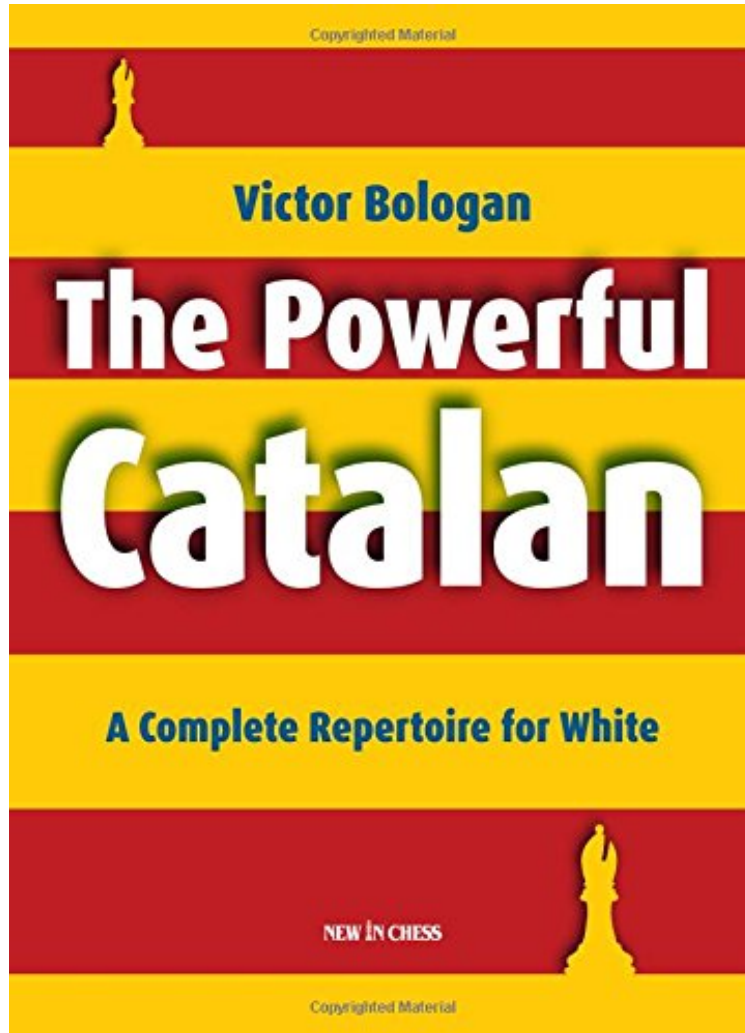


The Powerful Catalan: A Complete Repertoire for White

Victor Bologan

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#1064412 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2012-12-16Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.31 x .63 x 6.711, 1.06 #File Name: 9056914014240 pagesAuthor: Victor BologanPages: 240Publication Years: 2012 | File size: 27.Mb

Victor Bologan : The Powerful Catalan: A Complete Repertoire for White before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Powerful Catalan: A Complete Repertoire for White:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Loved it. I bought the book to learn the ...By CustomerLoved it. I bought the book to learn the opening not entire games that included the middle and endgame. Many original lines and main lines. It is obvious he put a lot of work into the book and I didn't see a single hint of any lazy writing.26 of 28 people found the following review helpful. A strong GM's guide to Catalan opening theoryBy Christopher J. FalterVictor Bologan is clearly one of the hardest-working GMs in the world of chess. He did not attain the 2700+ club until the age of 34, and continues to defy all the stereotypes about youth and chess strength by growing even

