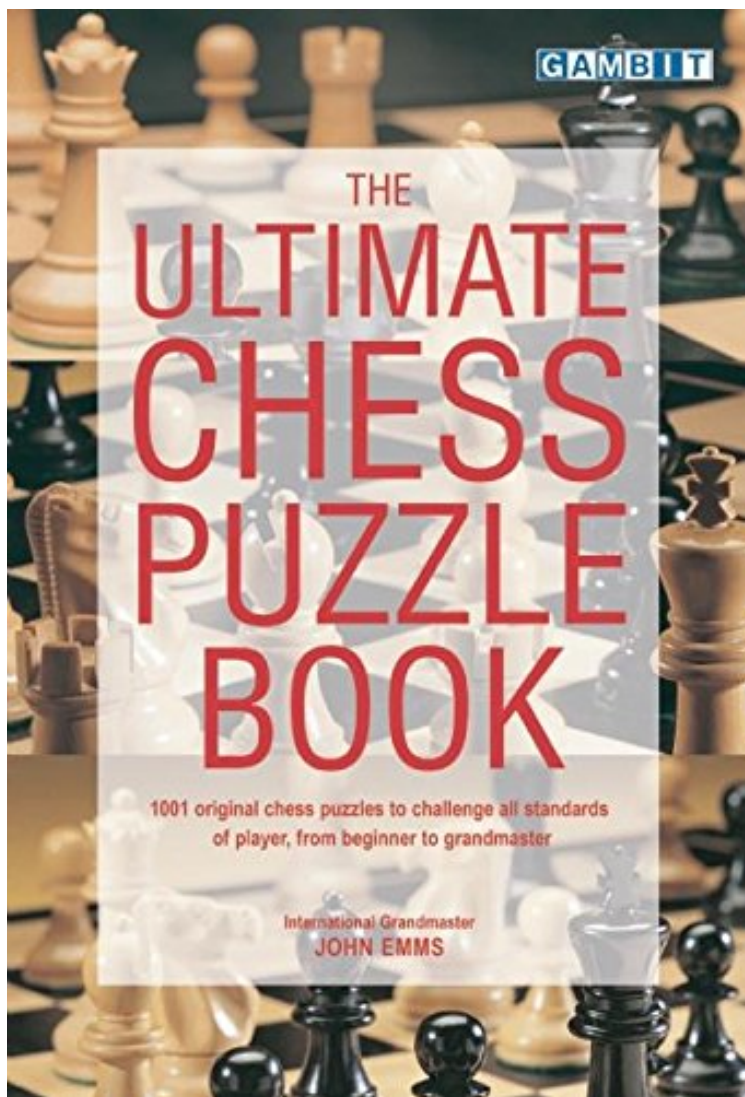


The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book

John Emms

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#341919 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2001-02-01Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 9.79 x .74 x 6.79l, 2.00 #File Name: 190198334X239 pagesAuthor: John EmmsPages: 240 PagesPublication Years: 2000 | File size: 32.Mb

John Emms : The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Very good training book for lower level and intermediate playersBy George BogdanI don't mind blowing a puzzle or getting stumped. But I find many online sites and puzzle books infuriating when I look at the solutions and they make no sense. In this book the solutions basically all make sense. The puzzles and solutions were done with care. Very good training book for lower level and intermediate players.13 of 16 people found the following review helpful. Warning: Not for Players Below 1800 Elo Playing StrengthBy Deaf

ZedI play both correspondence and over-the-board blitz chess and based on my performance in both, I'd estimate my overall playing strength to be somewhere in the 1500-1750 elo range. Meaning I already have a more-than-solid foundation in tactics despite being neither an expert nor master-level player. The first section of the book, 'elementary puzzles', wasn't too bad. Only about 5 out of the total 112 puzzles I had no idea how to solve. I ultimately either couldn't solve or got the wrong solution to less than 10 of these. So far so good. Fast forward to the next section and I started having to consistently skip problems before being able to find one I could solve. I got to around puzzle 200 before I stopped because, on average, I was only able to solve (or even have an idea on how to solve) maybe every other problem. Hence, I've decided this book is a bit too advanced for me and I'm shelving it until I improve a bit more. In addition, the reader should be warned that for the puzzles that have hints to them, the hints can be confusingly ambiguous. One hint reads: "The game continued [move order given] with an eventual draw. What had both players missed?" The diagram indicates that it's white to move so you'd expect the puzzle solution to be an improvement for white. Except it's not...it's for black. Why couldn't the puzzle start with white already having moved and it being black's turn to play? What makes this even more confusing is that in other, almost identically-worded puzzles, the improvement IS for the first player to move and not vice versa. So at times, it's never clear which side you're supposed to be improving. I also have to echo the words of another reviewer (who also rated this 3 stars) in saying that the difficulty from one puzzle to the next can jump quite considerably. I also have to corroborate what this reviewer said about Emms not adequately explaining what the phrase "difficulty level 2-4" actually means. Overall, I would rate this a satisfactory, though far from perfect puzzle book for its intended audience. However, that audience is decidedly more on the advanced, as opposed to intermediate, side of the spectrum. Hence, I would not even consider this book unless your playing strength is ~1800 elo or above. 4 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great training and entertainment

By Jared M. Stein I am a beginner at chess, and was looking for something like this to challenge my mind in short spurts. The Ultimate Chess Puzzle Book is enticing, engaging, and complete enough to make me hate to put it down. My only complaint is that I wish there was a travel-size edition, as this is large enough to not want to take on the plane.

This book provides a wealth of puzzle positions to test just about every facet of your tactical skills. The puzzles in this book have been selected by analysing games new and old in search of original puzzle positions. It is very unlikely that even seasoned solvers will recognise many of these positions. Emms, by allying his skills with those of powerful computers, has also made every effort to ensure that the solutions are sound, and that there are no unmentioned alternative solutions. The book begins with 100 relatively easy positions suitable for novices, and ends with 100 extremely tough puzzles, which provide a mind-bending challenge even for top-class players. There are 1001 puzzles in all.

About the Author John Emms is one of England's strongest grandmasters, and an experienced trainer. He is also a skilful and versatile writer: he has several opening monographs and general guides to his credit.