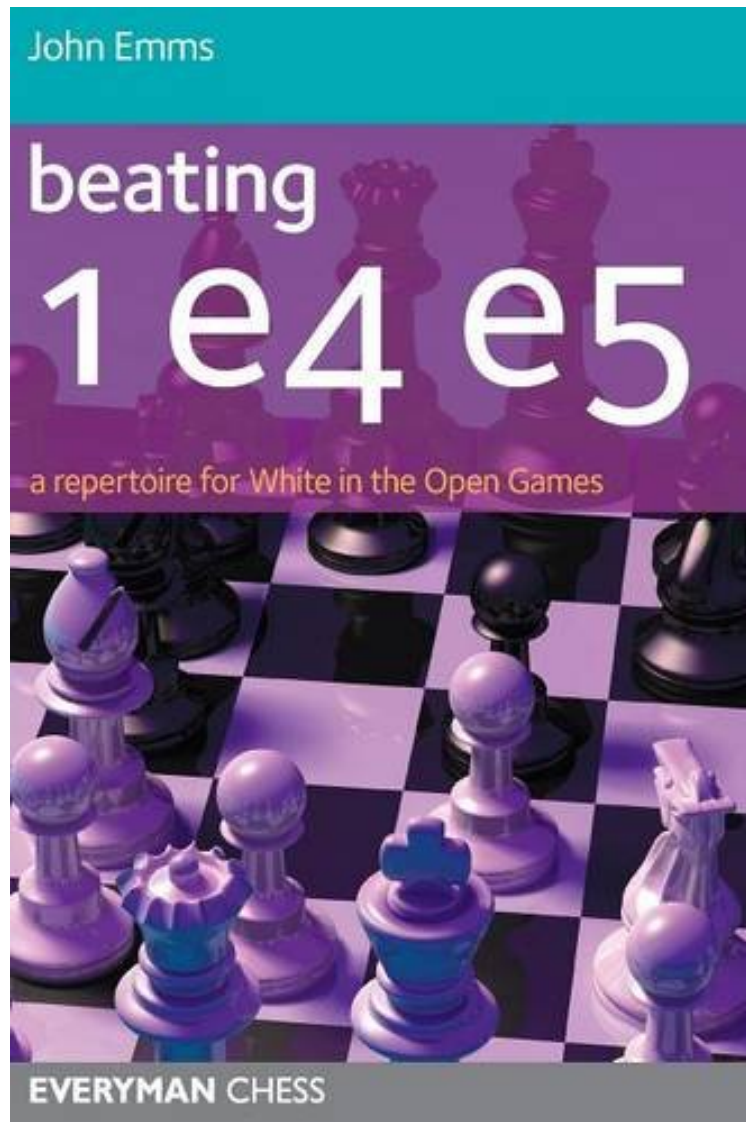


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## Beating 1e4 e5: A Repertoire For White In The Open Games

*John Emms*

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#1183457 in Books Everyman Chess 2010-08-03Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.02 x .47 x 5.981, .80  
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**John Emms : Beating 1e4 e5: A Repertoire For White In The Open Games** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Beating 1e4 e5: A Repertoire For White In The Open Games:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Great Opening SurveyBy R. TobiasThis is a very high quality repertoire book. Unlike some repertoires that try to cover every response to 1.e4 in far too few pages, this one, of course is only a response to 1...e5. So the coverage is very thorough, more thorough than any non-master would likely ever need to be successful. Plus, the author, English GM John Emms, is a rather exceptional author, very adept at

explaining chess concepts for the developing player. The repertoire chosen is a very good one for anyone from developing player all the way up to GM. He chooses the Italian game, but by way of the Bishop's Opening move order, 1.e4 e5 2.Bc4. In this way you can avoid the Petroff Defense, which is both popular and difficult for White to demonstrate an advantage against. Plus, everyone who plays 1...e5 will be booked up against the Spanish and Scotch openings, but the Italian Game is not as popular. This is an especially good place for developing players to start, as the strategies are less taxing than in the Spanish, or even the Scotch, and you will learn classical tactical themes that will serve you for your whole chess career. Emms chooses the modern treatment of the Italian Game, one in which White delays castling. The Two Knights and other lines are covered as well. The format is not a variation tree, but the repertoire is instead given in 46 well chosen games. Unless you are a titled player, reviewing whole games will do more for your chess than trying to memorize countless variation trees. The vast majority of the games are fairly recent, post 2000 games. Emms is very thorough at giving alternate move orders and alternate lines. He is also very objective about the opening. There is no empty 'White to Play and Win' tripe here. He notes that there are lines where Black is equal, but also truly points out that if you understand these positions better than your opponent, you can still play for a win. I find this honesty quite refreshing! There is enough material in this book to give titled players a repertoire, but the copious verbal explanations make the book usable for non-masters as well. Truly, this book is a labor of love, and vastly superior to the kind of opening book that was so common 20 or 30 yrs ago. Highly recommended.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A chess book you will really read it through... and easily remember its key contents

By ANDREA E LETO DI PRIOLO This book explains clearly many of the most typical ideas in the Italian game with c3 and d3 set up. Three things you should consider about the book: 1) Focus is on building a repertoire for white so that not all main lines are covered. On the other side the material easier to navigate and digest. 2) Comments win over analysis. Not too many lengthy variations but a few well chosen reference games with very good explanation of the key strategic ideas for both colours (although mainly by white perspective). I prefer this approach to the opposite one. I tend to lose myself and forget the key contents when the message is left to tons of copy-pasted computer analysis without comments 3) The author is playing the lines he suggests. This knowledge of the opening is well reflected in the organization of the material. I gave it 5 stars because I keep coming back to it eager to continue the reading. This is quite rare for me with chess books. I guess it's because it's very well written.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Understandable Introduction to the Italian Game

By Peter McKone Nice book! Provides good information and coverage for club players. The Italian Game has recently become a mainstream opening, maybe as popular as the Ruy Lopez, and theory has changed since the book was published. Black may now postpone ...d7-d6, hoping to play ...d5 in one move. White now often postpones c2-c3 until after Black has played ...d6. a2-a4 has become a trendy move for White. If White postpones castling in favor of Nbd2-f1-g3, Black seems to get at least equality with an early ...d5. Even though Emms doesn't mention these ideas, the lines in the book are still playable. Newer plans can be discovered by studying the most recent high-level games.

Grandmaster John Emms presents a repertoire for White after 1 e4 e5, based on the Italian Game and the Bishop's Opening. The lines he recommends are built upon a sound yet aggressive system of development which can be deployed against virtually every Black defence. The emphasis is firmly on understanding and executing key positional and tactical ideas, rather than the arduous process of memorizing theory. Emms covers both the main variations and the tricky sidelines, and highlights crucial move-order subtleties. This book provides everything you need to know about playing the Italian Game and the Bishop's Opening.

\*A Grandmaster's repertoire after 1 e4 e5\* Packed with new ideas and analysis\* Ideal for improvers, club players and tournament players

John Emms is a Grandmaster and has captained the English Team at two Chess Olympiads. He's an experienced coach who has worked with many top players, including World Championship finalist Michael Adams. He's also a highly respected chess writer, with many outstanding works to his name.

"The material is what makes this book very good. Emms annotates 46 games to present the material. What set this apart for me is that as I read the material I felt as if the author was actually talking to me, trying to explain what bits and pieces are going into the choice of moves. There are notes that involve some calculation, a few are even somewhat involved. Yet it works well to make the system seem easy to use, if only the reader invests the time to go through it."

NM Bill McGeary, Chessville.com

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