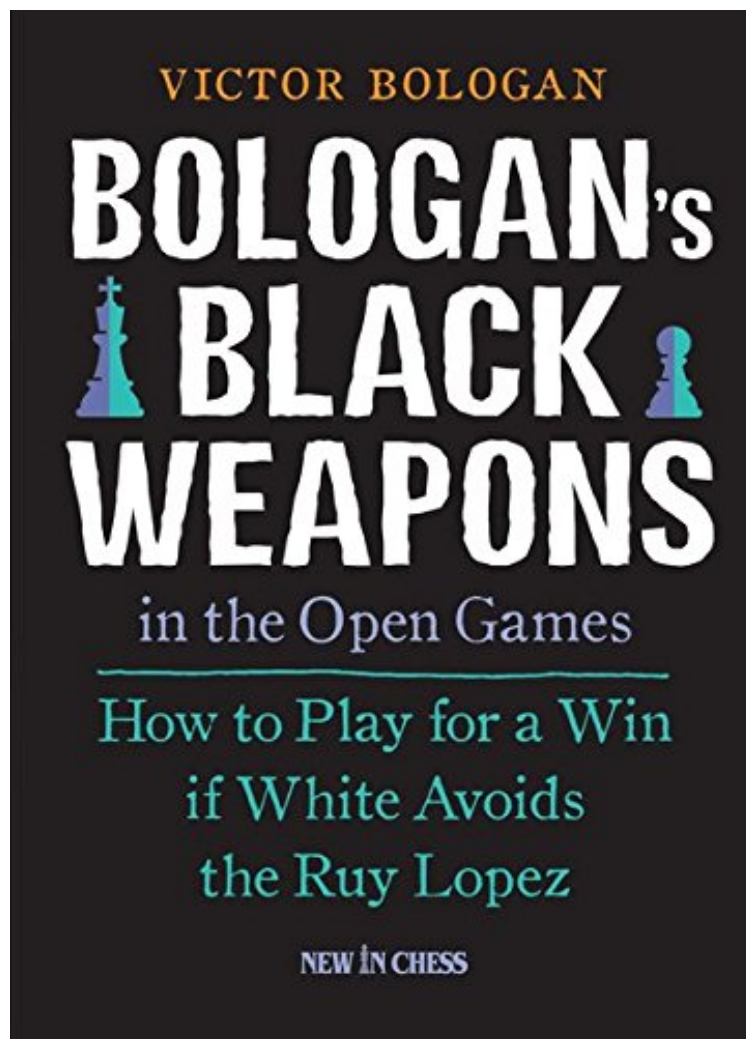


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## **Bologan's Black Weapons in the Open Games: How to Play for a Win if White Avoids the Ruy Lopez**

*Victor Bologan*

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**Victor Bologan : Bologan's Black Weapons in the Open Games: How to Play for a Win if White Avoids the Ruy Lopez** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Bologan's Black Weapons in the Open Games: How to Play for a Win if White Avoids the Ruy Lopez:

24 of 24 people found the following review helpful. Revolutionary formatBy popcornI'm very impressed with this book. It takes a new direction for chess books in terms of its formatting, borrowing ideas from scientific journals,

technical manuals, and the like and creating an accessible learning format new to chess literature. Pages are easy to scan for topics and main lines are quick to find among the variations with eye-catching use of highlighted and boxed text of various shades of gray. There are several symbols to learn, for example a circle or a square around a move number or a piece that is half black, half white. These were easy to learn and seemed helpful. Citations of most games are given a mark and the reader is sent to the back of the book to an Index of Games if he or she wishes to learn the players, dates, and events, etc. This saves space and makes the analysis cleaner and easier to read. The lists of games associated with each chapter helps to reference them quickly during research without hunting through the text. The move index also is pleasantly thorough. The book is hefty at 528 pages. The paper and binding seem of good quality. The buyer should know that while this book is a repertoire, it does not give a specific list of lines that the reader should play and then analyze them in depth. There is a "Fast Lane" set of variations recommended for those with little time to study, usually chosen for their ease of understanding and less reliance on memorization, but the reader is advised to ultimately read the entire book. The Fast Lane recommendations are intended to get the reader playing as soon as possible but still represent mainline systems. Other chapters provide alternate variations, reinforce useful familiarity, and generally broaden education in certain types of positions. Sometimes analysis is as deep as 25 moves or more, sometimes as few as 8 moves with a description of where black should be steering the position afterward. I know this sort of approach irritates some readers, but I believe GM Bologan has chosen his battles well and invested his page space appropriately, especially for the enormous mass of theory to tackle in the subject. The beginning of the book has a 30 page "Arsenal of Strategic Ideas Themes" that sets a foundation of pawn structures and piece maneuvers that apply to the entire book. Very helpful guidance for the club player. Text and variations seem to be in balance in this book. The writing is very readable and the tone friendly and to the point. At times there is humor, such as at the beginning of Chapter 34 where the Fast Lane comment says, "Frankly speaking, it's best to skip this chapter and leave it for a rainy afternoon when you are bored and have nothing to do." I can respect a writer who will say that! The variations are up to date, approved by a strong GM, and bear the reliability of history and the relevance of modern GM practice. I recommend this book highly. 13 of 13 people found the following review helpful. I particularly like that he gives a King's Gambit Accepted repertoire and ... By Wayne R. Gradl Bologan's Black Weapons definitely does a superb job of arming the 1. ... , e5 player in how to proceed when White does not play the Ruy Lopez. I also agree with Bolagan's promise that the book will generally improve the reader's Chess skills beyond mere knowledge of opening lines. The book is very detailed and, as advertised, offers Black players different options against the various non-Ruy Lopez 1. e4 openings. With respect to the details and breadth of coverage I didn't even know the full extent of the universe of non-Ruy Lopez systems that I might encounter until I started perusing Bologan's book. I particularly like that he gives a King's Gambit Accepted repertoire and good recommendations against the trappy Giuoco Piano lines. I am very glad I bought this book. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. My impression is that the author favors playing the best moves, rather than the easiest to remember. By Peter McKone This is a large book, with much more lines and analysis than similar books on the Black side of the Open Games, and there is a lot of valuable material for the player of the White pieces too. One caveat. My impression is that the author favors playing the best moves, rather than the easiest to remember. For example, there are nine (!) chapters on accepting the King's Gambit, an opening you might encounter only once every five years. I might prefer to study the Declined line, even though objectively, it isn't as good. Club players are club players for a reason. Grandmasters can retain a lot more variations in their heads.

