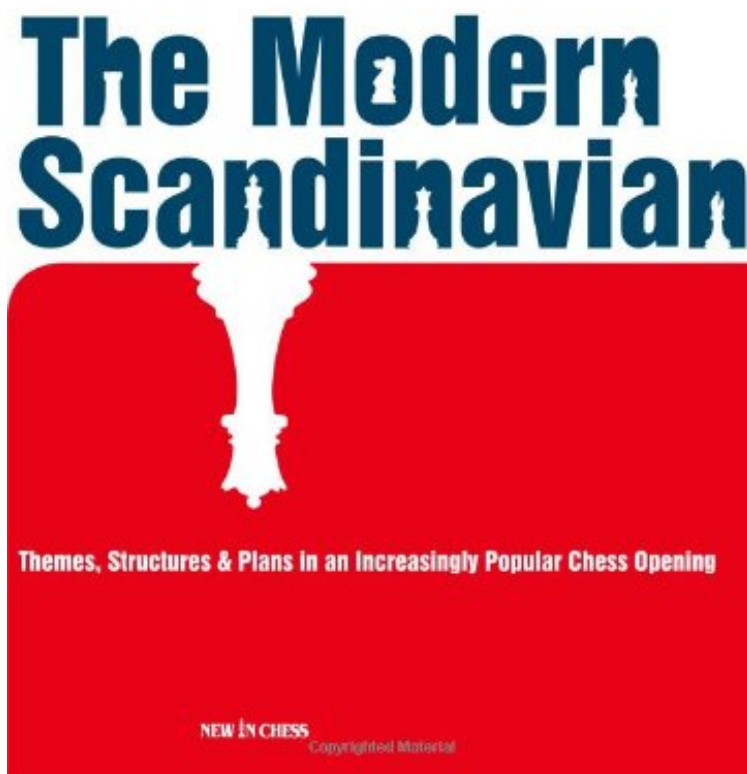


[Download] The Modern Scandinavian: Themes, Structures Plans in an Increasingly Popular Chess Opening

The Modern Scandinavian: Themes, Structures Plans in an Increasingly Popular Chess Opening

Matthias Wahls, Karsten Mller, Hannes Langrock
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#1054028 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2011-04-16 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.34 x .89 x 6.911, 1.50 #File Name: 9056913441384 pages Author: Hannes Langrock, Matthias Wahls Pages: 384 Pages Publication Years: 2011 | File size: 38.Mb

Matthias Wahls, Karsten Mller, Hannes Langrock : The Modern Scandinavian: Themes, Structures Plans in an Increasingly Popular Chess Opening before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Modern Scandinavian: Themes, Structures Plans in an Increasingly Popular Chess Opening:

52 of 52 people found the following review helpful. Note: This is Volume 2 (Volume 1 unavailable in English) By C. Amari The publisher's blurb above notes that this book "does not concentrate on theoretical lines but on the structural ideas that govern this opening." There is a very good reason for that which unfortunately isn't made clear in the marketing pitch: this book is a translation of the second of a two-volume project on the modern Scandinavian. The first

volume, not available in English, focuses on the theoretical lines, and the present text assumes that the reader has absorbed that information. To attempt to remedy this rather backwards approach, the publisher includes about a 20 page appendix which is designed to substitute for all the theory of the first volume. For those who already play the main line Modern Scandinavian, perhaps this may suffice, and I am sure they will benefit from the detailed explanation of the typical pawn structures and middlegame plans addressed in the main part of this book. For those without a foundation in this theory, I am doubtful that the appendix will suffice. I for one only play the Nf6 Scandinavian but was willing to entertain playing the main Qxd5/Qa5 lines occasionally on the strength of this book's reputation. But I'm not comfortable that the short appendix on theory suffices to deal with early variations and other issues. For example, the appendix has passing references to move order variations to avoid new lines where White gains "a very strong initiative," but the nature of the threat is not fully demonstrated.

