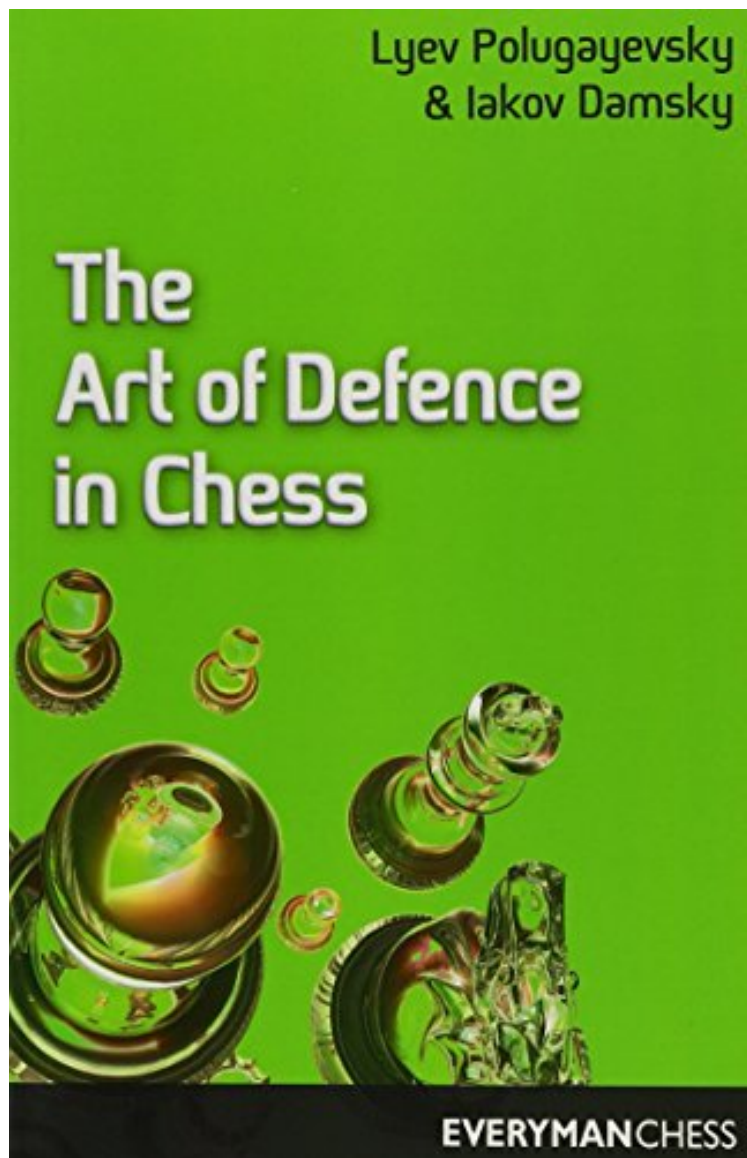


(Ebook pdf) Art of Defence in Chess

Art of Defence in Chess

Iakov Damsky, Lyev Polugayevsky
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Iakov Damsky, Lyev Polugayevsky : Art of Defence in Chess before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Art of Defence in Chess:

11 of 12 people found the following review helpful. minimum rating 2200+ required (not for the average chess reader)By Jurgen LawrenzThere is a certain person called "the right reader" for a every book. Authors and publisher often don't know who that is; and in any case they want to sell the thing. This book, which shares its title with an

earlier effort by Andrew Soltis, is devoted to defence in chess. I bought it, and read it from cover to cover - with pleasure, BUT with almost zero benefit. This obviously demands an explanation! If you are a player around 1800 hoping to crack the 2000 barrier, or around 2000 reaching for another 200 points, forget it. I remember those days and the gut wrenching torments of years well. In the end it was that dinosaur Fine with his detailed and illuminating explanations that proved to be the greatest help! So much for all his errors and mistakes that modern analysts gloat over! Soltis was also a great help in my travails with weeding out common defensive errors. But this book, by Polugayevsky and Damsky, has no methodical explanations at all. It evidently assumes that you already know and therefore gives you 19 chapters full of diagrams illustrating the maxims of their title (e.g. simplification, prophylaxis, counter-sac, stalemate etc). Not a word is lost on how to recognise such a critical situation, nor on how they come about, nor on how to avoid them before they arise. Moreover the game situations are overwhelmingly drawn from the top brass of the grandmaster ranks. But if you think that you can understand those better than Karpov, Kasparov et al., you would really be deluding yourself. As mentioned, the authors don't tell us how the players arrived at any such situation; so all you get is a look and some comment on the status quo. Then some ghastly mistake by Black or a brilliant manoeuvre by White etc etc. My point is that nothing binds the positions in any chapter together methodologically. You don't get five or even just two diagrams in a row that display a recurring setup or situation. And finally the strategies involved in handling the defence also differ from one to another. But this means you can't actually learn anything from them - I mean some way of handling such situations, some concrete strategems to help you in your own combats. All you learn how even the greatest grandmasters can sometimes miss a saving clause. In a word the only players helped by this book - as a self-help manual, so to speak - are those well above 2200 and on the way up. For the rest of us mere mortals, who need repetition and clarity for a message to sink in, Soltis will continue to have to do.

