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Bird's Opening: Detailed Coverage of an Underrated and Dynamic Choice for White (Everyman Chess)

Timothy Taylor

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#1088451 in Books The House of Staunton 2005-12-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.00 x .61 x 6.121, .80 #File Name: 1857444027224 pagesAuthor: Tim TaylorPages: 228 PagesPublication Years: 2005 | File size: 76.Mb

Timothy Taylor : Bird's Opening: Detailed Coverage of an Underrated and Dynamic Choice for White (Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bird's Opening: Detailed Coverage of an Underrated and Dynamic Choice for White (Everyman Chess):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Excellent on the From's Gambit Lasker Variation By Andrew I bought this book especially for the chapter on the From's Gambit Lasker Variation which I play exclusively against Bird's Opening. (1.f4 e5!? 2. fxe5 d6 3. exd6 Bxd6 4. Nf3 g5?!). The coverage of this variation is excellent and given the few times that I face Bird's Opening, I find that this book is all I need. I cannot comment on the other chapters although the introduction is novel, providing historical games. At first I thought there was not enough analysis because of a lack of responses to moves that I thought may be obvious, but after careful study of the 5 illustrative games, with the help of Chess Tempo opening database and Fritz, I can see that moves that I considered natural were mistakes that did not need mentioning in the book. I have had to revise my review and I now consider that Taylor does indeed provide in depth, comprehensive analysis of a number of lines, including traps that black can set and that white needs to avoid. The only criticism I have is that Taylor is extremely biased against the From's Gambit Lasker Variation, almost considering it unsound. However various databases give black even chances of winning and drawing (around 33% win for white/33% draw /33% win for black, depending on the database you look at). Taylor contends that with good play using current theory, white should achieve much better results. I guess this is fair enough given he is an avid Bird's player with good results. He does provide one game out of five where black wins and admits that more over the board play may be necessary to test out some lines. It would have been good if he had provided black with some new emerging theory but I guess this is for another book. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Good book! By kamus I own a lot of chess openings books most of which I hate because they consist mostly of lines. Taylor has done a good job of explaining the ideas behind the variations. For instance in the chapter on the Lasker/From he illustrates several errors by white. This shows clearly the tactical themes in the position and what to avoid. Knowing these thematic ideas and traps allows you to understand what's going on even when your opponent deviates from theory. I wish that all books were set out like that. I do agree the material could have been organized a little better; for instance Soltis' book (which is still worthwhile) has sections like "Black plays d5 and c5" that go into pawn structure/strategy against various Black setups. This is in Taylor's book too but a little harder to find. A small point as the material and teaching are generally excellent- thanks, Mr Taylor! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I 2nd every 4/5 Star review, but... By DaBird I 2nd all said about this book, but have to say I disagree with the one that stated, "The only criticism I have is that Taylor is extremely biased against the From's Gambit Lasker Variation." I have only lost in this line as White due to tactical error, and never have I been worse, if not out right winning, with the main lines. I don't have my games in front of me, but the Lasker Var. (1.f4 e5 2.fxe5 d6 3.exd6 Bxd6 4.Nf3 g5 5.g3 g4 6.Nh4 Ne7 7.d4 Ng6 8.Nxg6 hxg6 9.Qd3 is practically won for white in all variations I have played or checked out. But again, this is a highly tactical line, and forgotten move or slip and black suddenly goes from losing to winning. Be fully prep'ed before taking the pawn and that should nullify the practical advantage this line boasts and give you a game that is your to lose and black's to flail around praying for a slip, which hopefully never comes. Nothing is more irritating than crushing black the entire game, and losing because you stepped your king right and not left. To quote the programs..."it is ashame white throws away the win with one move." Nothing like a computer to rub in your miscalc!!! Happy Birding! If you play on chess.com, look me up for a game on either side of the Bird. I am: Zhar-Ptitsa

Bird's Opening is an underrated and dynamic choice for White that immediately directs the game into relatively unexplored territory, setting Black players early problems and forcing them to think for themselves rather than having the luxury of relying on the theory of more mainstream openings. It's also a very flexible option that can lead to both sharp gambit play, such as the notorious From's Gambit, as well as quieter positional lines. In this book International Master Timothy Taylor unearths the secrets of Bird's Opening and its many deviations. Using illustrative games, he examines tactical and positional ideas for both colours and recommends the best paths in both the "main lines" and the lesser-trodden paths. A study of this book will give readers the required knowledge and confidence to play the Bird's Opening with either color. Written by a Bird's Opening expert A complete up-to-date survey on an active chess opening Ideal for club and tournament players

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