12 of 12 people found the following review helpful. Best Scandinavian book ever

By yoda425

First of all, let me address a few comments about previous reviewers criticisms about this edition. This is a revised edition of GM Wahls second German edition of this same work. It has been translated into english, with a new theory supplement at the end discussing move order pit-falls and giving an up to date repertoire. GM Wahls had previously had a first and second edition of this work, both published in German and not available in English. These were published in 1997 and 2006 respectively. This revised English edition appeared in 2010.

The book breaks down all the plans by the pawn structures produced by the different variations. This is very much the same approach used in various mastering the opening series, which sadly are no longer in print, and used editions on frequently sell for a premium over original retail prices. The book also draws on two other excellent Scandinavian defense volumes by IM Jovanka Houska, and GM Christian Bauer. Quite simply if you want detailed analysis and explanation of the various middlegame and endgame plans that result from all the different pawn structures which arise from this opening, there is no better work available on this defense in any language.

9 of 10 people found the following review helpful. The Modern Scandinavian

By M. Ararat

In this effort, Wahls, Muller and Langrock put together an instructive and readable text on the Qa5 Scandinavian.

Content:

Chapter 1: Intro

Chapter 2: The standard centre.

Chapter 3: The dxe5-center

Chapter 4: The fxe5 center

Chapter 5: The symmetrical center after exd5

Chapter 6: The exchange center after...cxd5

Chapter 7: The Queenside pawn majority center

Chapter 8 : The isolated pawn center

Chapter 9 : the multi-isolani center (d4 against e6/c6)

Chapter 10 The little center

Chapter 11: The fianchetto center (d3,g3)

Chapter 12: The Empty center (d2,b4)

Chapter 13: The dynamic center

Chapter 14: The Open center

Chapter 15: The viking center

Chapter 16: The philidor center

Chapter 17: Excercises

Chapter 18: Theoretical appendix

The pawn structure- type center is probably one of the best methods to learn an opening. This books is systematic, moving from the more easy to understand structures to the more complicated. You need to be prepared to be very flexible regarding the pawn structure, the e6-c6 restraining structure that may looks like the "lazy chess player " paradise may not work against White less direct options (d3). The same caveat applies to pieces exchanges, for example the thematic Bf8-b4 followed by the exchange on c3 is viable only when black can keep white's bishop pair at bay. The authors deliver this subtle knowledge on piece exchanges in their annotations, in addition to extending their evaluation to the endgame. I like the way that the endgames are explained (well, K. Muller is one of the authors!). For example in Svidler-Adams Frankfurt 1999, the drawing techniques is explained in detail. The concept of reducing your opponent winning chances by forcing the right exchanges is superb. after the opening Svidler got a long lasting advantage (Bishop pair) and then Adams prevented that advantage from being decisive by modifying the pawn structure (restricting one of the bishops) ,timely exchange of pawns and pieces.

I own the version in German and this book is an updated version. Some parts are an exact translation of the German version, but significant updates are available in the appendix.

In summary, this is a well written book. After working on this book an improvement on the Scandinavian Qa5 opening, middle and endgame themes will be noticeable. The endgame themes can be used in position from different openings that share the c6-e6 structures like the Caro. This book is highly recommended.

Disclaimer: I am not a professional reviewer. My chess level is sub-master level 1930 USCF and is at that level that I wrote this review.

The Scandinavian Defense is increasingly popular with club and internet players. It is easy to learn because there is relatively little theory and once White has played 1.e4 he cannot avoid Black uncorking the Scandinavian. This book is the long-awaited translation of a German bestseller considered by many to be the best book ever on the Scandinavian. It does not concentrate on theoretical lines but on the structural ideas that govern this opening. Basic strategic themes, how pawn structures dictate plans of attacks, which tactical motifs you can expect in certain typical positions, that is what this book is about. You will learn how to outplay your opponent with solid and relatively easy-to-learn moves.