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Dave Taylor, Keith Hayward
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Dave Taylor, Keith Hayward : Play the Ponziani (Everyman Chess) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Play the Ponziani (Everyman Chess):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth ReadingBy Charles GogleyStill going through it, but I find it interesting. The Ponziani is not dead - just waiting to be renewed. The book has some very interesting information, especially for amateurs like me. I suppose you could find out a lot on websites and blogs, but this book seems to draw it together. Like anything you have to study the information as well as read it.0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Robert W.Excellent book!14 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Suitably

impressed (has grown on me in the last 3 years)By George JemtyAs a long time Vienna player (1. e4 e5 2. Nc3) in the last year or so I've been exploring alternatives against 1. e4 e5 without venturing into mainstream Italian, Scotch or Spanish waters. I've tried the Belgrade Gambit, Bishop's Gambit and Center Game. The first two have entire books devoted to them, but both involve pawn sacrifices and are therefore highly speculative by nature, and for the time being you will be largely on your own if you try the Center Game, though I understand there is a book in the works. So the fact that this book on Ponziani's has just come out, and that it does not require a speculative pawn sacrifice, caused me to give it a try. Dave Taylor had previously written "Ponziani Power" a decided labor of love, and yet does not allow his passion for his favored opening taint his objectivity, for instance in concluding that the line 3...d5 4. Bb5? is just bad for White. Besides the main responses 3...d5 and 3...Nf6, this book does not skimp on some of the less common responses, for instance with 25 pages on 3...f5 which indeed is the line I'd try as Black since not only do I play 1. e4 but I also defend it with 1...e5. One of my only gripes thus far is that in the line 3...Nf6 4. d4 Nxe4 5. d5 Ne7 6. Nxe5 Ng6, the move 7. Nxc6 is dismissed with ?! which I consider an incorrect evaluation. The problem is the authors only consider 7...hxc6 and then either 8. Qe2?! or 8. Bd3?! (those are my ?! in these cases), but the correct move can be extrapolated from other variations given by the authors, particularly 7. Qf3 Qe7 where the authors write that gives White "a small but solid edge, by weakening Black's kingside pawn structure" with 8. Nxc6. So why doesn't that likewise apply to the immediate 7. Nxc6?! Indeed after 7. Qf3 Qe7 8. Nxc6 hxc6 the authors give 9. Be3 and I would hereby like to recommend that the same is the correct move after 7. Nxc6 hxc6: 8. Be3! in which case 8...Qe7 9. Qf3 transposes, or 9. Qd3 is quite playable, the idea being that, unlike the lines 7. Nxc6 hxc6 8. Qe2?! or 8. Bd3?! quick Queenside development by White, culminating in Nd2 (after Be3 and Queen out), and if ...Nxd2 then Kxd2 and White's queen rook is ready to come to the open e-file with significant impact. I do have another specific gripe but I want to preface it by saying this -- ALL opening books have their shortcomings. And this is actually one of the better opening books I've read lately, and bear in mind, I've now switched to where I'm more concerned with what to play against the Ponziani than actually playing it. Long story short the book leaves out the following line, but I've checked my database and it only shows three games ever, and all of those in the last half of last decade. So probably no opening book has ever covered the following, the specific line being 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. c3 Nf6 4. d4 exd4 5. e5 Ne4 6. Qe2 f5 7. exf6 d5 8. Nbd2 Qxf6 9. Nxe4 dxe4 10. Qxe4 and now 10...Qe7. Not saying it's an especially good line -- the queen-less middle-game that can arise after 10. Qxe4+ is surprisingly difficult to counter -- but it is a possibility. Now that Carlsen has played the Ponziani I can heartily recommend this book to people considering this opening. It is in general very thorough, and although there are always things to be discovered, this book is seldom if every glaringly wrong as some others in the Everyman Chess series can be. Like all such opening books it should be read critically, but when you do so, you realize just how good this book is.

For some unknown reason the Ponziani Opening has been neglected in recent times. Don't be fooled by its apparently harmless reputation: the Ponziani is full of tricks and catches many unsuspecting opponents by surprise. It's also a perfect weapon for those who don't enjoy learning the mountains of theory. In *Play the Ponziani*, Dave Taylor and Keith Hayward present a comprehensive guide to this intriguing opening. They provide coverage of all the main lines, identify the best options, and highlight the key tactical and positional ideas. This book provides everything you need to know to play the Ponziani in your own games.

From the Back CoverThe Ponziani Opening enjoys a long history, but for some unknown reason it has been neglected in recent times. Don't be fooled by its apparently harmless reputation: the Ponziani is full of tricks and catches many unsuspecting opponents by surprise. It's also a perfect weapon for those who don't fancy learning the masses of theory associated with more high-profile openings like the Ruy Lopez. In *Play the Ponziani*, Dave Taylor and Keith Hayward present a comprehensive guide to this intriguing opening. They provide coverage of all the main lines, identify the best lines for both White and Black, and highlight the key tactical and positional ideas. This book provides everything you need to know to play the Ponziani in your own games. *Ideal for improvers, club players and tournament players* Bonus coverage of what to do if Black avoids the Ponziani *Packed with original ideas and analysis Dave Taylor is a former United States Correspondence Chess Champion, with an amazing score of 13 wins and one draw. He is one of the world's leading experts on the Ponziani Opening Keith Hayward is a FIDE Master, and an International Master of correspondence chess. He's a regular contributor for Chessville.com, one of the most popular online chess magazines, and a former editor of Minnesota Chess Journal and New Hampshire News Bulletin.