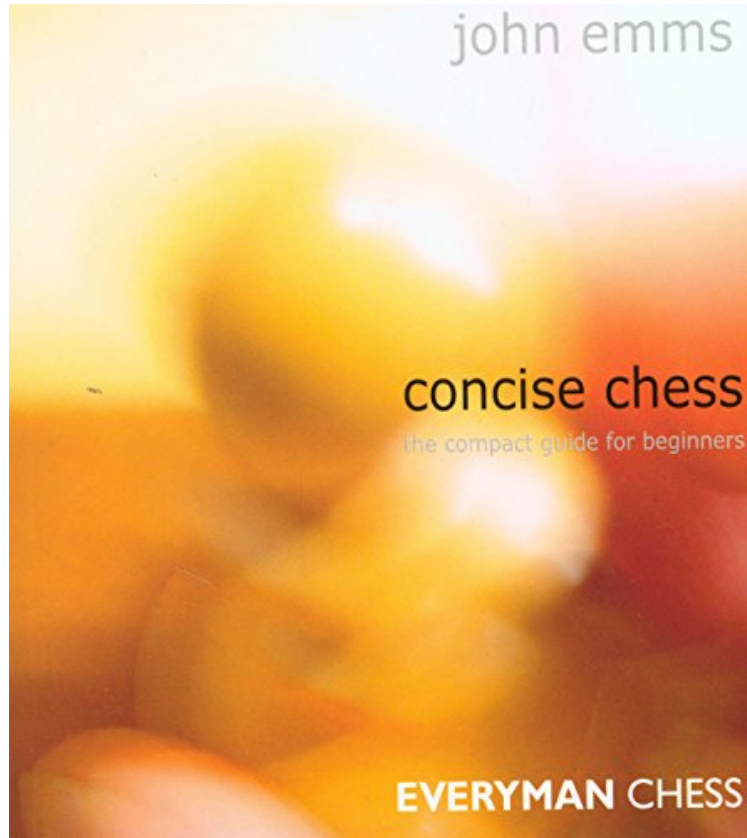


(Download pdf ebook) Concise Chess: The Compact Guide for Beginners

Concise Chess: The Compact Guide for Beginners

John Emms

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John Emms : Concise Chess: The Compact Guide for Beginners before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Concise Chess: The Compact Guide for Beginners:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Useful little book By Edward J. Barton A decent beginner's book with plenty of illustrations, exercises, and practical advice. Takes the reader completely through the game, to include many standard openings and defenses, tactics, some strategy, checkmates - as well as "white on right". The book itself is tiny, and can easily be slipped in a briefcase, laptop bag, purse or suitcase. 12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Small, but very helpful By C. Dunn The first half of this book is a very good primer for a complete novice. It explains not only the rules, but also the goals of the game, with small examples and plenty of diagrams. The book starts on the basic rules, with special rules like "castling" and "en passant" given their own pages. There are also basic tactics, basic checkmate patterns, and basic endgames. Capablanca believed that the endgame must be taught first, and Emms here does a good job of explaining how to seal the victory. I've found that to be the most important part of chess for a beginner to learn. (I'm talking about King + 2 Rooks v. a lone King, for example, or King + Queen v. King.) It gives him confidence that he can actually win a game. It reinforces the legal movement of the pieces. And it is simple enough to be fully understood. I highly recommend the first half of the book to a complete novice. The second half is very practical and could interest even an intermediate player. It goes into standard openings and tricky combinations.

This material would be very challenging for a beginner, but something special about the book makes it more accessible, something which also appears in my favorite chess book, Chernev Reinfeld's 'Winning Chess' (and, in a way, 'Bobby Fischer Teaches Chess'): There are often two diagrams per example. I'll explain what I mean. Typical children's books have colorful arrows in an attempt to show movement. I guess that's not bad, but it can be distracting and condescending to an adult. The Chernev method was to show a diagram of the example, and another diagram midway through the combination. That enables an intermediate player like me to visualize a difficult combination completely. Emms uses this technique extensively in the final section on combinations and occasionally in the sections on openings. This makes the second half of the book much less intimidating to a beginner. The lines and simple variations are still shown under the diagrams in Algebraic Notation, so nothing is lost. Throughout the rest of the book, there is often a diagram showing the very next move, which is the same idea at a beginner level. So I recommend the second half to a beginner who is curious about the magic that chess has to offer. This should last a novice several months. 'Concise' is not the best description of this book. It is not the lessons which are truncated (as in some purported tutorial books like 'Master Chess in 21 Days') but rather the book itself. It is a small square book. At 288 pages, it should be considered a 144 page pocketbook. However, the space is generally well-occupied, so it is somewhat like a 288 page Pandolfini book (which may have lots of whitespace and filler text). It may be over-priced for its content compared with the classics, but its readability makes up for this. This is a big review for a little book, so I'll stop here. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. AN IMPERFECT FAVORITE By yvonne I own several primers and this is one of my favorites. First, let me say that I was not a novice when I bought this book but someone who repeatedly stops playing for extended periods and, then, wants a comprehensive review upon my return. I found this worked perfectly for that especially the section on tactics. This book is very clear in expressing the things the author chooses to say and is VERY USER FRIENDLY. So why not 5 stars? My only problems is that, while it seems to do things in the way many say they should be done such as present the phases of the game in reverse order, endgame first and opening last, it never clearly states that it is doing so or why, that this order with endgame first is how chess should be studied; there is not even a clear statement about the 3 phases of the game (endgame, middlegame, opening) with the characteristics of each phase. Considering that these are common terms in the chess literature, I think it is the responsibility of a first book to introduce such terms and put them in context. This could have been briefly done and still have the book remain "concise". I, also, think the novice needs more direction in how to approach the opening without memorizing sequences. This does not need a lengthy exposition. An interesting suggestion I once read about how to approach the openings without memorizing is, when doing a post-mortem of a game one has lost, to look up what is the closest opening to the sequence used and follow it to the point just before where you strayed and NOTICE WHAT THE NEXT MOVE SHOULD HAVE BEEN ... YOU ARE LOOKING AT JUST ONE MOVE ... AND STOP. You want to perfectly understand that ONE move and how it differs from what was actually played.

Beginning with the very basics, this pocket-sized book is a step-by-step guide to learning chess. Assuming no prior knowledge, Grandmaster John Emms steers readers through all the crucial aspects of learning the game: the rules, the pieces, check and checkmate, chess notation, how to win material, attacking and defending, and the opening, middlegame, and endgame. From this book, chess players will acquire the confidence and knowledge they need to tackle an opponent over the board. *A pocket-sized book ideal for beginners *Written by a distinguished chess author *All the main topics are covered

From the Back Cover Are you intrigued by chess, but don't know how to play? Or have you played a little, but are still unsure of some of the rules? Then this is the book for you! Beginning with the very basics, this pocket-sized book is a step-by-step guide to learning chess. Assuming no prior knowledge, Grandmaster John Emms steers the reader through all the crucial aspects of learning the game: the rules, the pieces, check and checkmate, chess notation, how to win material, attacking and defending, the opening, middlegame and endgame. Read this book and you will acquire the confidence and knowledge you need to tackle an opponent over the board. This is a pocket-sized book that is ideal for beginners. It is written by a distinguished chess author and all the main topics are covered