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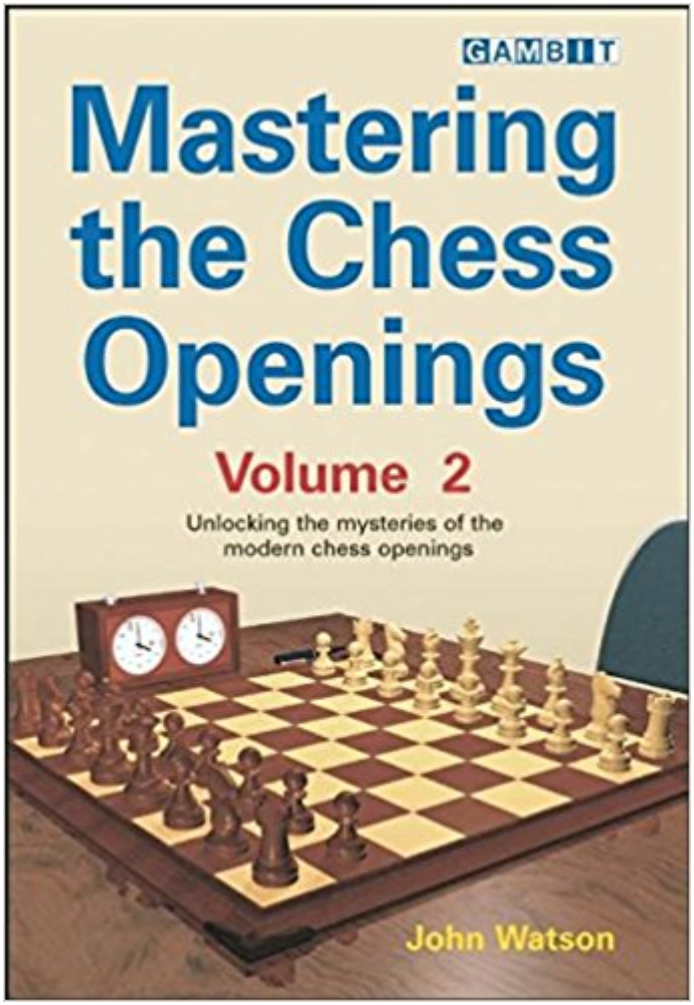
Mastering The Chess Openings: Unlocking The Mysteries Of The Modern Chess Openings, Volume 2



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Synopsis

For many chess-players, opening study is sheer hard work. It is difficult to know what is important and what is not, and when specific knowledge is vital, or when a more general understanding is sufficient. Tragically often, once the opening is over, a player won't know what plan to follow, or even understand why his pieces are on the squares on which they sit. John Watson seeks to help chess-players achieve a more holistic and insightful view of the openings. In his previous books on chess strategy, Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy and Chess Strategy in Action, he explained vital concepts that had previously been the domain only of top-class players. Moreover, he did so in ways that have enabled them to enter the general chess consciousness of club players. Here he does likewise for the openings, explaining how flexible thinking and notions such as 'rule-independence' can apply to the opening. In this major four-volume work, Watson presents a wide-ranging view of the way in which top-class players really handle the opening, rather than an idealized and simplified model. This volume, focusing on king's pawn openings, is a book that will make chess-players think hard about how they begin their games, while offering both entertainment and challenging material for study in openings such as the Sicilian and Ruy Lopez.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

International Master John Watson is one of the world's most respected writers on chess. His groundbreaking four-volume work on the English firmly established his reputation in the 1980s, and he has produced a string of top-quality works since. In 1999, Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy, Watson's first book for Gambit, won the British Chess Federation Book of the Year Award and the United States Chess Federation Fred Cramer Award for Best Book. His former pupils include the

1997 World Junior Champion, Tal Shaked.

I have all four volumes and enjoy the learning process. Using them to build a repitoir.

I was looking for "one book" that would provide coverage of the Black defenses to Whites d4 opening and this is it!

This volume covers the QP openings.Like Volume 1 it explains the concepts concerning pawn structure and piece placement, rather than give variations to memorize.If you want to understand WHAT to do in an opening, rather than HOW to do it, these are the books for you.

ARRIVED IN TIME AND IS A VERY GOOD REFFERENCE TO KEEP IN YOUR LIBERARY

Excelente

Excellent

Talk...talk ....talk and very little variants.

It took joining a local chess club and repeatedly getting clobbered right out of the opening to realize that in order to stand much of a chance I needed to invest more time in the study of opening theory. I already have a copy of MCO but it is heavy on spewing out moves, light on explanation and has more than a few typos that sometimes make following the variations difficult. I researched books on opening theory and finally settled on Watson’s Mastering the Chess Openings series. This is a somewhat more costly resource than many of the others available (four volumes instead of a single book) but it’s a worthwhile investment.This is actually the first book in the series that I bought, as I wanted a better understanding of queen pawn openings (it’s hard to defend against them when you don’t understand them).Volume 2 of the series deals with the majority of queen pawn openings, 1. d4. It is certainly not exhaustive in that it does not cover every single variation of every queen pawn opening, but it has the large majority of what most chess players will encounter over the board. The openings covered include:- Queen’s Gambit Declined- Slav and Semi-Slav- Nimzo-Indian Defense- Queen’s Indian Defense- King’s Indian Defense- Grunfeld Defense- Modern BenoniWatson does a great job of explaining all of these opening systems (or opening defenses as appropriate). That is,

rather than give a summary blurb about the opening and then just prattling on with move after move, he walks the reader through the opening, explaining the purpose behind each move. Then, once finished with the main sequence of moves, he includes one or more instructive games with relevant analysis and variations. This is so much more helpful than a cold and clinical presentation of silent moves.Watson’s writing style is very clear and approachable. He neither talks down to his readership nor does he assume that everyone has a doctorate in chess.This is a superb series on chess openings which will leave the reader with a much clearer understanding of not just the moves involved in the openings but also an understanding of the purpose and goals of any given opening and variation covered. Although the cost of the series is more than that of a single volume it is well worth it.

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