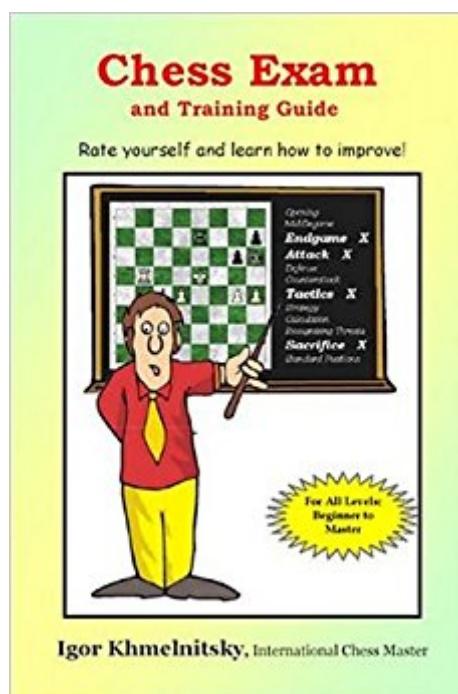


The book was found

Chess Exam And Training Guide: Rate Yourself And Learn How To Improve (Chess Exams)



Synopsis

This book offers a unique approach to chess self-evaluation and training. It will answer the two most common questions that players ask an experienced coach - what is my true rating (or strengths and weaknesses)? How do I improve? The readers will find: 100 diagrams & 200 total questions of various difficulty. Comprehensive answers include diagrams for easy reading away from the chessboard. Distributions of answers, percentiles and other statistical reports by rating group from unrated to 2400+. Match yourself against players of all levels, up to grandmaster and see how you stack up. Results evaluated and Rating assigned overall & by 12 distinct categories: Opening, Middlegame, Endgame, Attack, Defense, Counterattack, Tactics, Strategy, Calculations, Standard Positions (Endgame), Sacrifices, Recognizing Threats. Comprehensive reports on each of the categories with examples, training recommendations and book/materials suggestions. The book will be essential reading for everyone who plays chess because it will: a. help them to understand their current situation by identifying their strengths and weaknesses; b. give them clear explanations on how to improve, both in suggesting the appropriate training materials and in outlining the training methods; c. encourage players to establish and then follow a structured training plan; d. relieve player's anxiety by assuring that there is plenty of help available to those who are interested in understanding the game better and improve their skills; e. provide players with means of getting all their questions answered via timely advice from experienced coaches and also their peers.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I hesitated for months before buying this book. You shouldn't. You should know that this is not a training manual or a tactics book. Its goal is to identify where your game is weak. If you are not already a Grandmaster, then it's certain that some areas of your game are weak. But which, and how weak are they? If club players, amateurs, even experts can focus their training on their weak spots, they will improve much more rapidly than if they get better in some area where they are already strong. This book does a fantastic job of analyzing your game. Here is my experience. I don't get to play much in tournaments; my rating is in the high 1600's but my last major tournament I had a performance rating of 1820, and in club play that's about how I am doing. What should I work on to go farther? I have done the first 40 problems in this book and scored them. Each has been given to a lot of players with a wide variety of ratings. By averaging how I performed on each of the problems, the author has assigned me an overall rating and a "rating" for how strong or weak I am in each of a dozen aspects of chess. First, the overall estimate of my playing strength is right around 1800 -- consistent with my US Open performance and club play. But the breakdown -- wow! I rate a pathetic 1000 on pure calculating ability, and not much better on sacrifices. By contrast, the book rates me at 2400 on standard positions (like how to win a Bishop ending with only one pawn), reflecting the work I've done on such positions, and grasp of strategy and defense are both almost as high. Interestingly, it rates my openings as the strongest phase of the game and endings as the weakest.

"Chess Exam and Training Guide" intends to provide the reader with both a numerical rating of playing strength and also suggestions as to which areas to work on for improvement. Khmelnitsky identifies thirteen areas as follows: Overall, Attack, Counterattack, Defense, Opening, Middlegame, Endgame, Tactics, Strategy, Calculation, Standard Positions, Recognizing Threats, and Sacrifice. The book attempts to compute the reader's strength through a series of 100 positions, each of which is accompanied by a few multiple choice questions. In creating the book, each of these positions were presented to a number of chess players with strengths across the entire spectrum of ratings. A rating is computed based on how the reader's answers to the questions compare to those of the sample group. The questions range from asking for a concrete analysis of the position (white stands better) to asking for the best move given a few different options. The positions are drawn from both real game positions and composed studies. There is no grouping by theme of the positions - a tactical middlegame struggle can be followed by a king and pawn endgame study. In this way each position is more like a real game situation - no one is going to prompt you to trap your

opponent's queen or to mate in five while you're at the board in a tournament. On the page following the position and questions comes a detailed analysis of each of the possible answers by Khmelnitsky. The final 70 or so pages are devoted to helping one compute the final rating and also to giving guidance as to how to improve in each of the thirteen areas. This includes both practical advice and book recommendations for further study.

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