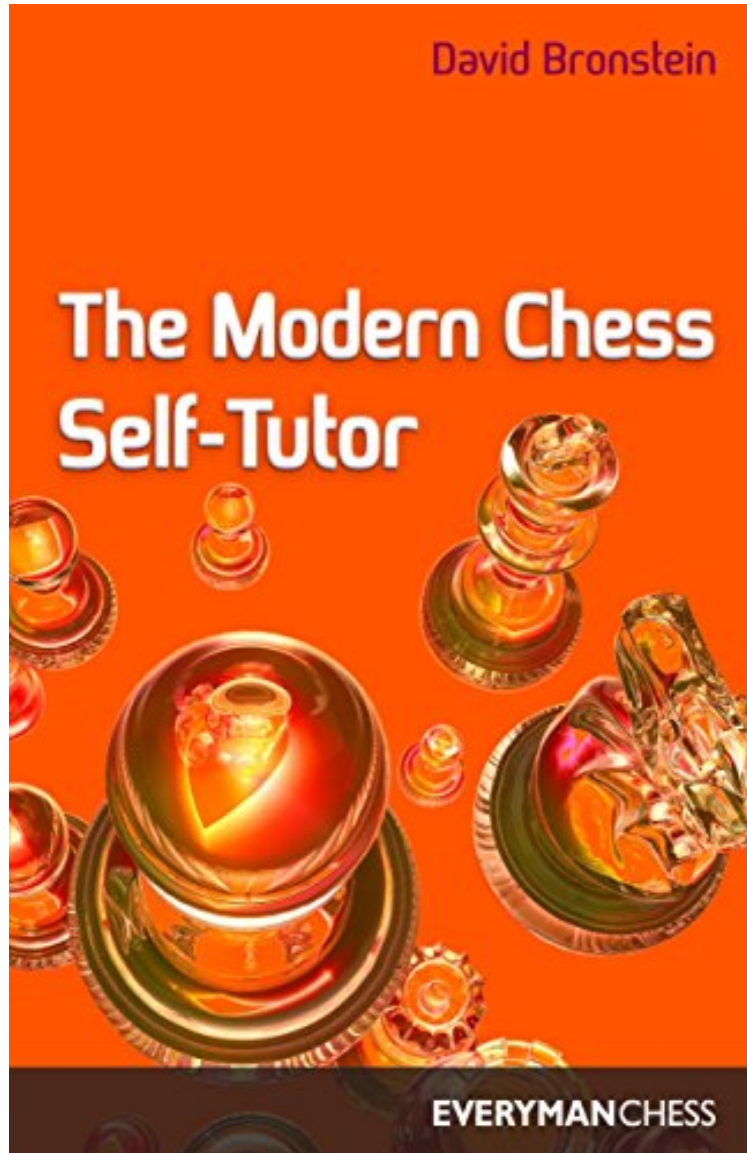


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Modern Chess Self-Tutor

David Bronstein

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David Bronstein : Modern Chess Self-Tutor before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Modern Chess Self-Tutor:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By MAYANKINGI love Bronstein's books and I really like all the pearls of wisdom he throws in this book. 3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A tortured translation By C. Amari Bronstein is indisputably a treasure, but reading this translation is torture. It would be quite a thing if someone who appreciates both Bronstein's chess and Bronstein's personality -- Yasser Seirawan perhaps? --

could turn this stilted language into something that communicates more fluidly. If somebody could untangle the translation's ambiguities from Bronstein's intended playfulness, it would be a testament to the author and a gift to all his English-speaking fans. 16 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Fun writing; not much tutoring

By C. Dunn
Bronstein's words are pure joy to read. If that's what you're looking for, then this book may be for you, especially as most of the older books in this style are out of print. However, I am not sure that anyone can learn much about chess from this book. He takes a paragraph, or even a page, to say what could be said in five words. The games do not really illustrate his points. More often, they are simply sources of amusement, as when Petrosian blundered away his queen in a winning position while Bronstein had only 30 seconds left for 10 moves! Petrosian had plenty of time, but until he left his queen hanging he could find nothing better than to shuffle his rooks aimlessly while Bronstein let his knight bounce back and forth safely. Fortunately for us, translator Ken Neat added the actual moves; otherwise, we would have only Bronstein's description to go by. Of course, not all the games contain such amusing mistakes. More often, Bronstein shows us positions which are interesting for a startling, somewhat tactical move overlooked by the opponent. So the games themselves are quite interesting. And the prose is undeniably compelling: "... every player believes that with the help of imagination and knowledge, tenacity and steadfastness, boldness and caution, sooner or later he will enter the headquarters of the opposing king and will be fortunate enough to utter the sacred words 'check and mate'." But the words are not actually instructive. Sure, Bronstein has a way of bringing attention to an easily overlooked strategic element of a position. He also provides much advice, as in his section on the opening. (He advocates the Evans Gambit for amateurs.) But more often he simply gives a voice to the chess pieces, as if they could think. Bronstein reminds me of Feynman writing on physics. You love to listen to him. You think you've been bequeathed a rich trove of wisdom. But when you sit down at your desk, you realize that you cannot actually apply any of what you thought you'd understood. You may very well enjoy reading this book. Just do not expect to learn from it. For real chess instruction, try his Zurich annotations.

This book by Grandmaster David Bronstein, one of the most original and influential players of the post-war period, is not a self-tutor in the conventional sense, where the basics of opening, middlegame and endgame play are drily explained. Instead, the author engages in a frank conversation with the reader, discussing how strong players decide on their moves

From the Back Cover
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