6 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Minimum rating 2200+ required (not for the average chess reader)

By Jurgen Lawrenz There is a certain person called "the right reader" for a every book. Authors and publisher often don't know who that is; and in any case they want to sell the thing. This book, which shares its title with an earlier effort by Andrew Soltis, is devoted to defence in chess. I bought it, and read it from cover to cover - with pleasure, BUT with almost zero benefit. This obviously demands an explanation! If you are a player around 1800 hoping to crack the 2000 barrier, or around 2000 reaching for another 200 points, forget it. I remember those days and the gut wrenching torments of years well. In the end it was that dinosaur Fine with his detailed and illuminating explanations that proved to be the greatest help! So much for all his errors and mistakes that modern analysts gloat over! Soltis was also a great help in my travails with weeding out common defensive errors. But this book, by Polugayevsky and Damsky, has no methodical explanations at all. It evidently assumes that you already know and therefore gives you 19 chapters full of diagrams illustrating the maxims of their title (e.g. simplification, prophylaxis, counter-sac, stalemate etc). Not a word is lost on how to recognise such a critical situation, nor on how they come about, nor on how to avoid them before they arise. Moreover the game situations are overwhelmingly drawn from the top brass of the grandmaster ranks. But if you think that you can understand those better than Karpov, Kasparov et al., you would really be deluding yourself. As mentioned, the authors don't tell us how the players arrived at any such situation; so all you get is a look and some comment on the status quo. Then some ghastly mistake by Black or a brilliant manoeuvre by White etc etc. My point is that nothing binds the positions in any chapter together methodologically. You don't get five or even just two diagrams in a row that display a recurring setup or situation. And finally the strategies involved in handling the defence also differ from one to another. But this means you can't actually learn anything from them - I mean some way of handling such situations, some concrete strategems to help you in your own combats. All you learn how even the greatest grandmasters can sometimes miss a saving clause. In a word the only players helped by this book - as a self-help manual, so to speak - are those well above 2200 and on the way up. For the rest of us mere mortals, who need repetition and clarity for a message to sink in, Soltis will continue to have to do.

19 of 19 people found the following review helpful. Great book on defense

By A Customer This is a great book. Polugayevsky and Damsky are an excellent team, as Damsky is good at writing for the club-level player, and Polu was a total genius, but one whose writing is sometimes over the head of the club player. This book contains hundreds of excellent examples, and there is much instructive commentary. There is an effort to show why certain defensive ideas work in certain positions. This book will improve your defensive skill, there is no question about that. It will also improve your confidence that far more positions are capable of being saved than you would think. The book also has an excellent human touch, such as a hilarious story about a Reshevsky-Geller game that the American should have won, but did not. Highly recommended!

Most players would rather attack than defend, with the result that defensive technique is often the weakest part of their game. This book, translated by Ken Neat, explains the basics of defensive play and contains many tests for readers to practise on.

Language Notes Text: English, Russian (translation) From the Back Cover Most players would rather attack than defend, with the result that defensive technique is often the weakest part of their game. This book, translated by Ken

Neat, explains the basics of defensive play and contains many tests for readers to practice on. Topics covered include building a blockade, simplification, active defense and counter-attack and much more. Before his untimely death in 1995, Lyev Polugayevsky had been one of the world's leading grandmasters for more than 30 years and was a candidate for the world championship on several occasions. His books *Grandmaster Achievement* and *Grandmaster Performance* are widely regarded as modern classics. Iakov Damsky is a Russian television and radio commentator and journalist.