If you are ready to play the Ruy Lopez with Black, you also need to be prepared if white avoids the Ruy. In this book Victor Bologan covers all relevant lines with a well laid-out, clearly explained and eminently playable set of responses. But this is not just another chess opening repertoire book. Bologan presents TWO different options against every main line: a common sense approach and an aggressive weapon. It's actually two books in one! And there is more: help for those who are new to 1...e5 and in a hurry, a wealth of new ideas in old lines, The Fast Lane repertoire in every chapter (the minimum you should know), a special strategy section: how pawn structures define important themes, transpositions and move-order subtleties: clearly identified, historical lines and gambits re-examined, traps tricks: visually marked, many examples from Bologan's own games, 2200 game referenced and presented in a separate index, lots of practical tips. Victor Bologan has taken the chess opening repertoire book to a next level. He has created a unique instrument of chess instruction for players of almost every level.

The book is really excellent. Not only is the analysis up to date but also the presentation is right to the point and very readable. Not many long variations but verbal explanations. Just the way opening books should be in the modern computer times. (Karsten Muller, author of 'Bobby Fisher, The Career and Complete Games') There is a huge amount of theory in this book, but Bologan presents it in a lively manner and explains things simply and well. One way that Bologan has been able to cover so many openings in a little over 500 pages is to adopt a modified approach. The author does not cite game references in the main body of the text but gives footnotes. The full game citations can be found in the back of the book. The advantages are clear - it saves space and it makes for a clearer presentation. I give

this book a strong recommendation for players of a wide range of playing strengths from the club level (who will love the gambit coverage) to grandmasters who will appreciate the in-depth coverage of the Scotch. (John Donaldson, International master, International Master Chess Today)The solid Bologan quality we are used to. I am a big fan of his books. (Simen Agdestein, Grandmaster, six-time Norwegian Champion and former trainer of Magnus Carlsen)A 28-page Arsenal of Strategic Ideas is essential reading, setting the whole repertoire in context as regards pawn structures and important themes. This is a very impressive book indeed and one which benefits greatly from the extra care and attention devoted on it from the design team. (Sean Marsh CHESS Magazine)The Arsenal of Strategic Ideas and Themes is such a great idea. It's worth reading through as it stimulates one's thinking about positional themes even in the most romantic of opening sequences. It's jammed-packed full of great stuff. (Grandmaster Glenn Flear, author of Starting Out: Open Games)Bologan's opening guide for Black is the most original in content, the best-organized, and the most user-friendly of any opening book I've seen in years. It is cutting edge, up-to-date, relevant, and bursting at the spine with content spanning 57 chapters in 528 pages. You get inside the head of a grandmaster who obviously loves keeping pace with modern theory and practice. Yet we don't get the sense that computers dominate his approach. I give Bologan's Black Weapons my highest recommendation. It is easily the most enjoyable book I've reviewed in years. (John D. Warth, This title is destined to be a classic... Chess Club of Southern Indiana)A real gambit-killer. Ambitious club-players who are looking for a reliable weapon against 1.e4 after playing 1.e5, can hardly leave this book unopened.Full of surprising ideas, in all sorts of variations. (Richard Vedder, FIDE Master, Netherlands Schakers.info)Although this book is mainly aimed at club players, even GM's could fall victim to the tricks and traps that are being shown in quite a few openings. Despite the many variation the book reads quite well. (B. Wilders, Nederlands Dagblad The Journal Of Religion)I have verified that this book is up-to-date on the latest theory, and yet the author has injected many of his own ideas. If you play with Black 1...e5 after 1.e4, you simply cannot ignore this theory work which announces a new era. (Martin Rieger Schachwelt)From the Back CoverVictor Bologan is a world-class grandmaster. His tournament victories included the Aeroflot Open in Moscow and the Dortmund super-tournament. He is the author of acclaimed opening books like The Chebanenko Slav, The Rossolimo Sicilian, and The Powerful Catalan.