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Alexander Khalifman
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#3368647 in Books Chess Stars 2003-09-01Original language:English 8.25 x 5.75 x .50l, .60 #File Name: 9548782324234 pages | File size: 42.Mb

Alexander Khalifman : Opening for White according to Anand 1.e4, Volume 1 (Repertoire Books) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Opening for White according to Anand 1.e4, Volume 1 (Repertoire Books):

7 of 8 people found the following review helpful. High Quality RepertoireBy Sebastian FernandezAlexander Khalifman has taken on and completed (all 14 volumes are out as of the date of this review) a gargantuan task,

creating an opening repertoire based on main lines. He determined this using information of some of the variation chosen by Anand, but this does not mean that the current World Champion normally plays these lines or that he has previously played each of the recommendations in these books. It is important to understand that playing main lines is also a lot of work, especially when choosing 1.e4 as your first move, so it will require a huge time investment. The good news is that once you have built a repertoire like this, you won't have to find something else to play when you make it to the next level. Something like this happened to me a few years ago, when I was a 1400 player I started using the Blackmar-Diemer Gambit with white, and I was successful, but as I went above 1800, I realized that once you start going against players in the 2000+ range, this is not a good opening choice. Using these books by Khalifman will never present such a problem. In this initial volume, we can already see how thorough the work is, since it starts with seldom played variations, such as the Latvian Gambit (1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5) against which the recommendation is to play the correct and superior 4.Nc4 after the customary 3.Nxe5 Qf6. It may be a little over the top, especially since these books are clearly geared towards players with ratings of 1800+, but the author even shows you how to play against 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f6? Other annoying variations, such as 2...d5 are dealt with using solid lines that provide a comfortable game for white. Then we get to the meat of the book, the Petroff and the Ruy Lopez without 3...a6, which means the Berlin Defense is at the core of that section. Against the Petroff, the recommendation is to use the most popular 3.Nxe5 (even though lately there are some top GMs using 3.Nc3). Then the author devotes over 70 pages to dealing with the Berlin Defense, choosing the line with 4.0-0. The other important variation covered in this section for the Ruy Lopez is the Jaenisch (or Schliemann) Gambit, which features 3...f3 and against which Khalifman recommends 4.Nc3. Some of these lines must be thoroughly studied if you want to play them with White though, since there are a lot of places where you can go wrong, but once you know them, you will end up with the advantage. Based on the information above, it should be clear that these are books geared towards ambitious players, that do not have a problem with spending the time needed to create a solid opening repertoire. Whether the time is well spent in this area, vs. using it on something else, such as studying strategy or tactics will depend on each individual player. Only you can make that choice. If you do decide to spend the time though, you won't be disappointed with the material.

The 'Chess Stars Openings' series present an entirely new approach to the study of chess openings, which can provoke the interest of chess players of all levels. Drawing examples from the games of today's leading grandmasters they present the principles of selection and successful employment of a harmonious opening repertoire, corresponding as close as possible to the style of a renowned master. This book is a logical sequel of the 5 volume study "Opening for White according to Kramnik-1.Nf3" The first volume 1.e4 e5 contains: Part I: Rare System, Latvian Gambit, Philidor's Defence Part II: Petroff Defence Part III: Ruy Lopez without 3...a6

Another success for Khalifman, who this time gives you the opportunity to embrace Anand's aggressive repertoire as White. --IM Jeremy Silman, jeremysilman.com I recommend the first book about Anand's openings as white for all players interested in 1.e4 e5 --Allan Holst, [Seagaard Chess](http://SeagaardChess.com), 2/2004 The reader shall find in this book a very reliable coverage of the Petroff Spanish game! --John Elburg chessbooks.nl