

Point Count Chess: An Accurate Guide to Winning Chess

I. A. Horowitz, Geoffrey Mott-Smith

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#2150407 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2012-03-12Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.50 x .81 x 5.50l, .99 #File Name: 4871874699356 pagesAuthor: I.A. HorowitzPages: 340 PagesPublication Years: 2012 | File size: 23.Mb

I. A. Horowitz, Geoffrey Mott-Smith : Point Count Chess: An Accurate Guide to Winning Chess before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Point Count Chess: An Accurate Guide to Winning Chess:

7 of 7 people found the following review helpful. A must have book for any beginning chess curriculumBy Brent

ButlerI came across this book early in my tournament chess career, and in a matter of a few months it was one of the instructional aids responsible for me adding 300-350 points to my rating. While some other reviewers make light of the "point count system", I found it to really work. Here's why: No, counting the points in a chess position doesn't always quantify who has the advantage. It often did in my experience. However, the positional elements for which the authors quantify "point advantages" are ALL elements of chess positions that maturing players must learn about. By studying this book, a player learns to avoid weak elements in a chess position, and to create them in the opponent's position whenever possible. The player learns which elements strengthen their own position and seeks to create those elements in games. For example, I won many, many games by the simple strategy of taking the offside pawn majority, simplifying to the end game, and winning with the offside passed pawn. Even 1700 region players often overlooked what I was up to until it was too late. How did I learn to do this? One hundred percent credit goes to "Point Count Chess". And the positional analysis in the book is not so shallow that it tells you to count the points and nothing else. There is a good section demonstrating the strength of white's isolated queen pawn in many queen pawn openings. Otherwise, the isolated pawn is -1/3rd in their system. If a book is going to teach you the strength of advanced pawn chains, the weakness of isolated and double pawns, good and bad piece placement, control of open files, taking the 7th rank, avoiding backward pawns, gaining an advantage in development, etc. (and does a good job of all of the above) then it needs to be part of your instructional library if these are things you need to learn (or provide for your child or students). This is one of just a few books that was absolutely responsible for my progress from a hopeless beginner to an expert with some coups over masters in my scorebook. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. He was a well-ranked player and told me that this book was good education on structure and strength. By Peter C. Meads My uncle gave me this book back in the 60's. He was a well-ranked player and told me that this book was good education on structure and strength. He said forget about the point system itself. I used to book during a time when I was enthusiastic about chess and had people in my beginner-low amateur skill level to play. Many years later I bought this book again as I want to pick up the game and it is helping. These days, I only have computers to play against and I am even less skilled than I was in the early 70's, but the book makes the game a lot more interesting to play. 2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A Lost Gem By Keith Alan Deutsch This is a chess book produced in the late 1950s and published in the very early 1960s when I was an avid New Jersey teenage chess player who spent hours visiting New York City, searching book stores for new and especially for old books on chess. Although Irving Chernev was my favorite chess book author, I. A. Horowitz' books were very popular, and I owned and read many of them. My father and I once visited him at his modest office-studio where he was photographing pictorial diagrams for one of his chess books. These "Chess Movies" as he called them were unique to his works. My dad and I bought about 20 hard wood French chess sets from Mr. Horowitz for our community center back home. All of this casual lead in to reveal that I somehow missed the publication of this POINT COUNT CHESS until a few month ago. This is a very fine, and useful book. Perhaps it is the influence of the International Bridge and game master co author's meticulous analytic frame that gives this work its careful character. This is an important, useful book worth exploring.

Perhaps more than any other chess book ever, this book was greeted with calumny and ridicule when it first came out. However, there has been a re-appraisal. Chess coaches have found this book to be great for teaching chess to their students. It is now highly recommended by a large number of chess coaches and trainers. Computer chess programs have also adopted the concepts introduced in this book. Chess Review magazine called this book a completely original concept in chess instruction. This book, via the Point Count, shows the reader how to evaluate these differences and exploit them. What is more, the reader also acquires a working knowledge of more than a score of plans, their mechanisms and physical contours, and the influence they exert in actual play. This book is based on the following premise: Every move on the chessboard is an exchange, a give and take. The very first move, if it is a pawn move, for example, gives away control of the squares that the pawn had previously commanded and takes control of new squares. Similarly at any stage of the game, there is implicit in every move a plus and minus quality. To be sure, these differences of themselves are usually minute and carry little weight. When combined in series of inter-related moves plans their effect is to sway the course of the game. Pawn skeletons, chains, salients and other basic features of this valuable unit are compared structurally as to strengths and weaknesses. Outpost stations, wing demonstrations and a host of strategic ideas are described, appraised via the Point Count and illustrated in numerous examples from actual play. Point Count Chess will augment the reader's understanding of the game, enhance his repertoire and determine his proper course of action in each contest, based upon the innate considerations of the position.

About the Author Israel Albert Horowitz (often known as Al Horowitz or I. A. Horowitz) was born on November 15, 1907, in Brooklyn, New York. He was one of the strongest players in the world. He won the prize for best score in the World Chess Olympics in Warsaw Poland. He defeated Soviet Grandmaster Salo Flohr in the 1946 USA-USSR match. He was the New York Times chess columnist for ten years. He died on January 18, 1973. Geoffrey Mott-Smith (1902-1960) was the World's Leading Authority on Games. He was conversant with nearly 500 different intellectual games and was generally considered the principal authority on the subject. He knew more intellectual games than

anybody else in the world. He wrote books about many of them. He also wrote books on mathematics, puzzles and lexicography. He was a member of the National Lexicographic Board, of which he was vice president until 1956. He previously was executive editor of the New American Webster Dictionaries and the Wonder Book Cyclopedia, editor of synonyms for the Funk and Wagnalls' dictionaries and author of or collaborator on more than twenty books on card, board and mathematical games. During World War II he was the chief instructor for the Office of Strategic Services, which trained cryptographers and cryptanalysts. He authored or co-authored more than 29 books on games and served as games consultant for the Association of American Playing Card Manufacturers. His books include books on mathematics, card games including especially solitaire and hobbies such as his book, Guide to popular hobbies: Photography, stamp collecting, model-making, and other fascinating pursuits. He revised and updated several editions of the classic work According to Hoyle. Three of his books were compendiums of mathematical games and Puzzles. The Mott-Smith Trophy was donated by friends in memory of Geoffrey Mott-Smith in 1961 and made retroactive to 1958 to include all the winners. It is awarded to the player who wins who wins the most master points at the spring American Contract Bridge League (ACBL). Point Count Chess was his last book. He died on August 19, 1960, just after this book had been published. Geoffrey Mott-Smith was born in 1902 in Paris, where his father was United States Consul. His later books include most of the "Hoyle" books that give rules of card and other games. He was chairman of the Problem Committee of the United States Chess Federation. He is famous for the quote, In the realm of play, chess stands alone in dignity.