stronger; in his 40s, he is currently rated 2734. A key to his strength is his hard work on openings, as evidenced by the long list of well-received opening resources he has authored (7 DVDs and 4 books). Bologan has a lot experience with the Catalan (1. d4 Nf3 2. c4 e6 3. Nf3 d5 4. g3); the (incomplete) online games database at chesstempo.com shows him with a record of +4 -2 = 10 playing both white and black. As you would expect, then, his recommendations and analysis in this book make another fine contribution to opening theory that will help strong players play either side of the Catalan with confidence. The Catalan is a highly concrete opening: in some tabiyas white sheds a pawn for strong piece coordination and queenside attacking chances; in others he might opt for a better pawn structure, more space, or faster development. Accordingly, Bologan doesn't attempt to provide an overview of white's (or black's) goals, but instead jumps right into the analysis of variations from the beginning and never lets up. It's not just a database dump, though, as he gives generous text to describing the goals of various moves, and why certain move orders are preferred. Bologan structures the book in 18 chapters based on the black player's reply, with a chapter each on the Queen's Indian setup (4...b6), the Tarrasch (4...c5), the Triangle (4...c6), 2 chapters on the bishop check 4...Bb4+, 7 chapters on the pawn grab 4...dxc4, and 6 chapters on the modest bishop development 4...Be7. You should be aware that this book is a pure discussion of opening theory: Bologan does not present any annotated games or discuss typical middlegame or endgame themes. As a result, I cannot recommend this book for players below expert level (Elo 2000) who want more than just the pure analysis of opening variations. Bologan does not discuss any key GM games where the black player has equalized easily (such as Nakamura - Carlsen, Tal Memorial 2012 or Ivanchuk - Gelfand, Tata Steel 2012); instead he simply recommends a different white move from a recent game between lesser known titled players that will sidestep black's strategem. Also, while Bologan's analysis is thorough and--so far as this club player can tell--accurate, he does not suggest any theoretical novelties. A word or two about the book's cover: Bologan describes the Catalan as a way to get a mild, positionally subtle opening edge without giving black too many dynamic chances. In other words, a chess player might describe the Catalan as "deep" or "subtle" rather than "powerful." Of course, deep and subtle doesn't sell as many copies! Also, Bologan's introduction belies the subtitle ("a complete repertoire for white"), in that he explains that you will have to learn from other resources how to play against Black openings like the Bogó-Indian, the Queen's Indian, the King's Indian, the Benoni, the Benko Gambit, etc. Bottom line: given the high quality of Bologan's analysis, you should buy this book if you're a strong player who wants an excellent guide to Catalan opening theory. The publisher provided a review copy of this book to me in exchange for my honest review. My ratings of the publisher's books have ranged from 3 stars to 5 stars. 6 of 15 people found the following review helpful. pleasure to read, powerful and informative book. By Sam Swell-written, short and to the point book. love the style, coverage and approach. conveys key ideas, plans, summary of latest research.

The Catalan is a solid chess opening system which is popular with both masters and amateurs all over the world. It is a flexible opening and can be reached by different move orders. White fianchettoes his kings bishop to g2 with the strategic aim of exerting pressure on the long light-squared diagonal. In this book top Grandmaster Victor Bologan presents a complete repertoire for White. He covers all of Black's options as well as possible transpositions to other openings. With many original analyses, based on the most recent tournament praxis Bologan takes the reader by the hand with the accessible verbal explanations he is known for. He explains typical Catalan strategic plans as well as tactical themes. Victor Bologan is one of the strongest grandmasters in the world. He won many tournaments, including the Aeroflot Open in Moscow and the Dortmund super-tournament. He has written influential and acclaimed chess opening bestsellers like The Chebanenko Slav and The Rossolimo Sicilian.

Bologan writes very instructively and the material is presented in a very tidy manner, making it admirably accessible. He keeps things very clear and doesn't bog the reader down in complex variations. The explanations are good and the conclusions at the end of each chapter are particularly welcome. (Marshall Chess) An excellent book to begin with when you want to start playing the Catalan. (Richard Vedder, FIDE Master, Netherlands Schakers.info) Bologan's explanation of what White is trying to accomplish will be just as valuable to the layman as the concrete lines he offers. An excellent and up-to-date work. Bologan, with his clear explanation of the aims of both players, has written something that will continue to be useful even after some of his analytical suggestions are inevitably refuted. (John Donaldson, International master, International Master Chess Today) The author has again demonstrated his ability to advance theory, whilst still explaining what is going on in a manner that everyone can understand. The easiest Catalan book to find your way around. Even the most complex and theoretical lines are granted textual explanation. (Grandmaster Glenn Flear, author of Starting Out: Open Games Yearbook of Comparative and General Literature) Where else is this system dealt with so well? (British Chess Magazine)