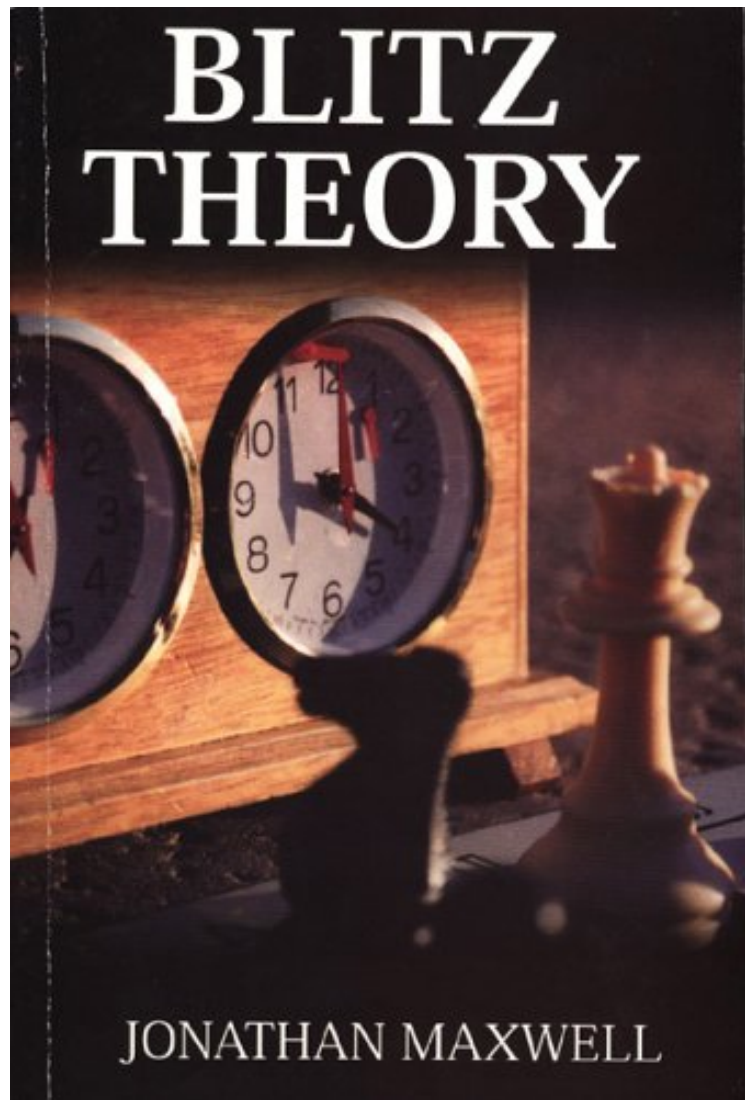


[Free pdf] Blitz Theory: How to Win at Blitz Chess

Blitz Theory: How to Win at Blitz Chess

Jonathan Maxwell

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Jonathan Maxwell : Blitz Theory: How to Win at Blitz Chess before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blitz Theory: How to Win at Blitz Chess:

11 of 13 people found the following review helpful. Good Book By Chris Hall If you play blitz chess or even 10 or 15 minute games regularly like me, this is definitely a good book. It includes invaluable lessons on what to do with certain amounts of time on your clock, and some different openings, that while not necessarily the most sound opening to try in a slow game, are perfect for intuitive tactics to come out of in five minute games. Get this book if you like blitz chess! 9 of 9 people found the following review helpful. Interesting little read..... By Actuariesmith I picked up a used copy of this book for about half price. It is not a very thick book, and lends itself to reading pretty quickly. Much of

the book can be read without the use of a chessboard. I have played regular (slower time control) competitive chess for many years. A couple of years ago I started to play mostly blitz chess on the internet. This book was a real eye-opener for me! The following short description encapsulates what the book has taught me. Blitz chess and slow chess are NOT the same game at all! This book helped me to better understand that concept. While the rules are the same (i.e. the pieces move the same way) success in blitz chess relies on a different set of skills (or at least different proportions of skills) than slower chess. First and foremost, the chess clock is the most important piece in blitz chess. In other words, once the flag falls the position on the board becomes irrelevant. It does not matter who has more material, who played brilliantly, who has the initiative, which player suffers with weak pawns, etc. etc. the clock becomes the final judge. So a lot of the book is about time-management. Not just playing fast, but what to do when you have a time deficit, small time advantage, moderate time advantage, large time advantage, etc. All these situations call for a different course of action. Another thing I learned where the two types of chess can differ is in the area of simplification. In other words, in slow chess it is normally good strategy to trade down pieces when ahead in material. In blitz chess this may not be best. The more you trade down pieces, the simpler you make your opponent's move choices. Therefore, it is often better to keep the position complicated to make your opponent waste more time pondering moves. There are chapters about the importance of tactics - obviously they reign supreme in blitz chess. There are chapters about specific opening choices. Of course, gambits are highly recommended in blitz. Even openings that are somewhat unsound at slow time controls become very playable - even desirable when the clock is ticking madly away. There are some test positions in the back of the book to help you select moves. It is interesting that the author not only shows you the position, but also indicates the amount of time left on each player's clock. The solutions sometimes involve the move that can be executed in the shortest possible time, as opposed to the move one might make if time were not a factor. (for example moving a rook in the corner close to the clock or mouse rather than advancing a piece deep into enemy territory. Finally there are some words about ego. The basic message is leave it at the door, and shake it off between games. A win is a win - it does not matter how you get it. Some players get very abusive if they had a "winning position" on the board, but lose on time. Sorry, no ego allowed. Flag falls, game over. The player who wins - wins! Thinking he is some kind of lucky idiot just because your flag fell at such a time will not change the result. So get over it and play him again. (but keep an eye on clock!) If you like to play blitz chess, you really should get this book. 16 of 17 people found the following review helpful. Disappointing

By John Benedict
This is one of the few occasions on which I have been misled by positive reviews on . I normally find the review feature to be very beneficial, especially in the case of chess books. I enjoy playing 3 minute blitz on the internet, and thought that this book seemed interesting. Unfortunately, the book is very light - both in weight and in substance. It's the kind of book you'd read on the lavatory...in one sitting! The book consists of blitz-specific advice couched in very general terms and with very little practical reference. There was no conclusion reached in this book which I had not arrived at independently, simply from playing blitz chess. The pseudo check is an exception to this statement, but I regard that ruse as totally unethical. The author's premise is simply this: if you play fast you are more likely to win at blitz. He also prefaces this advice by saying that many of the "strategies" which he advocates are not used by very good players, because they have no need for them. I would suggest, therefore, that a blitz enthusiast would be far better served by emulating these good players (through daily study of tactics, for example) rather than seeking to emulate the author of this book. On a final note, I would highly recommend Chess for Tigers as an alternative to this book. It is a well written, and very amusing little manual, and while it is not aimed at blitz players, many of the recommendations are applicable to fast chess.

The only published book that investigates the popular five-minute blitz chess time control. Draws original strategic conclusions, then provides corresponding unprecedented strategies assisted with abundant diagrams. Quiz sections enclosed. Forward written by US champion Walter Browne.

About the Author Jonathan Maxwell (Flint Hill, VA) is a USCF certified expert who is best known for his chess teaching in the NYC school system. His other works include the novels For Mandy, Cards, and the children's short story book The Sunset Stories.